Ben Wood
Candidate for NUS Delegate

Tuition Fees
£9,000 per year is now the norm for undergraduate tuition fees. Unless we choose to travel abroad, this is a sum that must be paid. As an NUS delegate, I would continue the opposition to high tuition fees and campaign for greater transparency on how our £9,000 I spent. Postgraduate tuition fees often circle £10,000, and without a student loan system in place, many students each year do not progress further into education due to financial concerns. Postgraduate tuition fees have and will continue to rise. As an NUS Delegate, I would argue for a Postgraduate tuition fees cap.

Maintenance Loans & Grants
The current maintenance loan assessment takes into account mainly parental income and few other factors. This system is over-simplified, and does not take into account circumstances such as parents having to support more than one son or daughter at university. A student should not be financially worsened due to having other siblings at university. As an NUS delegate, I would lobby for a revamp of the maintenance loan system, and in particular consideration for parents supporting multiple children through university

Greater consideration for London students
Studying at university in London can be a costly experience. The capital provides unrivalled experiences and a culture which cannot be compared to living in any other city. However, a rising cost of living and greater renting prices than other major cities can create financial difficulties some. This can be a particular problem for Freshers. Many applicants choosing Halls of Residence do not receive their first choice, and without control of which accommodation they are assigned to, accommodation can exceed £200 per week. As an NUS delegate, I would protect greater maintenance loans for London students and support greater concessions for students in the capital.

As an NUS delegate, I would also..

- Ensure university is more affordable and accessible for internationals students
- Halt any plans to privatise educational services
- Protect the right to campaign and protest on premises

“Higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.”
Article 26, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations

benwood412@hotmail.co.uk