

**PRESS RELEASE
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A leading student organisation has condemned the Scottish government's plans to allow universities to raise fees for non-Scottish students.

The main representative body of the University of Glasgow has called for the SNP to review its proposed policy of allowing higher education institutions in Scotland to set fees for students from the rest of the UK [RUK] at up to £9,000 per year.

Glasgow University Students' Representative Council [GUSRC] are announcing their objection ahead of the University of Glasgow' scheduled discussions on how the proposal would be implemented at the university. GUSRC President, Stuart Ritchie, who will be part of the discussions representing students said;

"GUSRC fundamentally believes this option will not be a long term solution to the problem of higher education funding in Scotland, and is disappointed on behalf of students from the rest of the UK that other options laid out by Mr Russell's green paper were not considered further. We call now on the SNP government to reconsider their approach and reevaluate how the proposed regulations on increasing fees would impact the Scottish Higher Education sector."

GUSRC believe that whilst the Scottish Government is under pressure following the major changes in the fee structure in England, the prospect of £9,000 fees for RUK students exceeds what is necessary to protect Scottish students and institutions.

Furthermore, the measure will only serve to narrow access to higher education, and further the culture fostered in England by the Westminster government of creating a divide between those who should go pursue higher education and those who can afford to.

Adoption of a fee system akin to that implemented by the UK government could see the cost per year of a Scottish degree for RUK students multiply by up to five times, and in Glasgow and other universities offering a four-year degree - price a degree above that of the majority of English institutions.

Should the proposal be passed to allow institutions to set fees of up to £9,000 per year, GUSRC are committed to lobbying university management to consider the socio-economic impact that setting fees at the maximum level would have on the University of Glasgow.

NOTES TO EDITOR

Glasgow University Students' Representative Council represents the interests of students registered at the University of Glasgow to the University and on a national level. The representative function is augmented by the delivery of services aimed at enhancing the

student experience while at Glasgow. Council comprises up to 43 elected students who meet throughout the year.

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