

Proposed Amendment to the Higher Education Policy  
Proposed by Andrew Tranter – RCSU PG Ordinary Member

Notes

1. That the HEFCE teaching grant is approximately 29% of what it was in 2009 – a huge cut, compensated for by an increase in tuition fees.
2. That a 2013 study by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills<sup>1</sup> reports that higher education benefits society in many ways. This includes, but is not nearly limited to:
  - a. The Exchequer's rate of return for the provision of undergraduate degrees, whilst down from 12.1% prior to 2006, stands at approximately 11%
  - b. Around 20% of UK economic growth between 1982 and 2005 came as a *direct* result of increased graduate skills accumulation.
  - c. A 16% increase in those educated to degree level could lead to more than £1bn annual savings in reduced crime costs in the UK.

Beliefs

1. Entrance to University should be determined by nothing other than academic ability, and that especially wealth should play no effect, so that:
  - a. Any student regardless of financial situation can come to University.
  - b. Universities are not incentivised to be biased to richer students.
  - c. Students should be able to study anywhere in the country regardless of the location of their home town.
- ~~2. That the important aspect of what a degree costs a particular student is not the headline fee (eg. £9,000) but the cost the student ends up paying.~~
- ~~3. Students should have to pay nothing upfront, only once they have graduated.~~
- ~~4. That any rise in fees proposed by the Government should not simply be to plug the gap left after Government funding is cut, but that it should be a mechanism to make access fairer, get money to Universities and give Universities more freedom, with the aim to improve teaching standards, contact time and feedback.~~
5. That cuts to Government funding for Higher Education should be condemned. Higher Education is a public good and should be publicly funded.
6. That these cuts reflect a growing trend towards the marketization and privatisation of Higher Education which is fundamentally changing the nature of our Universities. Universities increasingly serve private individuals and commercial interests, rather than the public good.
7. That investment in Higher Education provides huge economic benefit, particularly vital in the current economic climate.
- ~~8.~~
- ~~9. That postgraduate taught Masters should be included under the same payment method, where fee payment is not up front.~~
- ~~10. That postgraduate taught Masters students should be funded in the same manner as undergraduate students.~~
11. Imperial College Union supports **insert model here** as a Higher Education Funding Model  
Choose one from:
  - a. Free Education
  - b. Graduate Tax
  - c. Tuition Fee Loan system

Resolves

1. To campaign against cuts to Government funding for Higher Education.
2. To campaign against privatisation and marketization in the Higher Education sector.
3. To coordinate with other student unions, trade unions, and other interested organisations to further these campaigns.