



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE n u s 2012

Order Paper (Agenda) &  
Fringe Guide

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or email [events@nus.org.uk](mailto:events@nus.org.uk)



# National Conference 2012 | Order Paper

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## Democratic Procedures Committee

Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC) are volunteers elected by 2010 and 2011 conferences to be responsible for the business and smooth running of conference. Democratic Procedures committees' role and composition is defined by the constitution (which is available in the reports document appendix).

## Members of DPC

- Steven Findlay (Chair)
- Yemi Makinde (Vice Chair)
- Marcus Crawley
- Simon Darvill
- Mark Foster
- Sophia Graham
- Fatima Junaid
- Dan Swain
- Will Watson

## This Document

This document is the agenda for Conference and shows the order and timing of all business that will be discussed.

Please note that

- Start and end times of sessions
- Elections and Election Deadlines
- Access Breaks
- The end of Conference

...are fixed and cannot change. All other times are subject to change as conference progresses.

Democratic Procedures committee will announce changes and they will be displayed on screens in the conference hall.

All sessions will start promptly at the times shown. All sessions of conference are non-smoking. Please note that mobile phones should always be turned off when on Conference floor and food & drink **cannot be taken into the Conference hall** unless it relates to a medical or access need.

## Allocation of Time

Each of the 5 zones has been allocated time to report on their work and to propose their policy recommendations for the year ahead based on the volume of submissions received by the DPC. Delegates should be aware that an extension of the guillotine to continue discussing one area will result in less time to debate other areas of policy.

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Union Development          | 1 Hour 45 Minutes  |
| Further & Higher Education | 3 Hours 30 Minutes |
| Welfare & Student Rights   | 1 Hour 45 Minutes  |
| Society and Citizenship    | 1 Hour 45 Minutes  |

We do not expect to discuss every motion contained in the motions document. By tradition a procedural motion is usually moved that causes those motions that fall beyond the allocated time to be remitted to the new National Executive Council to consider at its first meeting.

We would urge delegates to return from breaks and meals on time so that valuable time for consideration of motions is not lost. Please note that we would not encourage delegates to leave "en mass" during access breaks that have been introduced to facilitate the participation of some disabled students.

Deadlines are shown in *italics* and sometimes take place during other conference business. These deadlines will require submissions to either the DPC or the Chief Returning Officer. They are situated at the front of Conference Hall.

# National Conference 2012 | Order Paper

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## Tuesday

- 09:00 REGISTRATION BEGINS**  
(You are advised to arrive ON TIME)
- 10:00 First Time Delegates' Reception & Training**  
(Please ask at information point for location)
- 11:00 First Time Delegates' Reception & Training REPEAT**  
(Please ask at information point for location)
- 11:30 Conference Floor Opens**  
Irwin Mitchell Oval Hall
- 12:00 Session One**
- Welcome by Host Body**  
We are the guests of the people of Sheffield and a representative will offer a welcome.
- Fraternal Greetings**  
It is traditional for the National President to receive greetings from a representative of a partner organisation in the opening session.
- Presidents' Formal Opening Remarks**  
The National President will formally open the Conference with a keynote speech.
- 12:45 Staff Protocol**  
The Conference administration is carried out by members of NUS staff. Their conduct, and the conduct of delegates towards them, is covered by the Staff Protocol. In this session the National President will outline a protocol agreement between NUS and ACTS (the staff trade union) so that everyone is clear about procedure. We will also cover Domestic Arrangements and the Fire Procedures.
- 12:50 Session One Business**
- i. Introduction to and adoption of the Order Paper (This document)**  
In this part the Chair of the Democratic Procedures Committee explains this order paper, and Conference formally adopts it.
- ii. Chief Returning Officer – Opening Nominations**  
The CRO will announce opening and closing times of nominations for committee places. Nomination papers can be collected from election desk to the side of the stage.
- iii. Motions | Zone 100 Membership | Proposals Document PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**  
National Executive motions to accept applications for organisational membership from new affiliates. These are displayed in the Final Proposals Document
- iv. Minutes | CD3 (Available online since May 2011 [www.nusconnect.org.uk/conference](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/conference))**  
Minutes of the last Annual Conference and all Extraordinary Conferences since that meeting.
- v. Introduction to Policy Lapse | (On display at Conference)**  
The National Executive will announce that all policy passed at the National Conference three academic years ago (2009) will lapse unless an objection is raised. It will be displayed on Conference floor. Objections must be handed to the Democratic Procedures Committee before 12 Noon on the Second day of conference.
- 13.00 Ratifications | PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**  
Some significant changes to the constitution were approved at last year's NUS AGM. They require approval this year too to come into effect- and we will consider that approval here.
- 13.30 Priority Campaign Report | REPORTS DOCUMENT**  
There will be a 5 minute presentation from the Convenors of the Priority Campaign followed by 10 minutes where delegates may ask questions on how policy has been implemented.
- 13.45 Union Development Zone Report | REPORTS DOCUMENT**  
There will be a 5 minute presentation from the Zone Convenor followed by 10 minutes where delegates may ask questions on how policy has been implemented.

# National Conference 2012 | Order Paper

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**14:00 Union Development Recommendations & Motions | PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**  
In this session we will discuss motions and amendments to them in the Further & Higher Education Zones.

**15:15 Fringe Break**  
A range of informal Fringe meetings will be held during this break- many with free food and drink- make sure you get along to one of them- they're all open to all delegates.

I will be attending the following fringe (make your choice and complete here)

| Name | Location |
|------|----------|
|      |          |

**16:00 Conference Floor Reopens**

16.00 *Deadline for submission of Informal Presidential Hustings questions to Chief Returning Officer*

**16:30 Union Development Recommendations & Motions | PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**  
In this session we will discuss motions and amendments to them in the Further & Higher Education Zones.

**17:00 Further Education Zone Report | REPORTS DOCUMENT**  
There will be a 5 minute presentation from the Zone Convenor followed by 10 minutes where delegates may ask questions on how policy has been implemented.

**17:15 Higher Education Zone Report | REPORTS DOCUMENT**  
There will be a 5 minute presentation from the Zone Convenor followed by 10 minutes where delegates may ask questions on how policy has been implemented.

**17:30 Further & Higher Education Recommendations & Motions | PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**  
In this session we will discuss motions and amendments to them in the Further & Higher Education Zones.

**18:00 Close of Session One**

**Fringe Break**

A range of informal Fringe meetings will be held during this break- many with free food and drink- make sure you get along to one of them- they're all open to all delegates.

I will be attending the following fringe (make your choice and complete here)

| Name | Location |
|------|----------|
|      |          |

**19:00 Conference Floor Reopens**

**19:30 Session Two**

**Friends of NUS: Guest Speaker**

**19:45 Further & Higher Education Recommendations & Motions | PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**  
In this session we will discuss motions and amendments to them in the Further & Higher Education Zones.

**20:45 Access Break**

**21:00 Further & Higher Education Recommendations & Motions | PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**  
In this session we will discuss motions and amendments to them in the Further & Higher Education Zones.

