

Imperial College Union
Higher Education Policy
*A policy by ICU President – Scott Heath
and Deputy President (Education) – Jason Parmar*

Background

1. At the end of this Sabbatical Term the Higher Education Funding Policy shall expire.
2. Instead of refreshing this document with elements of the White Paper Response we felt it was better to create a document that made clear the broad beliefs of the student body. This will have several advantages:
 - A. A document of this kind does not currently exist;
 - B. The majority of the consultations for the UK Government happen in the summer. Though we typically perform surveys, it is useful to have broad principles to refer to;
 - C. Sabbatical Officers can achieve a good amount of work during the summer and this document can help them with this.
3. Each consultation the Union makes for an external organisation, such as the UK Government, should be established as an Appendix to this policy. Therefore this document has the following Appendices:
 - A. The Higher Education Funding Policy, as the Union's Response to the Browne Review (Nov, 2010),
 - B. The Response to the 2011 Higher Education White Paper (Sept, 2011),
 - C. Post-Qualifications Admissions Response for the Universities and Colleges Admissions Services [UCAS] (Nov, 2011),
 - D. Postgraduate Education Enquiry of the Higher Education Commission (April, 2012)

Beliefs

Imperial College Union believes:

1. The only barrier to getting a place at a University should be academic attainment.
As such; no person should be hindered due to gender, ethnic origin, country or region of origin, sexuality, religion or financial background.
2. Financial Support, in the form of a Student Loan, should be available to Postgraduate (Taught) Students.
3. The Widening Participation Agenda (Outreach) is a positive move to increasing social mobility and should be fully supported by Universities.
4. Fee waivers, as part of a bursary package, provide a smaller benefit to students than allowing them the freedom to choose where the money goes.
5. Students should be allowed the opportunity to repay their student loans early.
6. Scholarships should be widely available to ensure the very best students have the opportunity to get an Imperial College degree.
7. Teaching must be a priority for all academics of Imperial College and used as a criteria for progression.
8. Students should not be charged interest on their student loans whilst undertaking their studies; whilst being an Undergraduate, Postgraduate (Taught) and Postgraduate (Research)

student.

9. Sandwich Courses, such as a Year Abroad or Year in Industry, provide invaluable opportunities to the students of Imperial College.

Resolves

1. Imperial College Union resolves to support the beliefs of this policy.