

Equal Access Campaign Pack



STAR (Student Action for Refugees)
October 2010

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Summary

STAR is campaigning for refugees and asylum seekers to have equal access to higher education. We believe that everyone should have the right to higher education.

STAR believes equal access will only be achieved when asylum seekers are:

- Charged home fees by all universities in Britain
- Eligible for student financial support
- Granted permission to work 6 months after an asylum claim
- Granted leave to remain to complete their university course

What You Can Do in 2010-11

Some individual universities already reduce fees for asylum seekers. You can ask your university to demonstrate it's commitment to equal access by doing the same.

Lobby your university to:

- *Remit tuition fees in full for a fixed number of places for asylum seekers each year*
 - *Or charge 'home fees' for all or a quota of asylum seekers*
- *Offer a small bursary for each place to cover studying costs only*

How You Can Do It

1. Find out about your university's policy
2. Get your Student Union's support
3. Raise awareness among other students
4. Write to your Vice-Chancellor
5. Meet with university authorities to agree policy change

Key messages

- Higher education should be equally accessible to all.
- Universities currently charge asylum seeking students 'overseas fees', an average of £10,000 a year. People waiting for a decision on their asylum claim are not allowed to work and must live on £5 a day. They are therefore unable to raise enough money to pay for tuition fees and study costs.
- Asylum seekers often wait many years for a decision on their claim and many have studied in the British education system and gained excellent GCSE and A level results. It helps no one to deny these people the opportunity to continue their studies at university.

Contact STAR National

If you want to campaign for Equal Access then contact STAR national to discuss what you can do at your university.

Email: campaigns@star-network.org.uk

Phone: 020 7729 8880 ext. 207

1. Background Information

“Everyone has the right to education... and higher education shall be equally accessible to all...”

- Article 26 (1), Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Why are people seeking asylum in the UK?

People seeking asylum have been driven from their homelands by war, torture and persecution. They have fled their countries and their homes, leaving behind family, friends and their livelihood. They arrive looking for a place that will provide protection from the horrors of persecution they are trying to leave behind.

Can people seeking asylum study at university?

Yes. They are entitled to study higher education in the UK provided they meet the entrance requirements to the course and can pay the course fees.

What are the barriers stopping asylum seekers studying at university?

Asylum seekers are charged ‘overseas’ fees of up to £20,000 per year instead of the current ‘home fee’ rate of £3,225. Most asylum seekers cannot afford these fees or living costs because they are:

1. Denied the right to work in the UK

Applications for asylum in the UK can take years to resolve. Meanwhile, people who seek asylum and wait for their application to be resolved are forced to live on Government handouts instead of being allowed to work themselves and contribute to the community.

Asylum seekers are therefore unable to earn enough money to help pay for their education.

Being forced into total dependency is not a choice made by asylum seekers. It is the policy of the Government. Even though people who are seeking asylum are supported by the Government, the support is not nearly enough to live a life in full dignity. It is only 50% of income support for British citizens, which has been calculated at survival levels.

This policy is damaging for asylum seekers who lose, due to lack of practice, the skills they have gained by former education and employment. Unemployment in many cases also leads to ill health, exploitation, depression and isolation, which make a person’s living circumstances very difficult.

2. Not allowed to apply for student loans

In 2005/06 approximately 80 per cent of all English students took up a student loan of an average value of almost £3,500. This loan combined with income from work, savings or other support allows students to take care of their tuition, living expenses, and minor pleasures. Many students would not have been able to attend higher education without such a student loan.

Asylum seekers are not eligible for student loans and are therefore hugely disadvantaged.

3. Not allowed to apply for grants and most bursaries

Grants or bursaries for higher education are support initiatives, which are normally provided for students who have proven they have the capabilities to study at university but are not in a position where they can afford to pay all the costs. Universities in the UK are obligated to provide bursaries for certain British students who have particular economic difficulty, which might be a barrier to continuing their education.

Asylum seekers who prove they can study at university should be eligible for both grants and bursaries on equal terms with British students.

Do all UK universities charge 'overseas' fees?

No. Some universities such as Manchester, Liverpool Hope and Middlesex allow some or all students seeking asylum to pay 'home' fees.

All Scottish universities charge certain young asylum seekers home student fees (to be eligible you need to have been under 18 when you or your parent claimed asylum and been living in Scotland for 3 years before the start of the course.)

