

# Should LSESU lobby LSE to increase financial support for international students studying at the institution?

## Motion Passed

### Final Results:

- Yes- 241
- No- 47
- Undecided- 11

Proposer: Damien Kemfack (LSESU International Students' officer)

Secunder: Nona Buckley-Irvine (LSESU General Secretary)

### This Union notes:

- Post-study work visas were taken away in 6th April 2012.
- This means that if students do not have a job when their course finishes they may be given as little as 28 days to return to their home country.
- Since this was removed, no replacement has been introduced.
- International student fees rise 4% year on year for overseas students - which is above the rate of UK inflation.
- LSE does not offer hardship funds specifically for International students struggling to pay their fees.
- The Right to Rent scheme was introduced on 20th October 2015, requiring all private landlords in England to check new tenants have the right to be in the UK before renting out their property from 1 February 2016.
- Research by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, following a pilot scheme in the West Midlands, demonstrated that 'over 40% of landlords who took part in the scheme said they were less likely to rent a property to someone who did not have a British passport', whilst over a quarter admitted reluctant to engage with people with foreign names or accents.

### This Union believes:

- The removal of the post-study work visa forces International Post-Graduate students to find a job while still studying, potentially disrupting their education.
- This not only places enormous pressure on International Post-Graduate students, it disadvantages them in the job market by damaging their ability to fulfil their academic potential.
- Students should be involved in the LSE fee setting process.
- International students and their families specifically face hardship due to unexpected fee increases year on year.

- The way in which post-graduate funding is unfair and should not be based on an algorithm.
- The Right to Rent scheme will encourage discrimination, unfairly disadvantaging international students searching for accommodation.

This Union Resolves:

LSESU should lobby for:

- LSE to introduce a hardship fund and bursaries for international students.
- LSE to review their scholarship system in order to address the global North and global South divide.
- LSE to make a public statement against the visa restrictions being imposed and the Right to Rent scheme.