**22:00 Close of Session Two**

**Presidential Hustings**

See the candidates for President in action - Memorial Hall

# National Conference 2012 | Order Paper

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## Wednesday

**08:30**      **Conference Floor Opens- Please be on time**

**09:00**      **Session Three**

**Liberation & Sections Adoptions (On display at Conference)**

Each of the areas will be asked to summarise their policy and work carried out for 5 minutes that will then be formally adopted into the main policy document.

**09:30**      **Further & Higher Education Zone Policy Recommendations & Motions | PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**

In this session we will discuss motions and amendments to them in the Union Development Zone.

**10:30**      **Election: National President MANIFESTO DOCUMENT**

Election of NUS National President

**11:00**      **Access break**

**11:30**      **Welfare Zone Report | REPORTS DOCUMENT**

There will be a 5 minute presentation from the Zone Convenor followed by 10 minutes where delegates may ask questions on how policy has been implemented.

**11:45**      **Welfare Zone Policy Recommendations & Motions | PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**

In this session we will discuss motions and amendments to them in the Welfare Zone.

*12.00*      *Deadline to contest policy lapse to Democratic Procedures Committee*

**12:30**      **Election: Two Vice Presidents MANIFESTO DOCUMENT**

Election of Union Development and Further Education Vice Presidents

**13:15**      **Close of Session Three**

**Fringe Break**

A range of informal Fringe meetings will be held during this break- many with free food and drink- make sure you get along to one of them- they're all open to all delegates.

I will be attending the following fringe (make your choice and complete here)

| Name | Location |
|------|----------|
|      |          |

**14:00**      **Conference Floor Opens- Please be on time**

*Deadline for nominations to stand for student trustees and Democratic Procedures Committee to the Chief Returning Officer*

**14:30**      **Session Four**

**Welfare Zone Policy Recommendations & Motions | PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**

In this session we will discuss motions and amendments to them in the Welfare Zone.

**15:30**      **Soc & Cit Zone Report | REPORTS DOCUMENT**

There will be a 5 minute presentation from the Zone Convenor followed by 10 minutes where delegates may ask questions on how policy has been implemented.

**15:45**      **Soc & Cit Zone Policy Recommendations & Motions | PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**

In this session we will discuss motions and amendments to them in the Union Development Zone.

**16:30**      **Election: Three Vice Presidents MANIFESTO DOCUMENT**

Election of Higher Education, Soc & Cit and Welfare Vice Presidents

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**17:15 Close of Session Four**

**Fringe Break**

A range of informal Fringe meetings will be held during this break- many with free food and drink- make sure you get along to one of them- they're all open to all delegates.

I will be attending the following fringe (make your choice and complete here)

| Name | Location |
|------|----------|
|      |          |

**17:45 Conference Floor Opens- Please be on time**

**18:15 Session Five**

**Soc & Cit Zone Policy Recommendations & Motions | PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**

In this session we will discuss motions and amendments to them in the Union Development Zone.

18.45 *Deadline to contest eligibility of Student Trustee and DPC nominations*

**19:15 The NUS AGM**

**Committee Reports**

**Nominations Committee Report REPORTS DOCUMENT**

Delegates will receive a presentation on the Nominations Committee report. The Lay Trustee Nomination for the year ahead will be presented. A vote will take place to accept the report.

**Chief Returning Officer Report REPORTS DOCUMENT**

Delegates will receive a presentation on the Chief Returning Officer's report. A vote will take place to accept the report.

**Democratic Procedures Committee Report REPORTS DOCUMENT**

Delegates will receive a presentation from the Democratic Procedures Committee. A vote will take place to accept the report.

**National Executive Council Report REPORTS DOCUMENT**

Delegates will receive a presentation on the NEC report. A vote will take place to accept the report.

**Trustee Board Report REPORTS DOCUMENT**

Delegates will receive a presentation on the Trustee Report. A vote will take place to accept the report.

**19:45 Appointments & Elections**

Appointment of Lay Trustees

Election of DPC

Election of Student Trustees

**20:30 Close of Session**

**Fringe Meetings**

I will be attending the following fringe (make your choice and complete here)

| Name | Location |
|------|----------|
|      |          |

# National Conference 2012 | Order Paper

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## Thursday

- 09:00 Nations Adoptions CD8**  
Each of the areas will be asked to summarise their policy and work carried out for 5 minutes that will then be formally adopted into the main policy document.
- 09.00 Deadline to contest eligibility of National Executive Councillors*
- 09.30 NUS AGM: Finances**
- Accounts and Estimates REPORTS DOCUMENT**  
The Accounts and Estimates for the year will be proposed.
- 10:00 Election MANIFESTO DOCUMENT**  
National Executive Council: Block of 15
- 11.00 Access Break**
- 11:15 AGM Continued**
- AGM Motions PROPOSALS DOCUMENT**  
Motions from DPC and other motions concerning NUS itself will be discussed.
- Policy Lapse CD9 (On display at Conference)**  
Policy from the 2009 Conference will lapse unless it is objected from lapsing. Policy lapse is available online and displayed in the building.
- 13.45 Closing Comments**
- 14:00 Close of Conference**
- 14.05 Leaving Speeches of Full Time Officers until 16:00**

## Introduction to the Conference Fringe

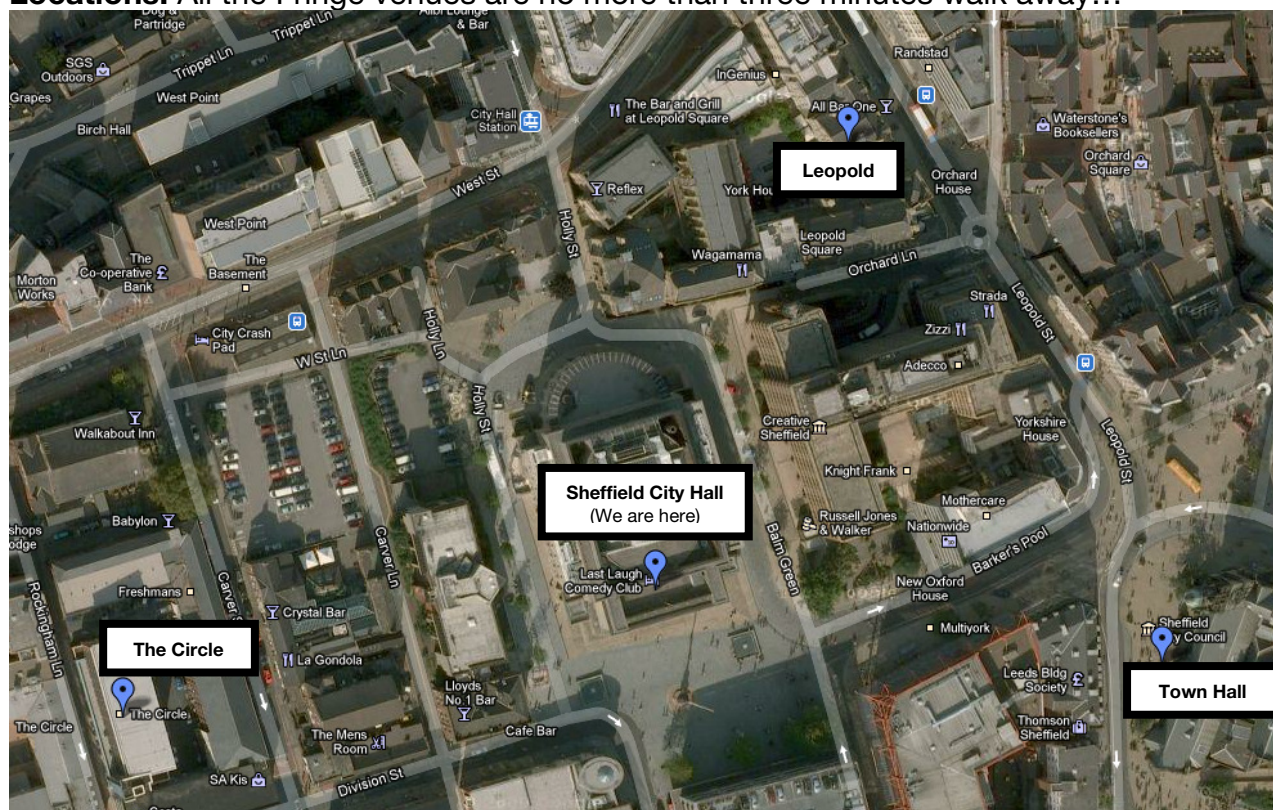
Hello and welcome to the NUS National Conference Fringe Guide 2012. This year we have more fringes than ever before. There are a wide range of fringes from updates on the NUS Priority Campaign 'Pound in Your Pocket' to updates on what next for NUS 'I am the Change' programme. We hope that there is something here which interests all delegates and that you enjoy your time here in Sheffield.

