

**MOTION TO CONDEMN THE SCRAPPING OF MAINTENANCE GRANTS**  
**Proposed by Andrew Tranter – Campaigns Officer**  
**Seconded by Jennie Watson – Deputy President (Welfare)**

ICU Notes:

1. That all student maintenance grants have been scrapped and replaced by loans.
2. That according to the Student Loans Company, 41% of students were previously eligible for the full maintenance grant in 2014/15, while another 14% were eligible for a partial grant.
3. That the Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates that the 41% of students previously receiving full maintenance grant will on average, for a three year course, graduate in about £53,000 of debt. Previously this was around £40,500.<sup>1</sup>
4. That this change was not debated or voted upon on the floor of the House of Commons, but rather by the Third Delegated Legislation Committee. After a 90 minute debate, the final vote was 10 MPs in favour, 8 against.<sup>2</sup>
5. This means that the entirety of student maintenance grants were scrapped by a vote of eighteen people.\*
6. That this has been widely condemned by the NUS and other student unions.

ICU Believes:

1. That education is still a right, not a privilege.
2. That many students rely on maintenance grants to survive, let alone have a decent quality of life.
3. That scrapping maintenance grants is fundamentally unjust, and will shift the balance of payment for the student loans system from rich to poor.
4. That forcing a change of this magnitude through a tiny committee, rather than allowing it to be scrutinised properly, is an astonishingly huge abuse of democratic channels.

ICU Resolves:

1. To condemn and actively campaign against the scrapping of maintenance loans.
2. To work with other student unions and organisations to oppose the scrapping of maintenance loans.
3. To mandate the DPW to enact this policy.

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1 <http://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/publications/bns/BN174.pdf>

2 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmgeneral/deleg3/160114/160114s01.htm>

\* It's worth noting that this is less than the quorum of this very meeting.