

Motion title: NHS Bursary for MPharm Students

Proposer: Patryk Szalanski (School of PHA Convenor)

Seconder: Mikey Umney (School of MED convenor)

Summary:

The PM has announced a couple of months ago, a £645 million for a plan to reform the role of the pharmacist and the pharmacy within the community. With no plans to fund the training of Pharmacy students. Pharmacy students are the only healthcare professional course that has no additional funding due to the outdated notion of us being just a science subject.

Union Notes:

1. The GPhC and the Government after covid has planned to have all new pharmacy students to be prescribers and clinicians to take stress off GP services to treat commonly occurring conditions (UTIs etc.)
2. The PM has announced a £645 million for a plan to reform the role of the pharmacist and the pharmacy within the community.
3. This would mean pharmacy is now a health care course meaning pharmacy students are expected to undertake placements, putting strains on Pharmacy Schools nationally and on Pharmacy students as there is no additional financial support.
4. This would make pharmacy students the only students enrolled on professional studies courses not eligible to additional financial support
5. UEA offers limited support for course related travel costs

Union Believes:

1. Pharmacy Students nationally should not be paying for placement costs unfairly due to professional bodies and government not willing to help financially.
2. Pharmacy Students deserve to be recognised as healthcare and science students, especially under the new guidelines for course accreditation.
3. Pharmacy Students have the right to access to the bursary to help them meet with new and should not bear the burden of unfair and disproportionate financial requirements to access their education
4. The government should not have a plan to transform the role of pharmacy if no funding is provided for training if they do not plan to match this new role financially.

Union Resolves:

1. Mandate the Undergraduate and/or Welfare Officers to take this to a national level and lobby the NHS, Government and GPhC to have Pharmacy students to be included in the bursary.
2. The SU to make this an issue to other SUs and encourage them to also lobby on behalf of their Pharmacy Students
3. For the su and the elected NUS delegates to bring this to the attention of the NUS and work with the proposer of this motion to submit a supporting motion to NUS
4. To include the School of Pharmacy Convenor, or any other relevant elected representatives of pharmacy as needed, in any talks that require a MPharm Student perspective/experience

References

1. NHS England; Patients to benefit from faster, more convenient care, under major new GP access recovery plan [Internet]. www.england.nhs.uk. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2023/05/patients-to-benefit-from-fastermore-convenient-care-under-major-new-gp-access-recovery-plan/> 19
2. GPhC; Standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists [Internet]. 2021. Available from: https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/document/standards-for-the-initial-education-and-training-of-pharmacists-january2021_final-v1.pdf
3. [Internet]. UEA; Welcome to the School of Pharmacy Available from: <https://my.uea.ac.uk/faculties-and-schools/faculty-of-science/school-of-pharmacy/welcome-to-the-school>