



My campaigns, policy, and other work

My campaigns

| <i>International student support (team)</i> | In Progress |
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| <p>Introduction:</p> <p>Students who come from different education system faces tremendous challenges when they come to our university. Identifying exactly where the loop holes are — why are the students facing so many barriers? What are those barriers? What are the existing services provided by the university and across other institutions to tackle some of common problems which the student faces..</p> <p>Identifying the problems:</p> <p>Each officer will be working individually on some of the issues identified by us.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> FEES REDUCTION:- International students pays such huge about of money when they come to UK. On the other hand the home students fees are capped. For Ex: I. For UG Home student; they pay 9000£ (capped) whereas an international students pay 14500£ yearly for the similar services university provides. II. For PG Home students pay 5000£ (capped) fees whereas International student pays thrice the amount i.e. 14500£. (the disparity between the fees is huge) <p>The question to think about here are the students getting the right and adequate support (worth the money they pay) at ARU.</p> <p>If not how why is the disparity happening?</p> | |

What can we do to increase the support available to all students (being inclusive)

- 2. QUALITY OF SERVICES:-** International students have being provided with variety of services to support their academics throughout their time at ARU for ex: student advice, employability service, I Centre, money advice, health, and wellbeing support. (In theory even after these services being in place why are the highest number of dropouts of students in each academic year are International students?)

This is a widespread problem all International Institutions are facing across UK. Are the international students coming in the hopes of getting right education (paying huge amount of fees) and left just like that to find a way for themselves?

What can we do to resolve the barriers students are facing here, how can we support them truly ? Quality of rightful education is every student's right. Students come from across the globe at ARU, keeping in mind the education system is different in all countries. It's no doubt students feel differently when students come at ARU.

Finding out the grassroot level of problems and finding a rightful solution (support) in place is what should be done.

- 3. LANGUAGE BARRIER:** One of the main identified barrier students are facing is the language barrier which is causing a lot of turmoil on the international students.

(to state few : lack of communication from the students are leading them to misunderstand the lectures, leading to academic misconduct and plagiarism, discontinuations, being expelled)

Change in behavior in students and psychological well -being. (being shy in communicating with staffs and other students)

Coming to a diverse university like ours with students studying and organizing their workload differently, students should be able to learn from each other. Research have shown students learn better in an informal atmosphere much better than a more formal front (which ARU tries to provide)

Then why are the international students not able to grow academically in that environment?

Students when they apply for ARU they have an interview before the university issues CAS form, is it enough to understand the level of English a student has! The other question is

what are the support available for students who have passed the spoken English interview but need support to improve their academic writing for assignments.

(We don't know at this stage whether all the students are able to follow the lectures conducted).

4. **NUS:** As we mentioned before, this problem is not only pertaining to ARU students this is a common problem across UK. Finding right support from the NUS might bring a clearer perspective on the things we can implement practically.

EDI Training for staffs and students

In progress

We as an institution take a lot of pride in advertising about being very inclusive in our diversity (diversity in gender, demographics, orientation). Everything sounds good in theory but when it comes to the practicality of it what we face is – discrimination, gaslighting, microaggressions, abuses (sexual, racial, physical). Why are things like still happening in this century?

Students should be coming together and learning in harmony. Although we cannot sometimes control a lot of people's view and perspective can we do is to help each other grow. Is not that the main purpose of education!

With students are having deep rooted misogyny, structural racism come into a diverse environment it creates a lot of fiction amongst the student population.

With implementing an EDI training which is spread throughout their time at ARU gives every student's an opportunity to educate themselves and being more open minded and progressive. Unlearning some of the unconscious biases as an institution and individually is so important. Making all students feels valued and respected. As an institution we should be focusing on making students intolerant towards injustices.

Talking from the staff's perspective are all staffs trained to handle some the complaints and cases students bring up to them!!.

Things which are in action:

1. Discussing these matters with the diversity and cultural change coordinators at the university.
2. Discussing the concerns and having relevant meetings with the Race equality advocates and EDI manager Katie Potts and her team.
3. Discussing with Dr. Apurba Kundu (Deputy Dean Faculty AHSS) to further our understanding on these matters.

Staff response (Team)

Completed/Ongoing

From talking to different students, we received information saying the staff vs student's response time was more and it caused a lot of delay in getting a right response from the university.

For now, Faculty of B&L have 3 working days as a response time.

Faculty of AHSS has recently implemented to reduce their response time from 5 working days to 3 days.(we were successful)
Faculty of HEMS and S&E we will be lobbying the university in future to reduce their response time.

Other relevant updates

Projects, Ideas and Policies:

I am currently working on drafting a SU good speech policy which will be our own independent work keeping in mind all our student voices.

Updates from committees and meetings that I sit on:

Senate Committees:

Senate

Non-Senate committee

Students' Union Committees

Working groups (and others)