National Conference is not just about the debates that take place on conference floor during the formal part of conference, its also about the debate and discussion that happens around conference, and that is why we are pleased that so many different groups and organisations have provided space and topics for discussion this year.

We very much encourage you to take part in the fringe at conference, and with some interesting speakers lined up there should be some lively debates for you all to participate in. Additionally it's a great way to find out more about what is happening in the student movement and to even meet some new people and make some new friends.

Have fun, and we are looking forward to seeing you on the fringe!

**Locations:** All the Fringe venues are no more than three minutes walk away...



## Eating & Drinking around the City Hall

Fringe meetings are an ideal way to get fed and watered as this year most fringes are providing food and drink. However, outside of the fringes there you can eat in City Hall. Refreshments can be found in the Ballroom catering area which is located in the basement between the hours of 8.00 am till 6.00 pm.

There a number of food outlets around Sheffield City Hall, including catering for Halal, Kosher, Vegetarian and Vegan diets.

**Food is not allowed on Conference floor**



## Tuesday Afternoon

**TUESDAY 15.20-16.20**

**The pound in your Pocket: NUS Research into student financial support**  
(NUS Priority Campaign)

**City Hall, Memorial Hall**

For years NUS has talked about how to fund institutions in isolation from how to fund students themselves.

There has been many changes to how students are financially supported. EMA has been scrapped and Discretionary Learner Support introduced, a National Scholarship Scheme created and a market in Fee Waivers and Bursaries introduced across universities. Who wins and who loses in the current support system? Why should student support for FE and HE be different? Should NUS simply argue for better targeting of existing funds or campaign for a bigger budget for financial support?

Join an expert panel, including Pete Mercer and Liam Burns, for the launch of the interim report on our 23,000 strong survey of students and help steer where the campaign to get more money in students' pockets goes from here.

**Buffet Provided**

**TUESDAY 15.20-16.20**

**Keep FE Free: The campaign to stop fees and loans in FE**  
(Further Education Zone)

**City Hall, North Hall**

This fringe will see the launch of 'Keep FE Free', the campaign against the introduction of fees and student loans for adults in further education in England.

The new loans system will bring an end to subsidised education for adults aged 24 and over wishing to take a level 3 qualification. Under the new regime, adults will face barriers to participation and progression, leaving them with limited education, training and employment opportunities.

Loans in further education will have a disproportionate effect on women, with whom Access to HE courses are popular. The current proposals suggest that level 3 apprentices aged 24+ would have to take out a loan to pay their fees, and effectively take out a loan to go to work. These are just two examples of huge flaws in the proposed introduction of student loans in the further education sector. Come to this fringe to debate and discuss these issues, and to join other students in lobbying MPs to stop fees and loans in FE.

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**TUESDAY 15.20-16.20**

**I Am The Change**  
(Union Development Zone)

**City Hall, South Hall**

This fringe meeting will give delegates an overview of the ground breaking activist development work undertaken by NUS and students' unions this year. Hear from a panel of speakers involved in:

- NUS' free activist development training programme
- The NUS-funded SU activist development partnership projects
- NUS' first 'I Am the Change' competition

Learn how you can take advantage of the various opportunities on offer to support effective campaigning and activist development in your unions, and help to shape the next stage of NUS' activist development programme.

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**TUESDAY 15.20-16.20**

**Life After Leading**  
(Endsleigh Insurance)

**City Hall, Vincent Harris**

People from outside the Student Movement may not be aware of the amazing and unique skills that you have developed as an officer. Chances are they will not understand the value you can add to any organisation! Some of you will be leaving the student movement this year and some perhaps in the future so this session is aimed at increasing your chances of employment by helping you to develop your own 'Personal Brand', supporting your approach to the job market. We have a long history of employing former student officer and understand first-hand the value that you can bring to the workplace so come along to the session to see how you can use your legacy to further your career. All Students and Officers welcome.

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**TUESDAY 15.20-16.20**

**Global Solidarity and Peace One Day**  
(Society & Citizenship Zone)

**Town Hall, Reception Room**

NUS was founded in the peace movement and in a climate of global solidarity with students across the world. The Global Solidarity and Peace One Day Fringe will map the next 90 years of student peace movements. The fringe will discuss the international issues and campaigns that need action now. Attendees will hear from student campaigners from the UK, student representatives from Egypt and Swaziland and the founder of Peace One Day Jeremy Gilley on what they believe the most pressing concerns are in terms of global conflict resolution and global solidarity. The fringe celebrates a long history of student internationalism and looks at the ways that this can continue.

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**TUESDAY 15.20-16.20**

**Out in Sport**  
(NUS LGBT)

**Town Hall, Council Chamber**

NUS LGBT Campaign have launched "Out in Sport" to look at LGBT Students' experience of sport and fitness. From promoting the survey to your LGBT students to thinking about what you can do to enhance LGBT students' experiences of sport and fitness in your union, come to this session to find out more about what we're doing and how you can get involved.

**TUESDAY 15.20-16.20**

**Global Union Development**  
(International Students Campaign)

**Leopold Hotel, Oak Suite**

How do students unions in other countries function? What is the governance and funding model of students unions in other countries? Are they politically active or apolitical? What are the key issues they are interested in campaigning locally, regionally and nationally?

What can students unions in the UK learn from the different models of students unions overseas to meet new challenges and opportunities posed in a time of crisis (cuts to block grants, new income generation, privatization of education, massive youth unemployment etc)? How can we create more opportunities to strengthen students unions in the UK through link up with students union globally for sharing best practice, joint campaign, partnership, exchange, solidarity etc? What are the opportunities and barriers?

