

FIGHT FOR JOBS & EDUCATION!

Vote Edmund
★ Schluessel #1
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For the Block of 15

I'm Dr Edmund Schluessel. I'm the NUS Wales International Students Officer and I'm standing as a member of Youth Fight for Jobs & Education (YFJE), Socialist Students and with support from the National Campaign Against Fees & Cuts. Like thousands of other international students, I've suffered from lost time and financial hardship due to arbitrary, xenophobic UKBA rules. That's why I'm dedicated to fighting against deportations and abuses of international students and for a socialist education system. A system run for & by students, workers and the community, providing education for everyone who wants it, regardless of where they're from or whether they can pay.

In Wales, I've helped asylum seeker college students fight deportations, I've helped bring NUS Wales into the fight against college privatisation and, with YFJE, I've helped organise campaigns against underemployment and 'workfare'. I've worked with feminist groups to fight sexist advertising, rape culture and to defend abortion rights. I helped organise my students' union against the racist English Defence League when they demonstrated in Cardiff and fought the National Front in Swansea. Since coming out as disabled last year, I've also helped organise the campaign against the macho culture of bullying which is driving away some of our movement's best new activists. As a postgraduate I am active in my trade union, the UCU, where I work to bring students and lecturers closer together so we can fight on areas of common interest.

As an international students committee member I've helped support students from Egypt, Libya and Syria in surviving the political upheaval in their home countries and I've been an ally of Romanian

and Bulgarian students suffering xenophobic work restrictions. Nearly two years ago I was warning that what happened to London Met was possible. I was active in the campaign for London Met students' rights. NUS won a partial, defensive victory but it wasn't enough; we need to keep fighting to guarantee not a single student drops out due to arbitrary UKBA rules. We need to make sure UK education stays international.

NUS needs the spirit of its liberation work at the heart of everything it does. Too often we're just a lobbying organisation and talking shop. Thousands of students learned this first-hand when the New Labour leadership of NUS put as little effort as possible into the demo our members democratically demanded. They threw away a clear demand, "tax the rich to fund free education", replacing it with a bland & vacuous message. I say no more trying to compromise with a government that holds students, and education itself, in contempt. Demand full public funding for education, reverse the cuts, and bring back living grants -- take back the rights we had before Thatcher. NUS needs to act like it did when it fought the Iron Lady, like the mass movement of seven million students it claims to be. I say:

- **Reinstate EMA and keep ALG -- I helped keep EMA in Wales and will fight for it to be restored UK-wide, but we can go further. Living grants for FE students and a living wage of £10/hour for all apprentices and young workers, no exceptions.**
- **We can beat fees -- Get the government to stop tax evasion, stop wasting money on privatisation and roll back tax cuts and hand-outs for the millionaires.**
- **We can stop cuts & privatisation -- thousands of students in the UK are**

Private colleges, many of which charge tens of thousands of pounds in fees, have no students' unions. I'll work to bring these colleges into NUS and into the public sector and help these students win equal rights. I'll campaign for the NUS to lead the battle against every cut the government proposes and to stop them being implemented locally. Con-Dem marketisation has failed. We need to stop it.

- **We can stop the UKBA -- link in with lecturers and trade unions to build a mass movement for the rights of international students and migrants. Any student accepted onto a course should have the right to study and to put education to use in the place they got it.**

When the UKBA attacked London Met students in 2012, I helped turn their campaign into a UK-wide wave of demonstrations, protests and lobbies. Lots of NEC members just show up to meetings once every few months. I'll visit students' unions all over the UK and help them build local fights against the cuts, and I'll help them link up together into a united campaign.

**For a larger text format of
this manifesto email
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