



Agenda Item: 8

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Why Oppose the Immigration Bill

The UK Government is set to release a new immigration bill which would introduce yet more unfair conditions for international students. These changes will impact on international students more than any others as they make up 75 per cent of those subject to visa controls.

Of those subject to visa controls they are already the most heavily regulated, monitored and pay the most into the UK economy for the duration of their stay.

The further monitoring and regulation proposed by the Government is unnecessary, will cost more than it benefits and will unfairly target a group that contributes a phenomenal amount not just economically, but also to the strength of our education sector.

The Government is proposing to introduce a charge for all non-EEA international students coming to the UK to use the NHS.

We believe that the introduction of healthcare charges of up to £200 per person per year of study is discriminatory, counter-intuitive and impractical. In particular, for postgraduate research students with families this could mean an additional visa fee of £3000 before even stepping foot into the UK.

We think this gives a message that international students are not welcome in the UK and will mean more students will choose to study elsewhere where Government policies and rhetoric increasingly favour international students.

In addition to NHS charges, the government will introduce fines for any private landlord who does not ensure their tenants have the right to remain in the UK.

We believe this will effectively make unregulated and untrained private landlords a new branch of the UK border police, which is not their responsibility. This proposal would also apply to everyone in the UK despite their citizenship, and make it difficult for those without documentation to obtain adequate housing.

We are calling on the Government to scrap this unnecessary proposal which, when directed at students, could result in discrimination and duplication of existing heavy-handed immigration controls on students.

What can you do

Sign NUS' petition here against unfair NHS charges to show your support for our International students.