Most universities in England and Wales charge asylum seekers 'overseas' student fees. This is because asylum seekers are not eligible for the Government funding through the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) funding as they classify them as international students. But it is at the discretion of the university to decide what fees to charge.

Vice-Chancellors can make a positive statement for widening participation by accepting asylum seekers as home students.

What are the benefits?

Students seeking asylum

- A good education is vital for finding work for both those who stay in the UK and those who may return home.
- Being able to attend university helps people make friends and avoid isolation while they wait for their decision.
- The opportunity to continue your education is central to personal development.

Universities

- Universities are looking for the best students, with academic skills and a commitment to their studies. Asylum seekers who meet the academic entry requirements and want to enter higher education demonstrate both an intellectual ability and a strong motivation.
- In supporting the initiative, higher education institutions will demonstrate that they are embracing widening participation and actively promoting diversity and equal opportunities.

- Studying at university is an important opportunity for people to make friends and acquire a social network. A student population with refugees and asylum seekers is an opportunity for UK students to meet and learn from incredible people

British society

- Allowing people to participate in higher education is good for local communities. The government agrees, noting that there is “a strong positive correlation between the cohesiveness of local communities and participation in higher education”.
- Giving asylum seekers access to higher education will have a long-term return for the local, regional and national economies through strengthening the skills and learning potential of those granted leave to remain in the UK.
- Awarding equal access to higher education for asylum seekers will prove that the UK is committed to the fulfilment of Human Rights.

2. Step by Step Guide

1. Find out about your university's policy

- ★ Check whether your university charges international student fees to people seeking asylum. A quick search on your university's website on admissions and fees is an option. If you can't find the information ring your admissions or finance and ask.

⇒ *Contact STAR national advice on planning an 'Equal Access' campaign at your university*

2. Get your Student Union's support

- ★ National Union of Students (NUS) policy is to support STAR's campaign, so if your Student Union is affiliated with the NUS they should be able to provide support.
- ★ Pass a motion with your Student Union
- ★ Student Union officers have valuable knowledge of decision makers within the University. Ask for their advice on tactics for approaching your Vice-Chancellor.

⇒ *Contact STAR national for a copy of the NUS 'Briefing for Student Unions' and a template Student Union Motion.*

3. Raise awareness among other students!

- ★ Before you approach your Vice-Chancellor you need to show that there is wide student support to allow more asylum seekers to study at your university. So find a way to demonstrate student support!
- ★ Starting a petition is a simple and quick way to show lots of support.
- ★ Public events with photos and a news story can be very effective in reaching large numbers of people.

⇒ *Use the Petition (template)*

⇒ *Contact STAR national for some ideas to help raise the profile of your campaign!*

4. Write to your Vice-Chancellor

- ★ In most cases it will be the Vice-Chancellor who has the power to decide whether to change the university's policy on access for asylum seekers.

⇒ *Talk to STAR national about the best way to persuade your Vice-Chancellor.*

- ★ Send a letter (adapted from STAR's template) to your Vice-Chancellor to outline the campaign and request a meeting to discuss the issue of *Equal Access* to your university for asylum seekers.
- ★ Follow-up if you do not receive a response after a few weeks.

⇒ Read the section below on 'Lobbying your Vice-Chancellor' and use the template letter at the end of this pack

⇒ Contact STAR national for the Brighter Futures 'Vice-Chancellor's Guide' to include with your letter and provide more background information

5. Meet with your Vice-Chancellor to agree policy change

- ★ This is your best chance to make your case for *Equal Access* to the university. It may also be your only chance, so fully prepare and make it count!
- ★ Read the advice in 'Lobbying your Vice-Chancellor'.
- ★ Prepare and photocopy your petition and other evidence of support to hand over at the meeting.
- ★ Make sure you follow up on the issues agreed in the meeting with the Vice-Chancellor. End the meeting by agreeing future steps (this could be the Vice-Chancellor consulting others on the issue or him agreeing to all your demands). Send a 'thank you' e-mail after the meeting outlining what you have agreed.

3. Dealing with Difficult Questions

Here are some suggested responses to some typical questions you might get about the Equal Access campaign.

“Why should asylum seekers be allowed to pay ‘home’ fees while other international students have to pay ‘overseas’ fees?”

