

Against NHS Cuts

Title:	Against NHS Cuts	Date of Group Chat:	April 2019
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Union Notes:

- ARU is the largest provider of Health, Social Care and Education courses in the East of England. The university has been named one of the top 10 places in the country to study nursing. The university is also the first in Essex to have a medical school meaning there is a larger intake of medical students.
- Bursaries for the Nursing and Midwifery no longer exist meaning these students will be eligible for the NHS Learning Support Fund.
- 43% of students studying on a full-time course experience burn out. 50%, 31% and 41% (FMS) and 57%, 36% and 43% (FHSCE) of students experience anxiety, depression and sleeping problems respectively. Our HEMS students attending placements will be working both day and night shifts throughout the week and over the weekend this means they will may need support out of traditional university working hours. At present, the university does not have an out of hours service to support these students.
- Students are limited to how much support they can receive from the counselling and wellbeing service as there is a 6-session limit - for students who regularly experience poor mental health, difficult experiences on placement and a heavy work load this is not enough. Only 55% (FMS) and 61% (FHSCE) of students are aware of the counselling and wellbeing service students.
- Paramedic students do not have access to the NHS Learning Support Fund. An amendment to policy motion has been submitted for the upcoming NUS National Conference; this intends to mandate a NUS officer to work on this campaign.

Union Believes:

- The impact of cuts to bursaries and funding is significant to healthcare students. These students are more likely to struggle financially due to placement costs (travel & parking), alternative accommodation and childcare or wider caring responsibilities.
- HEMS students should have better access to mental health support, for example access to counselling and mental health services out of normal working day hours so students on placement can still receive support.
- Paramedic students should have access to the NHS Learning Support Fund.

Union Resolves:

- To push for more frequent and accessible support for HEMS students such as counselling and mental health support during placement and university hours.
- To support the student led activity to get paramedic students access to the NHS Learning Support Fund.
- To promote the Learning Support Fund to students and ensure that the students are being effectively supported to fill it out correctly.
- To investigate additional funding to support students studying postgraduate international nursing at ARU.

Policy Summary:

HEMS students have faced cuts to bursary and funding and many are still paying for placement travel and other additional costs. Students need to have better access to funding for their cost of placements and be supported through the difficulties of their study with better access to wellbeing services.