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**TUESDAY 15.20-16.20**

**Future Of the University Alliance**  
(University Alliance)

**The Circle, Conference room 1**

University Alliance is a group of 23 major UK universities. Alliance universities have innovation and enterprise running through everything they do and deliver, right down to the way they are run. Liz Shutt, Head of Policy at University Alliance will run this fringe session, outlining the features that bring this group together as well as discussing some of the organisation's key projects including focussing on the real life stories of empowered students and the future shape and needs of the labour market - the role of graduates within that.

There will be an opportunity to discuss and to engage with early thinking on the organisations upcoming projects and policy development.

The following universities are members of the alliance and delegates from these Universities are particularly welcome: Bournemouth University, University of Bradford, Cardiff Metropolitan University, De Montfort University, University of Glamorgan, Glasgow Caledonian University, University of Hertfordshire, University of Huddersfield, Kingston University, University of Lincoln, Liverpool John Moores University, Manchester Metropolitan University, Northumbria University, Nottingham Trent University, The Open University, Oxford Brookes University[5], Plymouth University, University of Portsmouth, University of Salford, Sheffield Hallam University, Teesside University, University of Wales, Newport, University of the West of England

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**TUESDAY 15.20-16.20**

**The Academic Experience**  
(1994 Group Policy Forum)

**The Circle, Conference room 2**

This event is taking place as part of the 1994 Group's Policy Forum 2012 project, which is looking at the elements that contribute to an outstanding student experience. The 1994 Group believe that a truly high quality student experience is multi-dimensional, and is achieved within the context of a holistic vision of higher education. These means taking into account issues like research; internationalism; campus environs, academic facilities, and more.

The event will focus on the 'academic experience' – the formal teaching and learning part of student life. We hope to look at issues including teaching standards, learning facilities and the benefits of study in a research intensive environment.

A diverse panel of HE policy experts will each address the issue from a particular perspective before opening to an audience debate.

The following universities are members of the 94 Group and delegates from these Universities are particularly welcome:

University of Bath; Birkbeck, University of London; Durham University; University of East Anglia; University of Essex; University of Exeter; Goldsmiths, University of London; Institute of Education, University of London; Royal Holloway, University of London; Lancaster University; University of Leicester; Loughborough University; Queen Mary, University of London; University of Reading; University of St Andrews; School of Oriental and African Studies; University of Surrey; University of Sussex; University of York;

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**TUESDAY 15.20-16.20**

**Guild HE – Meet and Greet**  
(Guild HE)

**Leopold Hotel, Library Room**

This fringe will give delegates from Guild HE a chance to discuss similarities with each other, hear from a Guild HE Union staff member on the big issues facing these organisations and develop a plan of action for moving the group forward.

The following universities are members of the Guild and delegates from these Universities are particularly welcome:

Royal Agricultural College; St. Mary's University College Belfast; St Mary's University College, Twickenham; The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts; University College Birmingham; University College Falmouth; University College Plymouth St Mark & St John; University for the Creative Arts; University of Chichester; University of Winchester; University of Worcester; Writtle College; York St John University; American InterContinental University; Anglo-European College of Chiropractic; Bradford College; Cleveland College of Art & Design; Glyndŵr University; Hereford College of Arts; Holborn College; Leeds College of Art; Plymouth College of Art; Regent's College; The British School of Osteopathy; The Tavistock & Portman NHS Trust

**Light Refreshments Provided**

## Tuesday Early Evening

**TUESDAY 18.15-19.15**

### Why Widening Participation isn't enough

(Union Development)

**City Hall, Memorial**

If we only focus widening participation, we will have only ever have a half victory - what's the point of people entering an education system that alienates them, creates experiences that pass them by and doesn't allow them to cross social spheres? This session explores what happens to students once they get in the door of an institution, and how we make the activities, communities and priorities of our unions more reflective of our membership. It will also see the launch of the NUS Union Development Commission report on Deepening Participation.

**Basic Buffet Provided**

**TUESDAY 18.15-19.15**

### Mapping Participation

(Participation Research Project)

**City Hall, Vincent Harris**

Come share your story about your journey to becoming involved in the student movement. NUS is currently conducting a research project about participation in students' unions and we would like to hear about your experiences as student leaders so that we can understand more about why students become involved and barriers that may stand in their way. The session will include informal discussion and some fun activities to share your experience. Your input will be valuable to helping open up opportunities for more students to get involved in the student movement.

**TUESDAY 18.15-19.15**

### Nations Reception

(NUS Scotland, NUS Wales and NUS/USI)

**City Hall, North Hall**

Student Officers and Students' Union Staff from institutions in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are invited to attend a reception hosted by NUS Scotland, NUS Wales and NUS/USI.

**Refreshments Provided**

**TUESDAY 18.15-19.15**

### Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks: Faith, morality & leadership in the 21st century

(UJS)

**Town Hall, Council Chamber**

What is the role of faith, morality and leadership in the modern world? What are the settings or environments that strengthen our sense of morality and allow us to combat some of the more destructive human instincts both on campus and within wider society? Drawing on over two decades of experience in his unique position as a religious leader, prolific author, broadcaster and public intellectual, the Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks, will highlight the lessons to be learnt for current and future generations of leaders.

**Lord Sacks** has been Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth since September 1991, was knighted by the Queen in 2005 and made a Life Peer in 2009. The Chief Rabbi will be introduced by **Liam Burns, NUS President**.

**Refreshments Provided**

**TUESDAY 18.15-19.15**

### Right to Protest

(Society & Citizenship Zone)

**The Circle, Conference room 1**

Since the student protests of 2010 there has been a visible attempt to curb protest especially on campuses. Further to this the last two years have seen an increase in policing techniques which exacerbate protests. Techniques such as kettling and the excessive use of physical force which have led to deprivation of protestors' human rights. Additionally harsh sentencing has increased for protestors charged with minor offences. This fringe will discuss the ways in which police engineer confrontation with protestors, what excessive sentencing means for civil rights and civil disobedience and why protesting should remain a fundamental right.

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**TUESDAY 18.15-19.15**

### Oh no! Not another cheese and wine-based postgrad event

(Postgraduate)

**The Circle, Conference room 2**

Come along to network with other delegates, officers and students' unions on all things postgraduate, with a brief update from the NUS Postgraduate Committee on what we've been up to over the past year. Whether you're a student or a full-time officer, in further or higher education, undergraduate or postgraduate, an aspiring researcher or anxious to leave university for 'the real world of work', this will be a great opportunity to discuss issues ranging from funding postgraduate study to engaging postgraduates, and beyond! Cheese & wine provided, obviously.

**Cheese and Wine Provided**

**TUESDAY 18.15-19.15**

### How big is your ratio? (Fair Pay Campus Campaign)

(Young Greens)

**Leopold Hotel, Library**

While many ordinary university workers receive less than the living wage, VCs across the country earn on average £200,000 a year. In fact, the ratio between the highest and lowest paid worker in the HE sector it is 15:1; the highest in the public sector.

Inequality in the public sector has been a big political issue, especially since the government's commissioned review by Will Hutton on fair pay. This panel discussion, hosted by the Young Greens, will act as a platform in which we launch our priority campaign on fair pay and look closely at income equality on our campuses and the need to move towards a minimum 10:1 ratio.

