

elect

#1 for block

Jesse

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As a student rep at Exeter College, and a member of Socialist Students, I'd like your vote for Block of 15. If elected, I hope to help take the fight against brutal education cuts from our college and university campuses to the heart of NUS.

When the Con-Dem government looks at our education, all they see is services to be cut and privatised. Faced with attacks from multiple angles, producing reports and lobbying MPs is not enough. NUS must take responsibility for mounting a serious, mass campaign to defend education. As a college student, I know FE is facing especially savage attack - with £250m axed at the last spending review. If elected I'll fight for NUS to launch a special campaign to defend FE and to show the government we're no 'easy target'.

Thousands of FE students are struggling to pay fees on their courses, and the government has recently set up a student loan system leaving many of us in a similar situation to university students. Meanwhile undergraduate fees are out of control - saddling students with up to £50,000 worth of debt. I'm opposed to all tuition fees and will fight for free education for everyone. Enormous wealth exists in society - the problem is it's in the wrong hands. I say make the rich 1% pay for education - not us!

EMA was a lifeline for thousands of students. It's time NUS mounts a serious campaign to bring back EMA - and to improve it. £30 a week was never enough, and the grant was only available to a minority of learners. We must demand that any replacement is extended to all FE and sixth form students, whatever their age or background. Because £30 a week doesn't cut it, we should call for grants

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that genuinely cover the cost of living.

Students are strongest when we're united with workers. When college lecturers took national strike action, I proudly stood on the picket lines with them. NUS should support the TUC trade union anti-austerity demo in October. But given the huge attacks on education, we also need our own mass NUS national demo. This must be properly organised and mobilised for - with FE demands featured just as prominently as HE.

If we're serious about defending education, we need democratic structures to guarantee we're as effective as possible. We should reinvigorate students unions by organising general meetings to get students involved in campaigning and allow us to set the agenda. We need to ensure all officer and delegate positions in students unions are subject to campus wide elections.

As member of the Youth Fight for Jobs campaign and a low-paid, part-time worker myself, fighting for real jobs - with secure contracts and a living wage - has been one of my focuses over the last year. Its fine to talk about employability, but what students entering the 'world of work'

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students

really need is more jobs. Precarious zero-hour contracts are not good enough. Why do young people receive a cut-rate minimum wage? We don't get reductions on our bills, rent, or living costs to match. NUS can be central to getting young workers and students organised to stop the race to the bottom to fight for secure jobs paid a real living wage.

We can't let our movement be divided. Combating sexism, racism, homophobia, ableism, and all forms of discrimination must be central to our work. The far-right must be stopped - everywhere they raise their ugly heads.

I'll fight for:

- **A mass campaign to defend Further Education**
- **A national demonstration in the autumn**
- **Bring back EMA and fight for living grants in FE**
- **Stop the student loan sell-off - no debt hike**
- **Free education - make the 1% pay!**