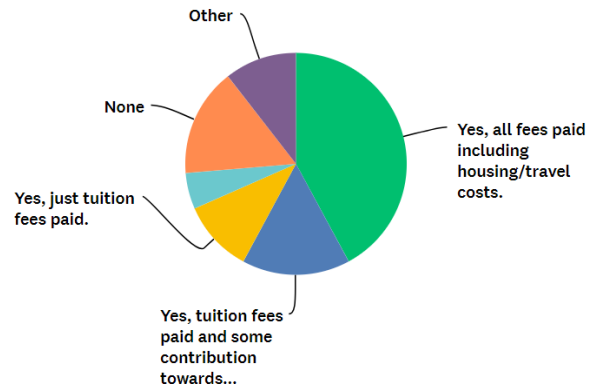


# EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION POLICY

Title:	Equal Access to Education	Date of Group Chat:	April 2019
Proposer name:	Matt Hayes	Role:	Vice President (Science & Engineering)
Secunder name:	Michael Turner	Role:	Trans Students' Rep (Cambridge)

## Union Notes:

- The Union's values state that: "We champion equality, diversity and inclusion. We respect the needs of the individual and the wider student community."  
(<https://web.anglia.ac.uk/hr/staffarea/public/Valuing%20Diversity%20and%20Promoting%20Equality.pdf>)
- There are currently 63 universities in the UK offering scholarships and bursaries to people seeking asylum, refugees, and those under humanitarian protection. ARU at the moment does not offer any. ([http://www.star-network.org.uk/index.php/resources/access\\_to\\_university](http://www.star-network.org.uk/index.php/resources/access_to_university))
- People seeking asylum are currently given a place to live (which can be anything from a council house to a hostel) and £37.75 per week for all food, clothing and toiletries and as they are not UK citizens until they are granted asylum, they cannot work.  
(<https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/what-youll-get>)
- In a recent survey, ARU students were asked "Do you think ARU should be offering any kind of scholarship or bursary to people who have Refugee/Asylum Seeker status?". 5% said "Yes, a portion of tuition fees paid", 10.5% said "Yes, just tuition fees paid", 16% said "Yes, tuition fees and some contribution towards accommodation/travel", and 42% said "Yes, all fees paid including housing/travel costs" (see chart)
- Refugees in the UK and asylum seekers appealing to the UK are treated as international students in ARU's Higher Education Funding System but 53% of students surveyed believe they should pay the same as home students.



## Union Believes:

- That being a refugee, forced to seek asylum in another country, is very different from being an international student, who chooses to study in the UK and can return to their home country at any time.
- That in total, around 74% of students surveyed believe we should be offering some kind of "sanctuary" scholarship or bursary.

## Union Resolves:

- To campaign for ARU to classify all those seeking asylum as home students for fee purposes.
- To lobby the university to offer some scholarships/bursaries that cover study and maintenance costs for people who have come to the UK seeking refugee protection.
- To lobby ARU to publicise their Equal Access policies and make them easily locatable, so that potential students can easily apply for these scholarships.

**Policy Summary:**

Some people have to flee their home country due to fear of persecution. As a widening participation-focused university it should be part of our mission to offer these less-fortunate people higher education in a country where they can feel safe. Furthermore, they want to make the UK their home and as such they should be charged home student fees.

Please e-mail to Megan Bennett, Democracy Coordinator at [m.bennett@angliastudent.com](mailto:m.bennett@angliastudent.com)