

# POLICY PROPOSAL

TITLE: FREE EDUCATION NOW

PROPOSED BY: JESSICA LOUISE (JAL57)

SECONDED BY: MARTHA ROCKHILL (MIR25)

---

## REASON FOR CHANGE

*Considering that...*

1. Tuition fees for universities in the UK were first introduced in 1998. In 2005 an upper-limit of £3,000 was put in place, and universities increased their fees accordingly. Following this, in 2012 the government increased fees again for home/EU students to £6,000, with an upper limit of £9,000. Once again, universities in England increased their fees to the maximum amount.
2. In autumn 2017 there was another price hike, and universities in England can now charge students up to £9,250.
3. Consequently, students are set to graduate with a minimum debt of £27,000, and a maximum of around £70,000 including maintenance loans.
4. In 2015 the government grants that offered students a means- tested maintenance grant were scrapped, beginning with the 2016/7 intake. Considering the rising cost of living, students will now graduate in even more debt than before.

---

## PROPOSAL

1. The SU should release a public statement supporting free education, and denouncing any plans to raise tuition fees further.
2. The SU should support events held on campus that campaign for free education.
3. Under the campaigns budget, the SU should endeavour to cover the cost of transportation to at least one national free education event or demonstration.

---

## RATIONALE

1. This proposal falls directly in line with the SU's vision to 'inspire communities of actively engaged students' by encouraging students to exercise their right to freedom of speech and campaign for free education.
2. This proposal is directly linked with the SU's value of 'inclusivity', as by supporting free-education, it promotes access to higher education for students of all economic backgrounds.

---

## IMPLICATIONS

1. Costs of supporting free education events will need to be met.
  2. Cost of transport to free education events across the country, such as coach/ minibus hire (on avg around £450, will vary).
- .