

EGM Motion: Should LSESU Officially Support the UK's Continued Membership of the EU?

Motion passed

Final Results:

- Yes- 387
- No- 39
- Undecided- 12

Proposer: Giuditta Morandi

Seconded: Dominik Huller

Opposition: Phil Sheppard, Dan Huggins

This Union Notes:

- The UK government is going to hold a referendum on whether or not the UK should remain a member of the European Union. This referendum will take place before the end of 2017.
- The President of the National Union of Students (NUS), Megan Dunn, has joined the national campaign to keep the UK in the EU.[1]
- Universities UK, the organisation representing the UK's universities and to which the LSE is a member of, has not only joined the national campaign to keep UK in the EU[2], but also launched the Universities for Europe campaign.
- 20% of students at the LSE are from other EU member states[3]. For example, in 2013--2014, 1992 of the LSE's 10 800 students came from other EU member states[4].
- In 2011--2012, EU students' spending generated £2.27 billion for the UK economy and 19,000 British jobs in local communities[5].
- Many EU students go onto positions of leadership in their home countries, such as the current Presidents of Portugal and Ireland, the Prime Minister of Malta, the Finish Finance Minister, the CEOs of H&M and General Motors; thus enhancing the UK's diplomatic and commercial links in Europe and beyond.
- In 2015, 31.7% of the LSE's academic staff came from other EU member states. Up from 18.5% in 2005[6].
- The LSE European Institute is the leading European--studies Institute in the UK[7].
- LSE recently established the "LSE Commission on the Future of Britain in Europe", a

multi-- disciplinary research platform informing the wider public about the upcoming referendum.

- If the UK leaves the EU, UK universities would lose access to the €80 billion endowed Horizon--2020 research funding scheme.[8]
- 11% of UK Higher Education institutions' income from research grants & contracts comes from EU bodies, which represents 16% of universities' total income. This percentage has steadily increased from 7.6% in 2007[9].
- The UK directly benefits from £1.2 billion annually in European research funding and is the largest beneficiary of EU research funds to universities"[10]. This represents an extra 15% in addition to the UK Government's own science and research budget[11].
- The Erasmus programme has benefitted over 200 000 British students and over 20 000 British university staff to date[12]. The number of UK students on the Erasmus programme has more than doubled since 2006/07[13].
- Students who complete an Erasmus exchange programme 23% less likely to be unemployed 5 years after graduation and 50% less likely to experience long--term unemployment[14]. In addition, they are more likely to be engaged in further study, and those in employment have above--average salaries[15].
- LSE has over 38 Erasmus partner universities for Master & PhD--students, 13 for staff;; Undergraduate Student Representatives are currently lobbying for additional bilateral exchange--programmes.[16]

This Union Believes:

- That the UK's continued membership of the European Union is therefore in the interests of the LSE and its students.
- If the "LSE Commission on the Future of Britain in Europe" is the contribution of the LSE professors, our campaign will be the contribution of the LSE students.
- The LSE prides itself in its diversity and being able to attract the world's best academics to teach its students, contribute to the LSE's cultural and academic life and produce world--class research. Students and academics from other countries enrich the academic experience and campus life of home UK students.
- LSESU and other student unions across the UK should be a strong and positive voice for EU membership throughout the campaign leading up to the EU referendum.
- In the context of UK budgetary constraints, EU research funding represents an increasingly crucial source of research income for UK universities. EU funding now provides an additional 15% on top of the UK Government's own science and research budget[17]. Ensuring that UK students and researchers can still benefit from this funding is of vital importance.
- Studying and working abroad through the Erasmus programme enables students to learn, become more internationally minded and more employable in today's increasingly

competitive and international employment market.

- We need to protect the Erasmus grants which UK students receive when going to study or work abroad as part of their course at university. Without this funding, many students would not be able to afford studying abroad as part of their course.
- Beyond economic considerations, the UK and its people share more with Europe than with any other group of countries in the world. As students at the LSE, we know more than anyone that links between people enhance international understanding and contribute to peace and prosperity.
- Although it is far from perfect, this is exactly why the EU is precious; it brings people together and takes great pride in its diversity. As the next generation of European citizens, we want the UK to be a strong voice at the heart of this unique community of shared values and help shape its future.

This Union Resolves:

- To endorse and support the “UK Inside EU” campaign through all the duration of the run-up to the national referendum on the renegotiated terms of Britain’s EU membership, projected for Autumn 2017 at the latest.
- To instruct the General Secretary to publicly issue a statement, on behalf of the LSE Student Union, supporting the United Kingdom’s continued membership in the European Union.
- To mandate all LSE SU sabbatical officers to lobby the University to speak out in favour of the UK staying in the European Union.
- To continue the campaign, after the 2015/2016 academic year when many postgraduate students currently involved will leave London.
- To support the campaign in reaching out to other national campaigns.

Notes:

[1] The Independent (2015):

www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/eu--referendum--britains--students--are--stronger--in--europe--a6689056.html

[2] Times Higher Education (2015):

www.timeshighereducation.com/news/nus--and--uuk--join--eu--campaign

[3] London School of

Economics:www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/planningAndStatistics/informationManagementAndStatistics/home.aspx

[4] London School of Economics:

www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/Planningandstatistics/informationManagementAndStatistics/pdf/Table%20A.pdf

- [5] Universities UK (2015):
blog.universitiesuk.ac.uk/2015/10/12/europe--universities--and--the--british--people--5--reasons--why--eu--membership--matters/[5]
- [6] LSE Human Resources: see annex.
- [7] LSE (2015):
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/researchAndExpertise/REF2014/European--Institute.aspx>
- [8] <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what--horizon--2020>
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020--wp1415--annex--a--countries--rules_en.pdf
- [9] Higher Education Statistics Agency, Finances of UK HE Institutions (2013), quoted in 2014 HMG report:
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/279331/bis_14_592_balance_of_competences_review_government_reponse_to_the_call_for_evidence.pdf
- [10] Universities UK (2014):
www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Pages/OpenletterinTimesonEUmembership.aspx#.Vle4PNjhB5S
- [11] Universities UK (2014):
blog.universitiesuk.ac.uk/2014/05/21/eu--membership--impact--uk--higher--education/
- [12] Universities for Europe:
www.universitiesforeurope.com/register/Documents/UniversitiesForEuropeBooklet.pdf?pdf=booklet
- [13] Guardian (2013):
www.theguardian.com/higher--education--network/blog/2013/nov/07/european--funding--higher--education--uk
- British Council (2012):
www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/press/record--number--uk--students--go--europe--erasmus
- [14] Go International, UK High Education International Unit (2014):
go.international.ac.uk/erasmus--impact--study--2014
- [15] Higher Education Funding Council for England (2009):
www.hefce.ac.uk/media/hefce/content/pubs/2009/200944/09_44.pdf
- [16] LSE--Erasmus: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/erasmus/infolsestudents.aspx>
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/erasmus/infoteaching.aspx>
- [17] Universities UK (2014):
<http://blog.universitiesuk.ac.uk/2014/05/21/eu--membership--impact--uk--higher--education/>