**TUESDAY 18.15-19.15**

### Generation Cuts: No Voice = No Mandate?

(International Students Campaign)

**Leopold Hotel, Oak Suite**

What are the issues that cause record level of youth unemployment in the UK?

How can we cultivate highly skilled British workers for British industry to compete globally and boost economic growth?

What help graduates to stand out in the job market during the current economic climate?

What can students unions in the UK do to prepare their students for the global job market?

What can we do to create more graduate level jobs for students in the UK while enhance the employability of international students?

**Light Buffet Provided**

**TUESDAY 18.15-19.15**

### What do students think about their learning experience?

NUS/QAA Student Experience Research (HE Zone)

**Town Hall, Reception Room**

This fringe will launch the NUS/QAA student experience research reports and discuss the role of how information can inform campaigns and influence decisions. Information is becoming increasingly important to students' unions and activists when planning and undertaking campaigns and there is now an expectation more than ever by the sector that we are evidence based in our demands. This session will explore how this works in practice and how well we feel the student movement is equipped to do this. We will also introduce you to the latest research reports funded by QAA in understanding how students perceive their time at university.

There will be an opportunity for questions and the panel will consist of:

- Usman Ali - Vice President (Higher Education) NUS
- Dr Cathy Kerfoot - Development Officer, Research, Development and Partnerships, QAA
- Matthew Barrow - Vice President Education, Hull University Union and NUS NSS Ambassador

**Basic Buffet Provided**

## Tuesday Night

TUESDAY 10pm– 11pm

### The Presidential Candidates Debate

(NUS Chief Returning Officer)

City Hall, Memorial Hall

**Starring:**

- **Usman Ali** – NUS Vice President Higher Education;
- **Liam Burns** – NUS National President;
- **Claire Locke** – London Metropolitan University;
- **Ed Marsh** – NUS Vice President Union Development;
- **Kanja Sesay** – NUS Black Students' Officer

**Chaired by:** Len Tingle - BBC's political editor for Yorkshire and the North Midlands

This exciting and lively Presidential hustings event provides delegates with a unique opportunity to both hear from the NUS National President candidates 2012/13 and ask them those questions you have always wanted the answers to.

Find out where the candidates stand on a wide range of issues important to the student movement.

***Seats at this event are limited due to venue capacity and entrance will be granted on a first come first served basis. Conference delegates will be given priority over entry. It's the hottest ticket in town!***

## Wednesday Lunchtime

**WEDNESDAY 13.00 – 14.00**

### Come Clean: Where now?

(Come Clean Campaign)

**City Hall, Memorial Hall**

A year on from the trebling of tuition fees, the Governments reforms to higher education are far from over. The White Paper set out a raft of changes to how numbers are allocated to institutions, the ease of which for-profit providers could enter the sector, machinery to push down the average fee level as the treasury can't afford current levels, and much more.

Some of these changes require the approval of Parliament, many do not. So the Government shelving the Higher Education Bill, which was meant to turn the White Paper proposals into Law, has taken away an opportunity to win additional rights

**Buffet Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 13.00 – 14.00**

### Banter or Bo\*\*ocks? – Lad Culture in Unions

(NUS Women's Campaign)

**City Hall, South Hall**

Does Lad culture have a place in our Unions? Do Women's Officers just need to 'chill out'? Is it obviously just a bit of fun?

Join us for a full and frank debate on what, if anything the student movement should be doing about the rise of lad culture on campuses.

**Refreshments Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 13.00 – 14.00**

### Disabled Activism

(Disabled Students Committee)

**The Circle, Conference Room 2**

This would be an excellent chance for students to understand what the campaign is, what model of disability the campaign follows, what the priority campaigns have been this year, and how to get involved!

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 13.00 – 14.00**

### Future of Student Housing (Welfare Zone)

**City Hall, North Hall**

The student housing sector has seen major change in the last 20 years, with the rise of private-sector halls, the proportion of undergraduates living in the family home during study doubling, and an increased number of students in the private rented sector. This expansion has led to tensions in some communities and a host of differing policy responses being explored across the UK.

There are threats and opportunities and it will be vital for NUS and students' unions to offer a strong vision for the future.

This fringe will launch NUS' new discussion pamphlet, The Future of Student Housing, and give officers the chance to consider the direction of housing policy and how it should develop to benefit and protect our membership.

**Basic Buffet Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 13.00 – 14.00**

### Living Wage (Society & Citizenship Zone)

**City Hall, Vincent Harris**

The living wage is minimum rate at which one can live without fear of destitution. Paying below the living wage often means consigning employees to poverty and long and stressful working hours.

Students' unions and universities need to be seen to be progressive employers, treating staff with respect across the board. This fringe will debate the arguments for a living wage from the perspective of employers and vice-chancellors of universities, campaigners, unions and staff themselves. The panel will look at the wider implications of paying a living wage and issues such as pay ratios in universities, living wage accreditation and how unions pay full and part time staff.

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 13.00 – 14.00**

### Get involved! The true meaning of student involvement (Further Education Zone)

**Town Hall, Council Chamber**

This fringe will focus on the true meaning of learner involvement by initiating discussion amongst the people best placed to make a judgment on the subject - students!

A panel of students will share and reflect on their individual journeys and offer insight into why they got involved at their colleges. Is it about resources, time and structures? Or about the sheer will of an individual student to seek out the opportunities for themselves? Or is it simply about the college asking students' for their opinions and

views?

There will also be an opportunity for fringe participants to share their experiences on what learner involvement means to them in their individual context and college setting.

**Basic Buffet Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 13.00 – 14.00**

### Equal Marriage (NUS Scotland)

**Town Hall, Reception Room**

In 2011 NUS Scotland played a major role in the Scottish Government's consultation on equal marriage. The 14 week long consultation was the largest ever since the Scottish Parliament was founded in 1999 with over 50,000 responses from individuals and organisations.

This fringe will endeavour to analyse the equal marriage campaign, looking at how the message was communicated by NUS Scotland, how we mobilised volunteers and support and where the equal marriage debate is now in Scotland.

This session will be useful for those delegates wanting to learn how to plan and action successful liberation campaigns as giving ideas to students from across the UK who will want to be involved in NUS UK's campaign and lobby of the Westminster Government, which launched their own consultation into same-sex civil marriage in March 2012.

**WEDNESDAY 13.00 – 14.00**

### How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Employability (BSI)

**The Circle, Conference Room 1**

**"Universities are still selling the idea to people that if they go to university they are guaranteed a great job at the end of it, and that is just not the case any more."**

Our government has stated intent to put students at the heart of education and empower them with choice and competition. In a "student-led" system with £9,000 a year degrees and further education loans how important will be the need to teach "employability", and why? Are we even sure we know what "employability" is? British Standards Institution hosts a lunch debate between VP HE candidate and Queen Mary Students' Union President Sophie Richardson, NUS-USI President Adrienne Peltz and Neil Griffiths of Art Emergency focusing on the role employability should play in modern education and answering questions put to them via twitter. If you wish to send a question, tweet it with the hashtag #BSIemploy. Oh, and food will be available. Obviously.

