Postgraduate Funding

Proposed by: Francesca Rust

Seconded by: Gabbi Foreman

This Union notes:

1. NUS Conference 2012 passed a clear package of policy on postgraduate funding, shaping the direction that should be taken by the national union, voting to 'develop an alternative funding model for all types of postgraduate course', that is 'low cost, fair and accessible' and that 'Commercial Development Loans, like all commercial loans should never be pursued as a credible route to funding postgraduate education.'

2. NUS published a report in 2012 *Steps toward a fairer system of postgraduate taught funding* which outlined injustice of an unregulated pg fees system meaning that PG study is now based on ability to pay not academic ability and potential to succeed.

3. In 2011 Anglia Ruskin University declared its intention to charge undergraduate fees of £8,300 from 2012.

4. In 2011 HEFCE announced significant cuts to the teaching grant and to research and capital funding as a result of the introduction of £9k UG fees.

This Union believes:

1. The Browne Review 2010 and the HE White Paper 2011 did not fully address the issue of postgraduate funding, leaving a gap in policy.

2. Cuts to HEFCE funding put postgraduate courses and fees in danger of cuts and arbitrary fee increases, particularly in the Arts and Social Sciences.

3. That the Students' Union is fundamentally opposed to any action that has a detrimental effect on the educational quality of the students of Anglia Ruskin University.

This Union resolves:

1. To lobby the University not to arbitrarily increase postgraduate fees and for transparency if fee increases do occur.

2. To lobby the University not to arbitrarily cut postgraduate courses.

3. To lobby against postgraduate fee increases.

4. To lobby against Career Development Loans as a viable and fair option to funding postgraduate study.

5. To lobby the University and local governments to pledge to support a postgraduate funding model to secure the future of our higher education.