



Ed Marsh National President Vision for the Future

NUS has gone through a period of consolidation, but being competent and playing it safe isn't enough. Students and learners need their National Union to be pioneering; for some that's articulating a new vision for education, for others it's talking about what we should be doing for over 1 million young people unemployed, or it's simply helping Unions deliver every day.

Decisive

I want NUS to be at the heart of the debate about the role of education in society, where our vision and our demands are shaping the narrative. NUS needs to be a proactive, bold, radical organisation that says what it thinks & isn't afraid to challenge the consensus. Students across the education system need an NUS that is ambitious, progressive & decisive one that is defined the ideas it holds.

Education is the biggest source of social good and social mobility in the country, it challenges democratic deficits, tackles health inequality and grows the economy. I believe that the role of the state is to allow the entirety of the population to meet aspiration based on potential, and that education needs to be resourced to achieve this. The reason I believe in free education, at all levels, is because of its ability to transform society, drive the knowledge economy and improve people's life chances.

NUS' current approach to education is on the terms of the government. The new NUS' can not allow this to continue. We need to work across the education system, uniting those who champion education as a social good, challenging those that tinker around the edges, and being forthright about how education can be structured differently.

Definitive

I am proud that my background is rooted in the student movement, & will always be a champion of students' unions.

Maggie Hayes, student in Liverpool | 'When I first met Ed and the times I have seen him since, his understanding, passion and enthusiasm has inspired me greatly! He has been incredibly encouraging and supportive making me realise the power I and fellow students have. Because of him I believe I am the Change!!'

We all know students' unions are the definitive voice of students, but we have an opportunity to make NUS the definitive voice of a generation.

National Entitlement

A New Right to Education

We all know that fear of debt is the biggest obstacle to fair access in education, we will break down the greatest barrier to widening participation by making the 1st year of university (or equivalent) FREE

Right Tactic, Right Time

We have a duty that our tactics as a movement are coherent, comprehensive and complimentary. Our debates should be about how we're going to win - how we can all contribute to victory. I want demonstrations, lobbying, picketing, petitions and whatever students think gets us closer to winning

I believe that we can transform society.

Different

This is not the typical campaign that NUS is used to, but we need to stop being defined by what we've always done, and create the space for us to have a debate about what we could be. A generation of young people are being let down.

New comprehensive education funding policy

We need to be bold and have confidence about challenging the government's agenda for Higher Education. We are seeing the system dismantle whilst we should be proactively shifting the debate to have it on our terms. Only working across the education system can we develop a new, comprehensive vision for the entire education system.



Student Power!

People should have the power to make decisions about the things that affect them.

The Coalition tricked students in 2010; this democratic betrayal forces us to decide what path we should take. We can either accept the status quo or fight back and agree its the time for NUS to build a new democracy, to energise and engage students like never before and to make sure that our voice is heard and not forgotten at the next general election

Vision for the Future

Winning the ballot box

We will develop a bespoke constituency plan forcing power into the hands of students to know the weak points of the people that represent them

Get Organised

We have proven NUS can empower students through activism. We will go further. A UK-wide activism tour, on your campus

An Alternative Coalition

We will build an alternative coalition who share our belief that education is a public good; this will include a new compact with education trade unions

Learning From the Grassroots

The campaign that has been run on the ground by activists against fees & cuts has been inspirational; NUS is always at its best when it provides space for others to achieve. I'd be proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with activists on the ground, whether they are in occupations,

Uniting The Movement

We will be a powerful advocate of autonomous liberation campaigns & strong representation in the Nations; decentralising power makes NUS stronger

on demonstrations, signing petitions or doing a #tweetup

Votes at 16 a reality

We will hold a General Election of all 16 & 17 year olds. Their voices and ambitions should be heard now

Hardline on a fair deal for FE

FE continues to shamefully misunderstood in wider society and the education system and mishandled by NUS. We will make the public case for FE, putting FE at the centre of the new education funding plan, and a strong, autonomous, resourced learner voice in every college

Jeni-Marie Pittuck VP Norwich City College | "As an apprentice I never thought NUS was a place for me, but Ed has made representation for apprentices possible, as the first sabb in the ever to have done an apprenticeship I'm proud to be voting Ed"

Imagine NUS is a blank sheet of paper, with a new vision for the future. Already, people have given me new ideas, challenged my thinking and together we've created new ideas for NUS and our Unions. Continue to let me know what you think, this isn't just a manifesto, it's about us doing something different.

Get in touch if you want this in an alternative format

Hannah Barlow, President Kings SU - "I will be voting Ed Marsh #1, because he has always been proactive in engaging with officers and students. The projects he has led on are relevant to both officers and student and really make a difference. Vote Ed."

Winning For You

As VP Union Development, I have championed the work that Unions do, changed the way we've done things and delivered for students.

- Delivered training to 2000 activists in students' unions
- Always delivered successful affiliation referendums on campuses
- Took a lead in supporting unions to get 50,000 to National Demo
- Secured funding for unions to run activist projects
- Created Innovation & Social Enterprise Academy to diversify income streams
- Overhauled Officer Training
- Created the National Society for Apprentices giving representation to work based learners for the first time
- National support for activists; Activism 2011, I Am The Change & local Activists Days
- Olympic Projects on 90 campuses securing an olympic legacy

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Putting students first

I believe in equality & social justice, and the need for the state to fund public services to create a strong society. Education should act as a driving force for social mobility.

I am honest & transparent about who I am and what I believe. I am a member of the Labour Party, but in this election I stand as an independent - I'm not part of a faction, so the only deal I'll be making is with you.