- ★ Asylum seekers did not come to the UK by choice. They are fleeing persecution and looking for protection. International students on the other hand have chosen to come to the UK and are often entitled to apply for student support in their home country.
- ★ Asylum seekers are not allowed to work so cannot raise large funds themselves.
- ★ Many asylum seekers have studied for years in the British education system alongside their friends.
- ★ EU citizens are charged home fees, so not all non-British students pay international fees.
- ★ It can take years to get a decision on an asylum claim. Studying at a UK university is their only chance of accessing higher education, as they cannot leave while claiming asylum.

“Why can’t asylum seekers wait until they have refugee status before they go to university?”

- ★ Asylum seekers often have to wait for many years to get a decision in their asylum case. It is unreasonable to expect everyone to put his or her life on hold because the Government has not made a decision.
- ★ The Home Office target is to reach initial decisions within 2 months (and finally resolve all cases after 6 months) after an asylum claim is made, but in 2007-08 this target was only met for 35% of cases. This suggests that many people continue to wait for a final decision after 6 months.
- ★ The previous asylum system (before March 2007) created a large ‘backlog’ of unresolved cases, meaning that thousands of asylum seekers were stuck living in the UK without status and unable to continue their education. A new backlog of cases is now building up as the number of unresolved asylum cases had doubled in 2008, jumping from 4,200 to 8,700 cases¹. As long as the government is struggling to cope to resolve asylum cases in an appropriate timeframe some asylum seekers might have to wait for many years for a decision in their case and would be unable to apply to university in the meantime.

¹ In January 2009 a report by the National Audit Office recorded that the government was not resolving the backlog of 335,000 so-called “legacy asylum cases” fast enough in order to meet its’ target to resolve all these cases by July 2011. Current figures are that around 200,000 cases remain, although the actual number is likely to be less (around 100,000). Grants of leave to remain to date have been approximately 30%.

“We’re already too soft and letting them into university will just encourage more people to come here”

- ★ There is no evidence that people seek asylum in the UK based on particular benefits available. Many people who are seeking refuge in the UK did not choose this country as their destination. Others come because they speak the language, have family here, or simply because they feel that the UK will offer them security
- ★ Asylum seekers are not asking for special treatment, but simply the same opportunities as other people living in the UK.
- ★ Asylum seeking students would still need to fulfil the entry requirements for the course they wish to study. Not every asylum seeker would be qualified.
- ★ People seeking asylum should not be punished because through no fault of their own they have not had a final decision on their claim or cannot leave the UK.

“At a time when university funding is being cut it is unreasonable to expect them to subsidise asylum seekers”

- ★ Ensuring everyone has the opportunity to access education is fundamental. Low financial costs are worth paying to achieve this. The numbers of asylum seekers applying to study at the home fees rate will be relatively low.
- ★ Most asylum seekers are tied to their Government accommodation and so the only plausible choice is to study at their local university (some areas have a very low or no population of asylum seekers).
- ★ Students will still need to fulfil the entry requirements for the course they wish to study.
- ★ Many universities have offered a fixed number of places (e.g. 5 per year) to cap the potential costs within the university’s budget.
- ★ When courses at certain universities are under subscribed the actual cost of extra student attending the course is negligible.

4. Lobbying your Vice-Chancellor

Your STAR group is uniquely placed to make a difference for asylum seekers wishing to study at your University. This guide is intended to help you to use your influence as a student group to make Equal Access a reality!

This guide covers the four main stages in lobbying your Vice-Chancellor:

Writing to Your Vice-Chancellor

The purpose of your letter is to secure a meeting with your Vice-Chancellor. It should be short, concise and not go into too much detail. You want to save your best arguments for the meeting where they will have the most impact.

STAR has produced a template letter for contacting your Vice-Chancellor, which you can customise to suit your own university. You should:

- Address it directly to your Vice-Chancellor
- Include the overseas fee rate at your university
- Try to acknowledge any positive policies the university has towards refugees or about widening participation
- Ask your Students Union officer for their advice on dealing with your Vice-Chancellor. If they support your campaign, you could invite them to jointly sign the letter with you.

Sending Your Letter

- Most Vice-Chancellors aim to respond to letters within two weeks, so make sure you think about the best time to send your letter (and remember to take into account any University holidays)
- If you don't hear from your Vice-Chancellor within 2 weeks, send a gentle email reminder or phone the Vice-Chancellor's office to confirm they have received your letter (allow longer for a response during academic holidays)
- If your Vice-Chancellor does not agree to a meeting, contact STAR national to discuss next steps. You might want to write to the Vice-Chancellor again, this time with a copy of your petition to show that the campaign has student support and that you are really serious about Equal Access.
- Whatever your Vice-Chancellor's response, contact STAR national to share your experience and for additional advice. Your knowledge will help other groups to make Equal Access a success!

