

Motion title: Postgraduate Continuation of Study Scholarship: Increase to 40%

Proposer: Nathan Wyatt (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer)

Seconder: Taylor Sounes (Undergraduate Education Officer)

Summary:

For the past decade there has been a postgraduate continuation of study scholarship was 50% of Master's tuition fees, whereby any student achieving a 1st in their undergraduate degree is awarded 50% off their Masters, if they stay at UEA. However, a few months ago, without properly notifying students, the Executive Team reduced this to 30%.

Union Notes:

1. Nathan Wyatt (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer) and Taylor Sounes (Undergraduate Education Officer) met with members of the Executive Team, including Ian Callaghan (Chief Resource Officer) and Dave McGuire (ViceChancellor) recently. In this meeting, Nathan and Taylor were told that third years would be given 50% instead of 30%. However, in subsequent communication, were told that by this they meant the third years that graduated in July 2023.
2. There is currently an open letter written by UEA undergrad Harriet Foote to the Executive Team about the reduction, with over 250 signatures.

Union Believes:

1. The University failed to effectively communicate with students and has left many students unable to continue their education.
2. The University should have consulted students before making this reduction and made students aware of the change.
3. This reduction has caused a lot of undue stress and anxiety for current third years, who have been working hard for a half price Masters. These students now don't know what the future holds and face a lot of financial uncertainty.
4. In a cost-of-living crisis, we believe this change will hurt poorer students and benefit richer students.
5. The University should gradually decrease the scholarship and offer current third years a 40% scholarship as an agreeable middle ground.

Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the Welfare Officer to lobby the university to increase this year's scholarship to 40% instead of 30%
2. To mandate the Postgrad Officer, the Welfare Officer, and the Undergrad Education officer to talk about this motion in Learning and Teaching Committee, Senate, and Student Experience Committee
3. To make the SU put out communications about the change to the scholarship, how this will impact students and why the scholarship should be increased to 40% for this year's students.