

**James  
MCASH**

@mcash | jamesmcash.com  
james.mcash@nus.org.uk

**FOR NUS NEC  
(BLOCK OF 15)**



## Why am I running?

I am running to be Vice President Union Development because I firmly believe that I can transform the Zone and make it really perform for students' unions. However, if I do not win this I know that there is still much more that I have to contribute to the student movement, which is why I am also running for Block of 15.

## What is Block even about?

The Block of 15 used to be the eyes and ears of NUS – on different campuses, supporting campaigns, and linking students to the national union. Now it is more of a scrutiny body – holding officers to account and setting policy between conferences.

I believe Block should go back to the former system with proper funding for campus visits. Too many students have no idea what NUS is or what it does – having Block members on campus will transform this.

If elected I will do what I can, with the support still available, to engage on campuses across the UK so that students and officers are genuinely supported by NUS.

“ Being President of Sheffield SU has been made distinctly easier with the invaluable support and advice of James McAsh. I didn't know him a year ago but I am now committed to voting, supporting and campaigning for him ”

**Abdi-aziz Suleiman**  
President (University of Sheffield SU)

**This manifesto is available in other formats, just get in touch**

**Proudly standing as a NCAFC candidate:**

## My politics

The work this year on the public value of education is good but needs to go further. We need to make the case that education is a social good and should be funded by progressive taxation. In response to the financial crisis, Iceland threw the bankers who created the mess right into jail. The UK continued to give them bonuses.

The richest in society have enough wealth to fund education and public services for all, while the most vulnerable in society are struggling to get by. The bare minimum that a civilised society would do is tax the rich to fund education and public services.

Moreover, we also need to win the case for the public value of students' unions. Our unions are not just nice add-ons for a given institution: they are a central part to providing a well rounded education and experience. It's not good enough that so many unions, particularly in the college sector, are under-funded and have management breathing down their necks.

NUS needs to win the case for fully funded and independent students' unions as a democratic right, just like the Trade Union movement won last century.

## My achievements

### at Edinburgh and on a national level:

- Implemented new democratic structures and refocused the SU to be more student-led.
- Quadrupled Liberation funding.
- Coordinated a successful response to a last minute disaffiliation campaign.
- Led a mass student occupation for increased library opening hours, engaging a new generation of activists.
- Led the Scotland-wide campaign to fix fees for international students.
- Ran training workshops on democracy at Zone Conference and Activism 2012.
- Organised the Scotland-wide occupation against RUK (Rest-of-UK) fees.

Find out more about our candidates: [anticuts.com/elections](http://anticuts.com/elections)