Before the Meeting

The meeting may be your only chance to persuade the Vice-Chancellor, so make sure you prepare well to make the meeting a success!

- You are likely to only have 30 minutes at most in the meeting, so preparing a short (5—10 minute) presentation will guarantee that you cover the key points.
- The Equal Access briefing papers, the Brighter Futures Vice Chancellors Guide and the NUS briefing to Students Union Officers (available from the STAR website) will all help to provide you with key facts for your presentation.
- If you know any local asylum seekers who are hoping to study in higher education, ask them if they would feel comfortable with you describing their experiences in the meeting, or coming with you to talk to the Vice-Chancellor. If not, then contact STAR national who can provide you with case studies to increase the impact of your argument. The Brighter Futures Guide also contains great case studies
- Meet up with your STAR group in advance to prepare what you would like to say in the Meeting
- Practice the presentation of your ideas with your group. Invite friends to listen and give constructive Feedback
- Try to anticipate the Vice-Chancellor's questions (see 'Dealing with Difficult Questions – The Vice-Chancellor Edition) and think how you might answer them - you could even practice by role-playing

Your Presentation

Try to include the following in your presentation:

1. Introduction to STAR
2. What your group does locally e.g. volunteering projects
3. Who is an asylum seeker? Brief definition, explain what asylum seekers are entitled to (e.g. no right to work or student support)
4. Asylum seekers and the barriers to higher education (e.g. overseas fees). Explain the effects of exclusion on asylum seekers and the community.
5. Case Studies/ personal stories: use the Brighter Futures Guide to find case studies from universities and asylum seeking students: try to include experiences of education, hopes and aspirations, barriers created by the current policy and positive stories from universities who have already changed their fees.
6. Outline of your requests: set number of places with no fees or a set number of places with home fees and/or the size of the bursaries/grants to support.

At The Meeting

Vice-Chancellors are very busy people with many demands on their time. It's a good idea to consider what type of format the meeting might take, to help you to keep things focused and get the most out of your short time! We think the following format will work well in meetings with Vice-Chancellors:

1. Introduction

Introduce yourselves and explain that you appreciate the Vice-Chancellor's time is limited. Present your Vice-Chancellor with a copy of the Brighter Futures Guide. Explain that you would like to make a short presentation, followed by questions and an open discussion.

2. Presentation

Try to strike the right tone - try not to assume any knowledge, but beware of sounding patronising. Your presentation should cover all of your arguments briefly, but save some ideas for the discussion to follow.

3. Open discussion and questions

It's a good idea to give your Vice-Chancellor the chance to ask questions and to make suggestions, so try not to say everything all at once. Be clear and firm about what you would like the Vice-Chancellor to do to ensure Equal Access. Remember the general aim is to persuade your Vice-Chancellor to:

- Remit fees in full for a set number of asylum seekers each year (e.g. a minimum of 5 for the first year, with possible increases)
- Provide bursaries and grants each year to asylum seeking students to cover study costs
- Create a policy for where all asylum seekers are charged home fees

You will have to exercise judgement during the meeting to perhaps reach a compromise if your Vice-Chancellor will not offer to waive fees. Provided you have thought this through before the meeting, you should be able to come to an agreement you are happy with.

4. Agreements

You must get a firm commitment from your Vice-Chancellor about the next step (and ask them to confirm it in writing after the meeting). This might be to agree to your request and offer free places to a number of asylum seekers or to speak with the Admissions Office.

5. 'Thank-you' and handshakes

Thank the Vice-Chancellor for their time and confirm that you will be following the meeting up with a letter or email. You are likely to have 30 mins maximum, so make sure you are concise!

After The Meeting

At the meeting, there are many ways your Vice-Chancellor might respond to your proposals.

Whatever your Vice-Chancellor agrees, it is important that you write to confirm the action that each of you has agreed to take. It's a good idea to use your notes from the meeting to write a summary of what happened. You can then ask the Vice-Chancellor to confirm that it is accurate.

You will want to make sure that your Vice-Chancellor's promises are followed up by concrete action!

