

Cut the (Placement) Costs

Proposer: Charles Isherwood – President

Union Notes

1. Every Student at Leeds Trinity University is required to undertake a placement during Level 4 and Level 5 of their study
2. Leeds Trinity University promote placements as a core part of their degrees, and in an increasingly marketised environment the placement system is seen as a USP for the university.
3. Nationally between 2011-2014 25% Undergraduates and 21% of Postgraduates paid between £100 and £199 on hidden course costs¹
4. Students who pay over £25 pw in hidden costs are less likely to concentrate on studies without financial concerns²
5. Under the current system students can claim a flat sum of £100 to help them cover course costs. This figure is immovable, even when their costs are in excess of £100
6. The system is not widely advertised to students
7. In meetings with LTSU Sabbatical officers the university did not provide any clear rationale for the current system
8. During the previous academic year (2017/18) LTSU conducted a survey with over 200 respondents on the issue of Hidden Course Costs
9. The survey found that many students did not know about the financial support that existed
10. Whilst the survey did not ask for specific numbers it is demonstrable that many students pay in excess of £100 on placements

Union Believes

1. Students should not be out of pocket for a required part of their course
2. Hidden Course Costs exacerbate the disadvantages faced by working class students, who are less likely to be able to bare the costs
3. If the university is unable to provide appropriate funding for students to undertake placements then they should not make placements mandatory and should not advertise it as a part of courses. Providing students with the money to undertake their placement is a necessity not an optional extra
4. The current system is clearly inadequate as a substantial portion of students do not know that the current system exists, and there is no provision for those students paying over £100

Union Resolves

1. To lobby the university to provide each student at Leeds Trinity University with a minimum of £1000 over the duration of their degree in order to cover the cost of placements
2. To mandate the President to lobby for this, or at least an improvement to the current system in meetings with the university
3. To mandate council to campaign for an improvement to the system
4. To produce clear and concise infographics with information gained from the data collection undertaken in 2017/18

¹ NUS Hidden Costs Briefing (2014)

² Ibid.