

Committee Title	Student Voice					
Date of Meeting	26 th March 2018					
Item Number and Title/Subject	Motion to NUS Conference					
Paper Presenter	Yetunde Ogedengbe, Vice President SHLS					
Brief Summary of Issues/Topic	The attached motions were approved by the Executive Committee on Friday 9 th February 2018 to be submitted to NUS Conference held in Glasgow on 27 th to 29 th March 2018.					
Recommendation(s)	Information	X	Discussion		Approval	
	Student Voice is asked to note the submitted motions to NUS Conference.					
Who have you consulted when developing the paper?	Executive Committee					
Staff/Student Protocol	Yes		No	X	N/A	
Will any decision approved directly affect the work of staff?						
Should the paper be submitted to any other committee following its consideration/approval at this meeting?	Trustee Board					
If yes, please state the committee and proposed date of submission.						

International students

Conference notes

- 1) The UK government piloted new immigration rules for international students in January 11 2018, regarding tier 4 application and are outline below;
 - Student can switch to a work visa and take up a graduate role, by allowing them to remain in the UK for only 6 months. **23 universities** to benefit from this pilot which include 2 in Scotland, 2 in Wales and 1 in Northern Ireland as well as universities from across England.
 - Students who applied for a study part-time courses in the UK (if the course leads to a qualification at RQF level 7 or SCQF 11) at a higher education institution are not allowed to work including placement), cannot bring family as dependant and switch to other immigration categories permitting work.
- 2) The gross benefits from international student's amount to £22.6 billion (Average of £87,000 for each EU student and £102,000 for each non-EU student) compared to cost to host international students in the country (£2.3 billion; average of £19,000 for each EU student and £7,000 for each non-EU student) yearly.

According to a report from GOV.UK, a quote from the Immigration Minister Brandon Lewis 2017 said; "I am delighted to announce the expansion of this pilot which is part of our ongoing activity to ensure that our world-leading institutions remain highly competitive.

Conference believes

- International students make a valuable contribution to the UK economy.
- This will only make world leading institution competitive, reducing attention on other potential institutions.
- Tax paid by International students when they work in the UK is a source of income for the UK government, so the law should be fair on them.
- International students applying for part-time course are disadvantaged.
- International student sabbatical officers are also disadvantaged due to visa rules.

Conference Resolves

- For NUS UK to lobby for post-study visa opportunity to be provided for all international students equally across the UK and not just focusing on students in only world-leading institutions.
- NUS UK to lobby UK government for international part-time students to have the opportunity to have at least one of this options (Able to switch to work visa or given a reasonable time to work in the UK).
- NUS UK to lobby UK Universities to support international students who are elected sabbatical/ full time officers deal with Visa and Immigration issues, including the payment of visa fees. This will give equal opportunity for international student when elected.

Welfare; Housing

Conference notes

Private letting agent charges deposit for renting apartments up to one month of rent and sometimes not more than two months' rent equivalent.

According to a study by Centre for Economics and Business Research, current average tenancy deposit is about £549 taking into consideration the monthly national average rent done in 2017 by HomeLet Rental Index.

Conference believes

Charges are sometimes outrageous and too expensive for students to pay especially when they are located closer to students' institutions.

Most students are not into fulltime work and so should be considered when charging them.

Conference Resolves

NUK UK should campaign to ensure housing agents gives discounted house-deposit charge to students, affordable deposit of at least 10% of house rent equivalent.

References

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/twenty-three-universities-join-student-visa-pilot>

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/studentnews/1075/New-reports-on-international-students-in-the-UK>

<http://www.hepi.ac.uk/2018/01/11/new-figures-show-international-students-worth-22-7-billion-uk-cost-2-3-billion-net-gain-31-million-per-constituency-310-per-uk-resident/>

<https://www.nus.org.uk/en/advice/housing-advice/deposits/>

<https://homelet.co.uk/letting-agents/news/article/how-much-is-the-average-tenancy-deposit>

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Students-union-sabbatical-officers>