**Refreshments Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 13.00 – 14.00**

### Fund Education Not War (Student CND)

**Leopold Hotel, Library**

*Don't Attack Iran – Scrap Trident – Hands Off the Middle East – Free Palestine*

**Speakers:** Rania Najjar, Palestinian student from Gaza; Sabah Jawad, Iraqi Democrats Against Occupation; Vicki Baars, NUS LGBT Officer (Women's Place); Chris Nineham, Stop the War Coalition; Amena Saleem, Palestine Solidarity Campaign; Fiona Edwards, Student Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament; **Chair:** Kanja Sesay, NUS Black Students' Officer

One million people were killed in the war on Iraq and many hundreds of thousands in the ongoing war on Afghanistan – with the drumbeats for new wars in the Middle East beating loudly, now it is time to stop Britain's involvement in bloody, costly and immoral wars.

Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and siege on Gaza continues to deny the Palestinians their basic human rights – including the right to education. But international pressure to end these injustices is growing, with students playing a vital role.

**Refreshments Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 13.00 – 14.00**

### What next for Immigration?

(International Students Campaign)

**Leopold Hotel, Oak Suite**

The NUS International Students' Campaigning invites delegates to join them in discussing and debating the impacts of the recent visa changes on international students and analysing what impact further restrictions might have on UKHE in general as well as on individual students studying in the UK. A range of expert speakers will contribute their insights and opinions to the debate, before delegates are invited to question, input and drive the discussion about these drastic changes.

**Refreshments Provided**

## Wednesday Early Evening

**WEDNESDAY 17.15 – 18.15**

### Hide & Seek: Where should our campaign against Hidden Costs go from here?

(Hidden Costs)

**City Hall, Memorial Hall**

For years students have been burdened with additional cost for some of the essentials needed to be academically successful. Printing, lab coats, field trips, equipment... all put financial stress on further and higher education students alike, and what's worse, if you can't afford it then you have less chance of getting good grades. Fees or no fees, Hidden Costs are unacceptable. This year, NUS has campaigned hard on eradicating hidden costs. Join an expert panel to hear how unions have been campaigning and where we go from here nationally.

**Buffet Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 17.15 – 18.15**

### LGBT-More than 4 letters

(LGBT)

**City Hall, North Hall**

Sexuality and gender is complicated, there are loads of different identities out there, and some you will have heard of the others you won't. This session will look at sexuality and gender beyond just LGBT and discussing how we identify and affects that can have for students. We'll be talking sexuality labels, gender boxes and how it's all not as simple as L, G, B, T.

**Drink and Canapés Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 17.15 – 18.15**

### WP Champions

(Higher Education Zone)

**City Hall, South Hall**

Access to and full participation in higher education is one of the great social issues of our time. Students' unions can do great work in helping make our higher education sector more diverse, more accessible and more inclusive. Come along and hear from students' unions who are mobilising volunteers, running outreach programmes in schools and in their communities, and supporting students to stay on course and be successful.

**Light Refreshments**

**WEDNESDAY 17.15 – 18.15**

### Facilitating Dialogue on Faith and Sexuality

(Faith & Sexuality Project)

**City Hall, Vincent Harris**

NUS is currently running a 6 month pilot project (Jan-June) on 'Facilitating Dialogue on Faith and Sexuality in FE' and that aims to support staff and students to tackle real and perceived tensions between LGBT equalities and religion and belief equalities in FE colleges. At the heart of the project is the belief that good mutually respectful relationships between learners from different backgrounds are more likely to be developed when learners can express and explore their personal experiences, rather than rehearse fixed opposing principles.

Within the fringe we will Outline the history, approach and experiences so far of the project, Demonstrate an example of participatory, experiential approaches to dialogue that are central to the approach, and get your ideas on how NUS could develop this line of work further at both FE and HE level

By June we will have delivered a 2 day training for FE students and staff, work with participant colleges to develop an activity or project for learners on their campus and produce a toolkit of materials and a guide to good practice.

**Light Refreshments**

**WEDNESDAY 17.15 – 18.15**

### Unpaid, Unfair, Illegal- End Unpaid Internships

(Society & Citizenship)

**Town Hall, Council Chamber**

Did you know that unpaid internships are illegal and a violation of national minimum wage legislation? Well if you didn't you're not alone; recent polling shows that 90% of graduates don't know that interns are entitled to payment under the law. As more and more graduating students turn to internships to gain work experience, more and more are finding that they can't afford to work for free. Join us for a panel discussion with Hazel Blears MP and representatives from the TUC and Intern Aware to learn more about Society & Citizenship's *Unpaid, Unfair, Illegal* campaign to end unpaid internships and find out how you get involved.

**Basic Buffet Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 17.15 – 18.15**

### The Arab Spring: A Students' Revolution

(Federation of Student Islamic Societies)

**Town Hall, Reception Room**

In the face of increasingly disenfranchised communities with the powers that be, how can we utilise the democratic momentum from the Arab world to positively impact our communities here? Join us for a discussion with student leaders and revolutionaries from the Arab Spring who will share their accounts and experiences, and question what direction our student movement needs to take.

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 17.15 – 18.15**

### How do we fight for Liberation?

(SWSS)

**The Circle, Conference room 1**

Women are paid less than men. Lap dancing clubs are sold to us as an ironic and fun night out. Only 19 percent of MPs are women. We are told that women have it all but women's oppression is still very much a reality. Whether it's Miss University pageants and sexism in popular culture, the Tories rewarding marriage through tax breaks or attacks on abortion rights, the issue of women's oppression is a central one for socialists. Come and discuss how we fight for genuine liberation.

All welcome. We have a world to win!

**WEDNESDAY 17.15 – 18.15**

### Challenging racism, Islamophobia & the far right

(Anti-racism/Anti-fascism)

**The Circle, Conference room 2**

With a rising tide of racism sweeping across Europe and Black and migrant communities being blamed for the economic crisis it is important for students to discuss and develop our plan to challenge this. The British National Party have MEPs and English Defence League are terrorising our multicultural and diverse communities - it is vital that students lead the way in anti-fascist struggle. Join the liberation campaigns, Unite Against Fascism and faith groups in discussing the role students can play in challenging racism and fascism

**Light Refreshments Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 17.15 – 18.15**

### Mature Students

(NUS and Million +)

**Leopold Hotel, Library**

NUS and Million+ have paired up to conduct one of the biggest research projects exploring the experiences of UK mature students that has ever been undertaken (probably). We have surveyed nearly 4,000 mature students, and worked with mature students, students' unions and university staff to explore the mature student experience in depth. In this exclusive first look at the project results we will explore what motivates mature students, the highs and lows of the mature student experience, and what you could be doing in your unions to support mature students.

**Light Refreshments**

**WEDNESDAY 17.15 – 18.15**

### UK Overseas/Satellite Campus Engagement

(International Students Campaign)

**Leopold Hotel, Oak Suite**

To effectively engage students study at a remote campus as a result of franchised courses, mergers, collaborative provision, either in the UK or overseas become a big issue for many FE and HE students unions. This panel will discuss the followings questions and hope to provide realistic recommendation:

- Why universities and colleges are having more and more satellite campus in the UK and overseas?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for students unions and institutions to engage students study at satellite campus in the UK and overseas ?
- What should institutions and students unions do to support their students study at satellite/overseas campus?