To ensure this you could:

- Request that the Vice-Chancellor make a public announcement of their intention to change the fees policy
- Ask to be included in discussions with university staff about how to implement the changes.

At this stage of the campaign it is a good idea to contact STAR national to discuss your next steps!

Dealing with the Vice-Chancellor's Difficult Questions

It's likely that the Vice-Chancellor will want to ask you some questions about your proposals. The following, along with the Vice-Chancellor's Guide, will help you to anticipate your Vice-Chancellor's concerns and prepare for your meeting.

“The University is not given funding for asylum seeking students by the government through Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE) funding. That is why we have to charge them overseas fees.”

- There is an important difference between asylum seeking and overseas students and we believe this should be reflected in the way that fee rates are decided. Overseas students choose to study abroad and make a decision to pay high fees to access their chosen institution. Asylum seekers, on the other hand, are awaiting a decision on their claim for protection in the UK and therefore cannot choose to study elsewhere. It is unfair to penalise asylum seekers with such high fees when they have no choice but to study in the UK.
- Asylum seeking students are also not eligible to work or access student loans, so it is even harder for them to pay fees than it is for an overseas student. This is an unfair barrier to higher education for many bright, dedicated students.
- We know that you as Vice-Chancellor can exercise discretion to set fee rates and we believe that this is necessary to ensure equal access for asylum seekers.
- STAR is part of a coalition of organisations known as the Higher Education Working Group, which will be lobbying for national policy change to HEFCE funding. This will make government funding available to students who are seeking asylum.

“Universities are already under financial pressure at the moment following budget cuts. Why should the university make asylum seeking students a priority?”

- We understand and appreciate the difficulties faced by the university, but ensuring that no one is excluded from education is fundamental. Small financial costs are worth paying to achieve this.
- Supporting asylum seeking students to continue their education is a positive movement in support of widening participation. To keep the cost of this low, the university can offer a limited number of places for asylum seeking students. Often, when courses are under-subscribed, the actual cost of an extra student attending the course is negligible. This means that the university can widen participation at low cost.

“Why can’t asylum seekers wait until they have refugee status before they come to this university?”

- Asylum seekers often have to wait for many years to get a decision in their asylum case. It is unreasonable to expect people to put their lives on hold because the Government has not made a decision.
- The Home Office target is to reach initial decisions within 2 months (and finally resolve all cases after 6 months) after an asylum claim is made,
- The previous asylum system (before March 2007) created a large ‘backlog’ of unresolved cases, meaning that thousands of asylum seekers were stuck living in the UK without status and unable to continue their education. Home Office figures show that since 2006, a total of 95,990 new applications for asylum were received, but 40,640 of those (almost half) – have still not been concluded. As long as the government is struggling to cope to resolve asylum cases in an appropriate timeframe some asylum seekers might have to wait for many years for a decision in their case and would be unable to apply to university in the meantime.

“What will happen if an asylum seeking student receives a final negative decision (they have no more opportunities to appeal) and have to leave the UK before the end of their course?”

- There are a variety of reasons why someone may not be able to complete their course, but this applies to all students. It would be unfair to penalise people seeking asylum because there is a chance they may need to leave the country before completing their course.
- If an asylum-seeking student were not able to complete his or her studies, the university would not be penalised in any case, as they would not be funded by HEFCE.
- 3 out of 4 asylum-seeking students in the Manchester Brighter Futures group were eventually given Leave to Remain in the UK.

“An asylum seeking student would not be eligible for student loans or grants. How would they be able to support themselves throughout University? Could they even afford to pay home fees?”

- This is why we would like you to offer full fee remission for a set number of students. Perhaps the university would also consider offering bursaries and grants to asylum seeking students to help with living costs such as books and travel?
- The experience of Brighter Futures shows that many asylum-seeking students are determined and can study successfully, even under huge financial pressure. It is their choice to make the commitment to study on low finances and in a difficult situation. There are projects being set up by charitable foundations nationally to support students financially throughout their courses.
- STAR’s work is also aimed at achieving the right to work and to apply for student support for asylum seekers.

“Have other Universities agreed to reduce fees for asylum seekers? Which ones?”

- Several universities have already agreed to allow a set number of asylum seekers to study at their institutions at home fees rates. These include:
 - ⇒ Manchester University
 - ⇒ Manchester Metropolitan University
 - ⇒ Liverpool Hope University
 - ⇒ Liverpool University
 - ⇒ Edgehill University
- The Brighter Futures Guide for Vice-Chancellors contains case studies from these Universities that explain why these universities were so keen to improve access to their universities for asylum seekers.

