

A union for the 99%

VOTE JAMIL KEATING

#1 for Vice President Further Education

Students in Further Education (FE) are marginalised in society. We are ravaged by youth unemployment. Meanwhile the government has slashed Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). Most of us will no longer go to a university because of extortionate fees.

The minority that do make it will leave university with crippling debts – and crippling fear at the very real prospect that we might not get a decent job at the end of it all.

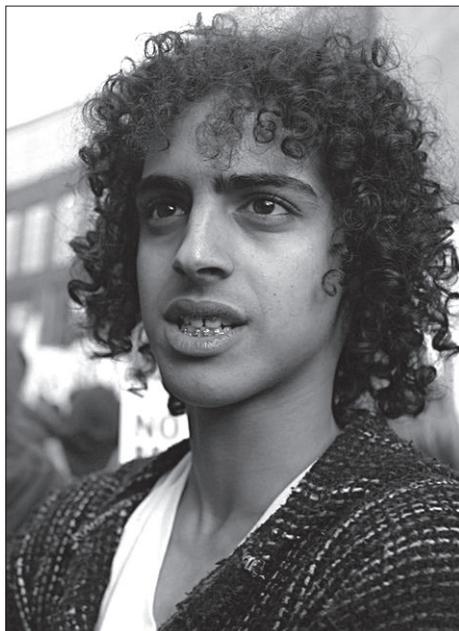
FE students are being pushed to the breaking point, inside and outside our colleges. Last summer's riots showed how deeply alienated and angry our generation is. The Tories blamed the riots on "mindless criminality".

But it is their austerity politics that create the conditions for social unrest. The Tories have done nothing but humiliate us. They take away our EMA, they stop and search us in front of our colleges – and they respond to our justified anger with "total policing".

My campaigning record

I am a member of the Socialist Worker Student Society. I first became politically active when Nick Griffin – leader of the British National Party and an unrepentant Nazi and Holocaust denier – was elected as an MEP in the North West of England.

Since then I have campaigned tirelessly against racism and discrimination.



I am an active anti-fascist, involved in everything from attending demos to organising large Love Music Hate Racism gigs in Manchester.

During the height of the students' movement in November 2010 I led a thousand-strong walkout at my FE college. I stood on picket lines alongside my lecturers when they went on strike on 24 March, 30 June and 30 November last year.

I believe the NUS is at its strongest when it unites with education workers who are fighting back against the same attacks we face as students.

I helped organise a student delegation to demonstrate outside the Tory party conference in Manchester last year. I've brought groups of students to Unite Against Fascism demonstrations against the racist English Defence League.

I am proud to be a candidate of the movement who wants to see FE students in NUS take a lead in their colleges and their wider communities.

FE for the 99%

The loss of EMA has seen the number of students enrolling at FE colleges drop by 15%. This is the first time in 12 years that enrolment figures have fallen. EMA was a lifeline for the majority of FE students.

We need an FE vice president who will fight against the Tory attacks on our education and for an alternative vision of further and higher education. That means defending state funded free education. Our slogan must be "FE for the 99%".

We won't find allies for this in the Institute for Learning or in college management boardrooms. These organisations are the enemies of admin and teaching staff in college. Their enemies are our enemies too.

**Build a mass movement against austerity
Vote for a union for the 99%**

- Jamil Keating #1 for Vice-President Further Education
- Jamie Woodcock #1 for Vice-President Society & Citizenship

End youth unemployment

The Tories are set on creating a lost generation. Some 22% of 16-24 year olds are unemployed – that's over a million young people. Unemployment is soaring and jobs are getting scarcer.

But the Tories respond by trying to get us to work for free with their poxy "workfare" programmes. Some companies that sponsor workfare are partners in the NUS Extra scheme.

We should be boycotting these companies, opposing workfare and fighting against youth unemployment. The Indignados movement in Spain raised the slogan: "Without jobs, without homes, without education – but without fear!" That's the spirit we need in NUS.

Solidarity is our strongest weapon

Young people across the world are in the frontline of neoliberalism – and in the frontline of the battle against it. High school students in Chile occupied their schools against the right wing Pinera government. School students in France walked out and blockaded roads in solidarity with the fight for pension rights.

NUS should actively build solidarity with these struggles. I want to make links with students from Cairo to Chile to strengthen our FE campaigns at home.

The media pretends students don't care about anything happening outside their "ends". But we are inspired by international struggles and see ourselves as part of those struggles.

No to racism, fascism and Islamophobia

The politics of austerity bred fascism in the 1930s. They are breeding fascism now. Groups like the English Defence League, British National Party and British Freedom Party want to scapegoat minorities and divide students by turning us against each other.

Young people played a vital role in the successful demonstration against the EDL in Tower Hamlets, east London, on 3 September last year. The EDL did not set foot in the borough

that day. We shall continue to oppose their presence everywhere.

There is no place for racism, sexism, hate or discrimination in our colleges. I stand in solidarity with Muslims under attack from the EDL and with all those struggling against oppression.

Protest, walk out, occupy!

Student protesters face heavy policing on demonstrations. We are threatened with rubber bullets and routinely kettled. We are victimised by the police for exercising our democratic right to protest.

Too often college authorities collude with police rather than defending students. Student protesters who find themselves in the dock have received disproportionate sentences. This is about scaring young people from protesting.

We need to defend the right to protest. And we need to exercise the



Jamil and Jamie leading a walkout of students in Manchester last year

right to protest. I want to see more demonstrations, more walkouts and more occupations.

NUS should coordinate walkouts from colleges across the country over EMA, unemployment and the innumerable other attacks we face on a daily basis.

Why we're supporting Jamil

Jamil is a dedicated and motivated activist who has worked tirelessly to resist the cuts to education. Not only has he been an anti-cuts activist but has also worked solidly with free Palestine campaigns.

Palestine is a key issue within Jamil's activism and we should be supporting an activist that fights for the oppressed.

Kwame Mensah

Loreto College, Manchester

Without a doubt Jamil has been central to the student movement over the past two years. He has played a key role in organising students at his college and leading walkouts over the cutting of EMA. Jamil would be an asset within NUS and would continue to fight for our right to resist the cuts to our education.

Sheldon Ridley

Barnsley College

Jamil is a great inspiration for every student activist in FE. By leading walk-outs and supporting his lecturers on strike he has been at the forefront of the fight to bring back EMA and stop the cuts to pensions. I am confident that Jamil will lead FE down the path of victory. Vote Jamil #1 for VP FE.

Mark Bergfeld NUS NEC

Jamil is the future for our student's movement. As a LGBT and BME student he puts liberation at the heart of everything he does. A vote for Jamil is a vote for a FE campaign that tackles the questions that our movement faces. Vote Jamil #1.

Vicki Baars NUS LGBT Officer (Women's Place)

Jamil has not only done fantastic anti-cuts work but has also been part of the anti-fascist movement across the country. He always takes a stand against fascists entering communities and takes part in anti-fascist demonstrations. Jamil is a proud member of Unite Against Fascism and works with the campaign to tackle racism and discrimination at colleges.

Dexter Hill Sheffield College