The coalition government make a commitment to reduce net migration from hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands, targeting international students for major reduction and increasingly restrictive rules on working rights. What have been done to protect international students and the UK education sector from discriminative immigration changes? What shall we do next on this important issues together? Top experts from across the UK will give you an interesting debate about this issue.

**Basic Buffet Provided**

## Wednesday Late Evening

**WEDNESDAY 20.45 – 21.45**

### **ACTS**

(ACTS)

#### **City Hall, Memorial Hall**

Why not join the NUS staff trade union (ACTS), and the newly-elected President of NUS to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the National Union? With the first official speech of the National President, tickets always sell out fast. This year, proceeds are being shared between the trade union and two charities; Positive Women, who empower women in Swaziland to change their lives and Women Asylum Seekers Together an inspiring self-help group of refugee women in London, this fringe will see students and staff come together to celebrate our history and offer support to amazing charities. As part of the ticket price, attendees will also get to be in the 90th anniversary photograph reflecting the original NUS photograph taken in 1929, with an opportunity to receive copies of the photograph for themselves.

**Refreshments Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 20.45 – 21.45**

### **What's the Value of Financial Education?**

(Democrats & Reformists Network)

#### **City Hall, North Hall**

Campaigns by Martin Lewis' MoneySavingExpert and the Personal Financial Education Group have recently led high profile calls for Financial Education for young people in schools and colleges. At a time when the primary political discussion is on the economy and debt, do we need compulsory financial education? How would it work? What should be taught?

Join us for a discussion with representatives from across the political spectrum on this important issue, and join in on the debate by having your say.

The Democrats and Reformists Network is a group of centre-right students within the National Union of Students, working for an open, and representative NUS.

**WEDNESDAY 20.45 – 21.45**

### **Buy, boycott or build?**

(Fair-trade Foundation)

#### **City Hall, Vincent Harris**

Fairtrade increasingly works with more and more big companies like Nestle. But some of the real change in trading models comes from

FTOs – Fair Trade Organisations like Divine and Cafédirect who are part-owned by the farmers themselves! What are the benefits of the big Fairtrade switches? Can multinationals learn from FTOs – can we build on their model? Is there more to do on trade – surely it's not job done if farming communities experience so much poverty still – Come and help us shape what you think the next steps to a fairer trade should be and decide how you can make a difference.

**Refreshments Provided**

**WEDNESDAY 20.45 – 21.45**

### **Tory cuts - global austerity**

(Union of 99%)

#### **Town Hall, Reception Room**

The welfare state is under attack. The NHS has been privatised, tuition fees are up to 9000 pounds a year, and workers' pensions are under attack. Working people, unemployed and students are being made to pay for the bankers' and bosses' crisis. At the same time we have seen brilliant moments of resistance. From the student demonstrations to the 2.5million public-sector strike on November 30, from Occupy London to UK Uncut activists have been opposing the vicious policies of David Cameron and George Osborne. The Labour Party though has remained quiet. Ed Miliband went on to condemn the strikes despite 64% of the public supporting them. What kind of movement do we need? Or, is it simply enough to wait until the next General Elections? Is the Labour Party fit for purpose? Or do we need another kind of opposition?

**WEDNESDAY 20.45 – 21.45**

### **Students as Workers, Students and Workers**

– Organising Solidarity

(NCAFC)

#### **The Circle, Conference Room 1 & 2**

As students, increasing numbers of us are having to work to fund ourselves through study. Often, the only jobs available to us are low-paid, semi-casual jobs with long hours and poor conditions.

On campus, more and more students are active on workers' rights issues, whether uniting with lecturers and other campus workers to fight cuts and course closures or building international solidarity.

How can we organise to fight for workers' rights – in our own workplaces, on our campuses, and internationally?

# National Conference 2012 | Amendment to proposals document

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Democratic Procedures Committee wish to clarify a composite for Motion 301. The following **replaces** the motion found in your final proposals document.

## Recommendation No: **301**

**Policy Area:** Postgraduate Funding and Support

**Submitted by:** HE Zone Committee and Sheffield Hallam (section of CR1)

**Introduction Speech:** HE Zone Committee (1.5 min)

The lack of focus on postgraduate study in the recent Higher Education White paper is extremely concerning for all students. Issues of access, funding and support are at risk of being neglected by the Government and the sector. In addition, we are seeing policies that promote the concentration of research funding to traditional research-intensive institutions, rather than funding research wherever excellence is found.

### Conference believes:

1. That the government's promise to monitor access to postgraduate courses is too little too late when the repercussions of the undergraduate fee hike and cuts to the teaching grant are clear.
2. That upfront fees for postgraduate taught courses are a contradiction of the principles of equality of opportunity in access to education.
3. That financial support and information for postgraduate taught courses is insufficient and inaccessible and that there is not enough information on how this affects access for underrepresented groups and those groups with more complex financial support needs.
4. That funding councils should fund research wherever excellence is found, whether it is large, research intensive institutions, an early stage researcher or a small and specialist institution with a small research portfolio.

### Conference resolves:

1. To develop an alternative funding model for all types of postgraduate course.
2. To lobby for better information, advice and guidance about the costs and financial support available for all types of postgraduate course.
3. To campaign for more Career Development Loans with lower interest rates and longer initial repayment start times.
4. To provide support and advice to students' unions who wish to campaign for increased institutional financial support for postgraduates and against further rises in tuition fees.
5. To work with relevant sector bodies to build a strong argument against the concentration of research funding and principles for funding research excellence wherever it is found.
6. To ensure that NUS participates in future consultations on research funding, arguing against its concentration and to provide guidance to students' unions about these arguments.
7. To campaign for increased opportunities for early stage researchers in funding allocation.
8. To develop principles around what good research-led teaching looks like and support unions to engage with this topic.

## Amendment: **301a**

**ADD Amendment**

**Submitted by:** University College London Union

**Speech For:** University College London Union (1.5 min)

**Speech Against:** Free (1.5 min)

**Summation:** University College London Union (1 min)

### Conference Believes

1. That research council funding and PGR students' stipends have been frozen, resulting in significant real-terms cuts which are set to continue for a number of years.
2. That this is forcing PGR students to rely on private funding, juggle jobs they do not have time for, or even preventing them from studying in the first place.
3. That many PGR students do not even have studentships and are supporting themselves and paying fees while working for free on research that benefits society.

### Conference Further Believes

1. That cuts to PGR stipends are an attack on students and research.
2. That attacks on PGR students, who are often teachers, are attacks on teaching quality as well
3. That this area is an untapped opportunity for NUS and students' unions to work with the UCU

### Conference Resolves

1. To launch a campaign, alongside UCU, to defend PGR students and their working and learning conditions.
2. To launch a campaign encouraging all eligible postgraduates to join UCU

## Amendment: **301b**

**ADD Amendment**

**Submitted by:** NUS Postgraduate Committee

**Speech For:** NUS Postgraduate Committee (1.5 min)

**Speech Against:** Free (1.5 min)

**Summation:** NUS Postgraduate Committee (1 min)



# National Conference 2012 | Amendment to proposals document

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## Conference Believes:

1. Postgraduate study is a public good, enabling individuals to develop intellectually to their fullest capacity and supporting pathways to the professions and to research careers.
2. Access to postgraduate study should be determined by ability, not ability to pay. Currently well-qualified individuals are not able to access postgraduate study.
3. Postgraduate knowledge and skills benefit wider civic society; the UK needs more home postgraduates and should be prepared to invest to achieve this.
4. Universities currently focus recruitment tactics on international postgraduates, knowing that the UK market holds limited opportunities for growth.
5. Funding is not the determinant of fair access to postgraduate study; it is the precondition for determining how and why different groups participate.
6. Current information suggests that postgraduates are not representative of the wider student population in terms of socio-economic class, gender, disability or ethnicity.
7. Funding and provision of generic information, advice and guidance are only the beginning of the ways in which we can think about widening participation in postgraduate study.

## Conference Resolves:

1. To articulate the case for public investment in postgraduate study.
2. To campaign for the development of a national strategy to widen participation to postgraduate study, adopting a student lifecycle approach including a national admissions process, development of best practice in postgraduate outreach, a significantly better understanding of equality and diversity issues at postgraduate level and support for postgraduate integration, retention and success.
3. To integrate postgraduate student engagement into the wider student engagement work of NUS and ensure that postgraduates are never overlooked in questions of representation and engagement.
4. To campaign for more, better and tailored information, advice and guidance from institutions so that prospective postgraduates are able to make genuinely informed decisions.
5. To gather information about where and how postgraduate students from underrepresented groups experience barriers and exclusions, and to act to tackle these.

## Amendment: **301c**

### ADD Amendment

**Submitted by: Leeds University Union**

**Speech For: Leeds University Union (1.5 min)**

**Speech Against: Free (1.5 min)**

**Summation: Leeds University Union (1 min)**

### Conference Belives:

1. Postgraduates at some Higher Education institutions are required to pay an application fee to apply for a taught postgraduate degree. This measure is in place in order to control numbers to reduce staff administration costs.
2. That an application fee is not an effective way of controlling postgraduate application numbers.
3. The fee will deter some students from applying who are academically capable but do not have the ability to pay.
4. This will lead to a market of uncapped application fees with institutions benchmarking themselves against their competitors.
5. A higher application fee will be misconstrued as a mark of quality.

### Conference Resolves:

1. To lobby Higher Education institutions to remove their postgraduate application fees.
2. To work with institutions that have problems processing applications to find a solution that doesn't require an application fee.

## Amendment: **301d**

**DELETES CR 1 and 3 of main motion (301)**

**Submitted by: Leeds University Union, Hull University Union, Nottingham University**

**Speech For: Nottingham University (1.5 min)**

**Speech Against: Free (1.5 min)**

**Summation: Hull University Union (1 min)**

### Conference Believes

1. WP should not end at the undergraduate level; we need fair and equal access and support to postgraduate study.
2. Career Development Loans (commercial loans) are not sustainable, damage access to postgraduate study and are unfair to students.
3. Commercial loans are dangerous, with high interest rates and strict pay-back periods, and can leave students in poverty.

### Conference Resolves

1. To develop and lobby for an alternative funding model for postgraduate taught courses that is low cost, fair and accessible to all those that want to access postgraduate study
2. That Commercial Development Loans, like all commercial loans, should never be pursued as a credible route to fund postgraduate education.
3. To fight for the abolishment of hidden course costs in PG study.
4. To lobby for regulations and limits for postgraduate fees.

## Amendment: **301e**

**Submitted by:** Queen Mary Students Union, Kingston University, University of Essex (CR1), University College London (CRB1,2 CF1-3 and CR 2-5); School of Oriental and African Studies (CB 3&4)

**Speech For:** University College London (1.5 min)

**Speech Against:** Free (1.5 min)

**Summation:** University College London (1 min)

### **Conference Believes**

1. PGT fees have risen three-fold in many universities since lifting the undergraduate cap in 2010.
2. That public funding for postgraduate teaching is under threat.
3. Public funding has been dramatically reduced for post-graduate teaching.
4. Postgraduate study is a social good. Attacks on access to it are detrimental to teaching, research and society as a whole.

### **Conference Further Believes**

1. That in order for the campaign against postgraduate fees to be successful in the medium to long term, it must be linked to a wider fight against fees and cuts, with clear aims.
2. We need a principled vision for PG funding around which we can unite the sector, as well as a set of interim measures. The existence of alternative funding models, for instance the Blueprint, has not always led to campaigning success.
3. That education is a social good: postgraduate education, like all education, should be funded by progressive taxation – not by forcing students to take on massive private debts, or cutting university places.

### **Conference Resolves**

1. To call for fully-funded postgraduate degrees and living grants open to graduates
2. To commit to campaigning around the following principles for PGT funding:
3. On a national level, full public funding for PG education: the abolition of postgraduate fees, and no cuts to the postgraduate teaching budget.
4. In the meantime, NUS will campaign to minimise the injustices of the present system, by calling for regulation of masters fees and an income-contingent loans and bursaries system – to cover full fees and living costs.
5. On a local level, universities should not rip off postgrads to cross-subsidise rather than speaking out against cuts; and transparency about where postgraduate fees are being spent, and how much postgraduate courses cost

### **Back to the main motion**

**Speech Against:** Free (1.5 min)

**Summation:** Proposer of last successful amendment (1min)



## Accessibility at National Conference

We want everyone to feel they can contribute fully in National Conference and all our events. By necessity our democratic processes are based on voting and speeches for and in opposition, but you should treat all delegates with respect, including those who have views different from your own.

Some delegates will have specific access needs. Listen out to statements from the Democratic Procedures Committee and ensure that you take simple steps such as keeping gangways and access routes clear of possessions and not shouting when delivering points or speeches.

Conference will begin with a number of policies concerning Equal Opportunities, Safe space and zero tolerance for sexual harassment and the Staff Protocol which delegates will be expected to comply with.

If you have questions or concerns please talk to the Democratic Procedures Committee at the front of Conference hall.

## Stalls at National Conference

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Better World Books                       | Coop Bank                           |
| Danone                                   | Education Activist Network          |
| Endsleigh                                | Fairtrade Foundation                |
| Federation of Student Islamic Societies  | Katie Haines Foundation             |
| Labour Students                          | Marketing Sheffield                 |
| Membership Solutions                     | NASUWT                              |
| National Campaign against Fees and Cuts  | NUS Apprentice Extra                |
| NUS Black Students' Campaign             | NUS Disabled Students' Campaign     |
| NUS Extra                                | NUS FE Team                         |
| NUS HE Team                              | NUS International Students' Section |
| NUS LGBT Campaign                        | NUS Society and Citizenship Zone    |
| NUS Union Development Zone               | NUS Welfare Zone                    |
| NUT                                      | Open University                     |
| Palestine Solidarity Campaign            | Socialist Worker Student Society    |
| Student Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament | Teach First                         |
| The Union of Jewish Students             | UCCF - The Christian Union          |
| Unison                                   | V Inspired                          |
| White Ribbon                             | Workers Liberty                     |

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