“How many asylum seekers would be likely to apply to come to the university?”

- The numbers of asylum seekers applying to study at the home fees rate will be relatively low. This is because:
 - Most asylum seekers are tied to their Government accommodation and so the only plausible choice is to study at their local university (some areas have a very low or no population of asylum seekers).
 - Students will still need to fulfil the entry requirements for the course they wish to study, which limits the numbers who would be eligible to apply
 - Even if numbers are large in this area, many universities have offered a fixed number of places (e.g. 5 per year) to cap the potential costs within the university’s budget.
 - You could do some research about the number of potential asylum seeking students in your area to back up your argument.
- ⇒ *STAR is always looking to share your experiences with the network. If your Vice-Chancellor raises an issue that isn’t listed above, please share this with us. Your experience will be valuable to other groups as they prepare to negotiate with their own Vice-Chancellors!*

Template letter to the Vice-Chancellor

[Your Address]

Professor [Vice-Chancellor Name]
Vice-Chancellor
[University Name]
[University Address]

[Date]

Dear Professor [Vice-Chancellor Name]

Re: Arranging a meeting to discuss access to higher education for asylum seeking students

We are students at [University Name] and we wish to raise our concern that successful and dedicated students we know do not have the opportunity to study with us at this university.

Asylum seekers who receive a place at a university in England and Wales face many barriers in taking up the place, mainly due to being charged fees as international students instead of as home students. Asylum seeking students struggle to raise these funds because they are not allowed to work or apply for student loans or grants. Many of these young people have been through the British school system and gained good A-levels.

We understand the policy at our university is to charge asylum seekers international tuition fees, but the university has the freedom to use it's discretion in the fees it charges asylum seekers.

We are members of STAR (Student Action for Refugees), which is a national movement of thousands of students working to support refugees [insert an example of what your group does locally].

STAR is working nationally with a group of agencies, including the National Union of Students, Council for Assisting Refugee Academics, Refugee Council and Brighter Futures. We are asking Vice-Chancellors across the country to join universities such as Manchester and Liverpool Hope in offering places for asylum seekers at the home fee rate.

We share your aspiration to allow talented individuals to fulfil their academic potential regardless of their social or economic background.

We would therefore be delighted if you were able to meet with us to discuss these issues further in relation to the policy on student fees at [University Name].

Please contact [Name of student contact] to suggest a time for our meeting:

Phone:

Email:

Template Student Union Motion

Equal Access to higher education for asylum seekers

This Union Notes:

1. An asylum seeker is someone who has lodged an application for protection on the basis of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.
2. Asylum seekers are in the UK seeking protection and often wait many years for a decision on their asylum claim.
3. Asylum seekers and some refugees are currently charged international fees at the [ENTER NAME OF UNIVERSITY] [(ENTER OVERSEAS STUDENT FEES RATE)] while they are:
 - a. denied the right to work in the UK
 - b. not allowed to take out student loans
 - c. not allowed to apply for grants and bursaries
4. That this means many young people seeking asylum are educated in British schools and colleges up to A-Levels but are then denied the opportunity to continue studying at university.
5. A number of UK universities have amended their admissions policies to allow asylum seekers to pay 'home' tuition fees. These include: Manchester, Liverpool, Liverpool Hope and Manchester Metropolitan.
6. In 2007 the Scottish Government decided to fund asylum seekers who had arrived under the age of 18 and been resident in Scotland for 3 years.
7. In 2008, the National Union of Students passed a motion that reflects all the points put forward in this motion.

This Union Believes:

8. The University should adopt a fair and equitable approach in providing access to higher education for all students, including refugees and asylum seekers.
9. The University should not discriminate against refugees and asylum seekers based on their immigration status.

This Union Resolves:

10. To support STAR's 'Equal Access' campaign.
11. To lobby the university to remove the financial barriers preventing asylum seekers from studying here. Specifically to:
 - a. allow all asylum seekers to pay home fees or to waive tuition fees for a set number of places each year for asylum seekers provide bursaries and grants each year to asylum seeking students

12. For the executive team to liaise with the STAR society to write and sign a letter to the Vice-Chancellor outlining the benefits of providing equal access to higher education to this university.

Further Information

Contact:

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