Guarantor Scheme Revisions

What will we do:

1. Advertise the scheme
   I. Make the scheme highly visible and accessible to International and EU students.
   II. More promotion by student halls and the University.
   III. Include the guarantor scheme in the information pack when international and EU students are accepted to the university.

2. Revise the procedure
   I. Instead of requiring students to bring in a tenancy application before they guarantee the student, the university should provisionally guarantee the students prior to the student finding a flat. Once the student finds a flat, the university can check the tenancy agreement to make sure it is within the guidelines of what they will guarantee.

Background to this:

1. All students need guarantors to apply for private flats; however, International and EU students may not have UK-based guarantors. Without UK-based guarantors, International and EU students often face difficulties, either rejected by landlords or required to pay several months or full rent upfront; this is associated with high risks.
2. We believe the Rent Guarantor Scheme should be a scheme that intends to provide assistance to students who wish to live in private accommodation; however, in reality the scheme does not provide realistic and sufficient help to International and EU students in its current form.
3. By requiring students to have a tenancy agreement before applying to the Scheme does not fulfill the purpose of providing housing support to students.
4. Although there are 17,000 of International and EU students studying at the University, under 100 who have applied to the guarantor scheme have met criteria.

Beliefs and motivating actions:

1. EU and international students will feel taken care of by the university.
2. Our own struggles with finding flats as international students.
3. University can ameliorate the discrimination that international students face in the private letting market.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures.