



Improved Financial Support for Student Nurses (NUS Scotland)

NUS Scotland Conference resolves:

1. Mandate NUS to work with the Students Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) to collect data on nursing applicants so that they are eligible for University bursaries and awards
2. Mandate NUS to lobby the Scottish Government to increase the Discretionary Fund for student nurses

NUS Scotland Conference notes:

1. Student nurses who apply through SAAS are not eligible for any bursaries or awards at The University of Edinburgh as the institution has no data regarding their background
2. Student nurses who apply through Student Finance England (SFE) are eligible for awards and bursaries, which leads to discrepancies between students at the university, even though they're receiving the same NHS bursary
3. The Discretionary Fund for student nurses currently allocates £5,000 to The University of Edinburgh, which was used by 3 students in 2016/17
4. A Scottish student with no children or dependents from a low-income background and living within a SIMD 20 (Scottish Indicator Multiple Deprivation) postcode would, if they lived outside of Edinburgh before starting their studies, be eligible for £5750 living costs loan from SAAS, £1875 Young Student Bursary from SAAS, £3000 Enhanced Scotland Scholarship from the University, if they were taking an undergraduate degree other than nursing (£10,625). A student in exactly the same circumstances undertaking a Nursing degree would only be eligible for a Nursing and Midwifery Student bursary of £6,578. **And would ultimately have £4047 less available to them to spend on living expenses.**

NUS Scotland Conference believes:

1. The Scottish Government has mandated universities to expand their widening-participation student numbers so it's important that students from these backgrounds can access the appropriate financial support for their attainment
2. Student nurses often incur extra course costs due to the requirement of placements and the irregular hours worked, this makes it much harder for them to undertake paid employment than their non-nursing counterparts.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures.