

Michelle Donelan MP  
Minister of State for Universities

Rt Honourable Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Dear Michelle and Matt,

We are writing to you not only as representatives of our various student bodies, collectively representing over 600,000 students, but also as members of the public, who are unreservedly grateful to the members of our National Health Service and Health and Social Care Sector who continue to show nothing but courage, even more so in the face of adversity.

We are asking the Government to recognise the contribution and the incredible act of students enrolled on all healthcare courses stepping up and fighting on the front lines of this crisis. **It is time to fight for them, whilst they fight for us** by calling on you and the wider Government to waive the debt of all healthcare students who have made the difficult decision to step up to work in light of COVID-19. Recent figures show that we have more than 5,550 students from across 35 Universities in the UK who have opted to interrupt their studies to take up extended clinical placement to tackle the crisis. Healthcare students have, and continue, to serve beyond what should be expected of their studies, putting themselves at risk as part of their course. I know we are all grateful for their commitment and sacrifice, and now is the time to repay them.

We are incredibly appreciative and proud of the effort of all our key-workers across the country, but none more so than the students who have made such a monumental call to set their studies aside (where able) and step up for the benefit of our nation. Several signatories of this letter represent institutions with a significant cohort of healthcare students and are therefore key contributors to the success of the NHS, providing essential training to the future of nursing and healthcare provision. The 2017 cohort will not benefit from the Government's re-introduction earlier this year of the bursary, and most will graduate with over £30,000 of debt. **Our students are fulfilling an essential role within society and the NHS. Wiping their debt is the least we can do.** The Government has the power to relieve the burden of debt on those who have stepped up, and this is just a small act of gratitude compared to their efforts on the front line.

We support free education, and especially the debts and fees waived for all healthcare students and public sector workers. However, we believe that this absolutely should not be at the expense of the outstanding institutions who contribute such a vital training provision to the public sector. We recognise that the Government will need to make difficult decisions to stabilise the economy in this crisis, and therefore our priority right now is that debts are waived for those who have been asked to put their lives on the front-line as part of their course. We do urge the Government to consider a long-term plan to introduce and re-introduce full coverage bursaries for all healthcare students as part of preventative and proactive measures to support a strong NHS into the future. The long-term issues of NHS' sustainability and the recruitment of healthcare workers will not be resolved following this crisis. As the Government who promised in their 2019 election campaign to enable 50,000 more nurses within the NHS, this wider removal of a cost to students is essential to enabling more students to train in these lifesaving disciplines and protect our NHS and the Health and Social Care sector.

We know our students are struggling as outlined by the [Nursing Times](#)<sup>1</sup> and the [RCN](#)<sup>2</sup>. We can only imagine how frightening it is for students in such early stages of their career to be fighting this worldwide battle. We know that whilst they are doing all they can they still have an enormous sum of debt weighing on their shoulders. And we know that waiving their fees and this debt is just the first step to truly appreciating what they have done for us all.

We hope you agree with us in that these vital and admirable healthcare students deserve to be valued for their sacrifice and the risks they take. We hope you agree that they deserve tangible measures of appreciation. And we hope you agree to waive these fees and this student debt.

Now it is time for you to demonstrate your gratitude and support for the student healthcare workers around the country who are protecting our loved ones and protecting our NHS. We can all agree that these outstanding individuals deserve the full measure of support from their government and society, and as a united community we are urging you to waive all fees for these incredible students.

We look forward to hearing from you on these points soon.

Sincerely,

**Jono Smith, Greenwich Students' Union Officer 19/20**

**Ashleigh Henser, Final Year Adult Nursing Student, University of Greenwich**

Henry Setter, Greenwich Students' Union President 19/20

Bilal Ijaz, Greenwich Students' Union Officer 19/20 and President (elect) 20/21

Mayo Femi-Obalemo, Greenwich Students' Union Officer 19/20 and (elect) 20/21

Zoe Campbell, Greenwich Students' Union Officer (elect) 20/21

Niel Lewis, Greenwich Students' Union Officer (elect) 20/21

Nelly Kibirige, London South Bank University Students' Union President 19/20

Isobel Hall, Hull University Union President 19/20

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/workforce/nursing-times-launches-new-campaign-to-support-nurse-mental-health-amid-covid-19-crisis-08-04-2020/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://rcni.com/nursing-standard/features/how-covid-19-affecting-nurses-mental-health-and-what-to-do-about-it-159456>

Mari Chappell, Keele University Students' Union Education officer 19/20

Amy Wells, Leeds University Union Welfare Officer 19/20

Gemma Lovegrove, The University of Northampton Students' Union President 19/20

Patrick Hoyle, University of Exeter Students' Guild President 19/20

Sasha Langeveldt, Kent Union President 19/20

Tuna Kunt, City, University of London Students' Union President 19/20

Suntosh Kaur, University of Central Lancashire Students' Union President 19/20

Geoffery Gulzar, Marjon Students' Union President 19/20

Annas Mazhar, Aston Students' Union Vice President Student Activities 19/20

Nafiza Mamun, King's College London Students' Union Vice President Postgraduate 19/20

Oge Obioha, University of Leicester Students' Union President 19/20

Adnan Rahman, University of Leicester Students' Union Education Officer 19/20

Tony Magaia, University of Leicester Students' Union Liberation Officer 19/20

Mia Nembhard, University of Leicester Students' Union Sports Officer 19/20

Megan Annetts, Queen Mary Students' Union President and Barts and The London Students' Association President –19/20

Precious Onyenekwu Tatah, University of the West of England Students' Union President 19/20

Ubong Joseph Ante, University of West of England Students' Union Vice President, Community & Welfare 19/20

Jane Ojiako, University of West of England Students' Union Vice President, Education 19/20

Evan Botwood, University of West of England Students' Union Vice President, Societies & Communication 19/20

Joshua Edje, University of West of England Students' Union Vice President, Sports & Health 19/20

Lauren Corelli, Goldsmiths Students' Union Education Officer 19/20

Joshua Williams, University of Birmingham Guild of Students President 19/20

Millie Gibbins, University of Birmingham Guild of Students Welfare and Community officer 19/20

Millie Gibbins, University of Birmingham Guild of Students Welfare & Community officer 19/20

Joanne Park, University of Birmingham Guild of Students International Officer 19/20

Amanda Sefton, University of Birmingham Guild of Students Education Officer 19/20

Ryan Ginger, University of Birmingham Guild of Students Activities and Employability Officer 19/20

Amanda Sefton, University of Birmingham Guild of Students Education Officer 19/20

Ryan Ginger, University of Birmingham Guild of Students Activities & Employability Officer 19/20

Tobiloba Adeyemi, University of Birmingham Guild of Students Postgraduate Officer 19/20  
George Reeves, Teeside University Students' Union President Activities 19/20  
Alan Lofthouse, Teeside University Students' Union President Education 19/20  
Sophie Bennett, Teeside University Students' Union President Welfare 19/20  
Dan O'Donoghue, Roehampton Students' Union President 19/20  
Phil Kloppenborg, Christ Church Students' Union President 19/20  
Becky Thomson, Christ Church Students' Union President, Development 19/20  
Chloe Woolaway, Christ Church Students' Union President, Sports and Engagement 19/20  
Jamie Harris, Christ Church Students' Union President, Wellbeing 19/20  
Ben Newsham, Warwick Students' Union President 19/20  
Chloe Batten, Warwick Students' Union Education Officer 19/20  
Milly Last, Warwick Students' Union Democracy & Development Officer 19/20  
Alice Churm, Warwick Students' Union Postgraduate Officer 19/20  
Tiana Holgate, Warwick Students' Union Welfare & Campaigns Officer 19/20  
Luke Mephram, Warwick Students' Union Societies Officer 19/20  
Charlotte Lloyd, Warwick Students' Union Sport Officer 19/20  
Daniella Quill, University of Derby Students' Union President 19/20  
Melanie Welaratne, University of Derby Students' Union Vice President Education 19/20  
Samira Mensah, University of Derby Students' Union Vice President Welfare 19/20  
Faye Davies, University of Derby Students' Union Vice President Activities 19/20  
Jake Verity, Sheffield Students' Union President 19/20  
Harry Carling, Sheffield Students' Union Development Officer 19/20  
Brittany Bowles, Sheffield Students' Union Sports Officer 19/20  
Martha Evans, Sheffield Students' Union Activities Officer 19/20  
Beren Maddison, Sheffield Students' Union Welfare Officer 19/20  
Rosa Tully, Sheffield Students' Union Women's Officer 19/20  
Charlie Porter, Sheffield Students' Union Education Officer 19/20  
Sissi Li, Sheffield Students' Union International Students' Officer 19/20  
Sandra Ogundele, Students' Union University College London, Black and Minority Ethnic Students' Officer 19/20  
Neil Misra, Oxford University Student Union Vice President (Graduates & International) 19/20  
Rida Shafqat, Hertfordshire Students' Union President 19/20  
Muhammad Sajid, Hertfordshire Students' Vice President Activities 19/20  
Anas Badar, Middlesex University Students' Union President 19/20  
Tahmina Choudery, Middlesex University Students' Union Vice President, Professional & Social Sciences 19/20

Lucy Holland, Middlesex University Students' Union Vice President, Arts & Creative Industries  
19/20

Khalid Abumaye, Middlesex University Students' Union Vice President, Science & Technology  
19/20

Emily Harrison, University of Southampton Students' Union President 19/20

### **Healthcare Students, University of Greenwich**

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Adult Nursing:

Olayinka Oleyami-Ajayi  
Varsha Carim  
Selen Alfuran  
Efe Ruth Egharevba  
Thomas Allen  
Fatmata Kamara  
Shanna White  
Kayleigh Collier  
Eniola Lugboso  
Rosalee Lisle  
Cristina Gagliu  
Suela Zaneli  
Danjela Mehmetaj  
Precious Moyo  
Jessica Sadler  
Caroline Ohaerizu  
Ella O'Brien  
Caroline Chikowore  
Angel Dannie  
Andrea Whyte-Campbell  
Paulette Reed  
Maisie Palmer  
Evelyne Ngwa  
Lindiwe Khoza  
Sharon Marimirofa  
Mariama Charm  
Edis Home  
Kali Ahmed  
Olufunke Adeleku  
Makumbi Makombe  
Maryrose Osuagwu, Olanike Popoola  
François Nahimana  
Ana Tavares, Bernadette Gowland  
Abimbola Adejumo  
Kamal Subba  
Marta Olechnowicz  
Fiona Kane  
Tabitha Macharia  
Kirk-Ann Harris  
Charlotte Kingsley

Janet Egbe  
Roberta Rasimaviciute  
Sofia De Freitas Da Silva  
Krystal Lukombo  
Leanne Clarke  
Farin Heyliger  
Carmen Grigore  
Paschaline Nwokeji  
Chika Ngwu  
Mamata Rai  
Raheal Lawal  
Obiageri Chukwunoye  
Leticia Asiedu  
Vanessa Anthony  
Zoe Robinson  
Amy Ajibade  
Umita Rana  
Muchaneta Chipawu  
Paulina Okponaviobo  
Fatiha Laamin  
David Keugoue

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Adult Nursing:

Lorraine Davis  
Olasunkamni Okubadejo  
Niall Byrne

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Adult Nursing:

Adline Njoku

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Midwifery:

Georgia Sibley

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Paramedic Science

Sean Crawford  
Tom Bicknell  
Michael Swan  
Gabrielle Cucinella  
Harriett Lambert  
Sam Littlechild  
Hollie Montrose

Muna Abdi  
Andrew Sutton  
Yasin Dinaully  
Shawn Sunny  
Seb Renshaw  
Chloe Park

2<sup>nd</sup> Year Paramedic Science:

Tanya Meade  
Jason Jeevaruban  
Alice Clark  
Naomi Davis  
Ceri Beynon  
Leo Macdonald  
James Hillier  
Matt Jarvis  
Billy Serretiello  
Keelan Weiser  
George Laughton

1<sup>st</sup> Year Paramedic Science:

Joe Stockbridge  
Saoirse Costello  
Rhys Hurley  
Callum Fowler  
Frances Fairs  
James Farquharson  
Nathan Long

**Additional Signatories since launch on  
7<sup>th</sup> May, 2020**

Apsana Begum MP  
Jo Curtis  
John Schless  
Uzma Arif-Fryer  
Richard Ward  
Henrietta Farrugia  
Hannah Murphy  
Bethany Seale  
Abigail Mary Anne  
Linda Gardiner  
Sunna Ali  
Joseph Ross-Nelson  
Aisha Alison Khan  
Rebecca Amy Bloomer  
Charlotte Kingsley  
Jack Christopher Medlin  
Aqib Saleem  
Nilgyun Murad  
Gemma Maybank

Bethany Aldrich  
Megan Parish  
Tara Campbell  
Gordon Watson  
Deborah Ajeleti  
Hannah Olatunbosun  
Usman Ahmed  
Holly Allen  
Oluwatoyin  
Charlotte White  
Heather Brown  
Rachael E  
Jonathon Vobe  
Tilly Ahmed  
Ginosha Elangaiventhan  
Callum Smith  
Syeda Ali  
Caitlin Jenner  
Alice Davies  
Neal Tank  
Eileen Cordier  
Carla Louanne Corns  
Patience Iyoha Omoruyi  
Olufunmilola Osibodu  
Emily Jade Whitehouse  
Anna Dodridge  
Chantelle Maria Crompton  
Yosmhara Fuentes  
Jessica-Sky Motion  
Chelsea Jade Copping  
Holly Cogger  
Jessica Webb  
Alan Delaney-munn  
Helena Carroll  
Keshena Lyddiatt  
Christina Connolly  
Francesca Tratt  
Samantha Lyddiatt  
Courtney-Leigh Dearing  
Hoa Kim Hoang  
Sarah Cretch  
Nomso Emerenwah  
Sami Sharif  
Bernadette Gowland  
Victoria Black  
Karen Tanner  
Chenai mufanawejingo  
Jodi Thom  
Gabrielle Tanner  
Cassandra Cox  
Tamara Holt

Holly Tanner  
George Laughton  
Chioma Comfort Ochonma  
Emma Sangster  
Gabriele Cucinella  
Lucy Anne Burchell  
Alex Nelson  
Emily Warren  
Emily Pearson  
Josef Ogden  
Ms Verity Lancaster  
Tania Struetzel  
Hannah Milne  
Grace Thomson  
Mrs Louise Charlotte Lancaster  
Mr Tim David Lancaster  
Meike Imberg  
shaham kolleri palakkampokkil  
Shaista anjum  
(Lady) Christine Dorothy Jennings  
Jennifer freeman  
Mohamed Fakhriy AL-Kaisi  
Deborah Meller  
Elisha Williams  
Jessica Rachel Pinches  
Andrea Munoz  
Francesca Roberts  
Fiona Davis  
Basirat Lolade Lawal  
Lydia Hamilton-Rimmer  
Chelsea Meg Brandon  
Alixlyne Quaye  
Usha Parmar  
Morgan Farnham  
Luke Arscott  
Kieran Teague  
Muhammad Sajid  
Emily Harrison  
Rida Shafqat  
Rhea Marsden  
Sara Khan  
Jennie Treglohan-Clayden  
Lucy brown  
Savannah salsone  
Carys Davies  
Natalie Collier  
Rabia Butt  
Tobar MacPhail  
Salwa Anguparu  
Eleanor Elston  
Harriet Podmore

Konrad Farrall  
Emma Grace  
Georgina Ollivent  
Elena Abela  
Hannah Palmer  
Joseph Jones  
Scarlett Olney  
Sampson Okafor  
Maisie Cryer  
Emma Elizabeth Danie  
Natalie hill  
Isabelle Baxter  
Ranya alhamami  
David Sunday-Kalu  
Louise Barnes  
Niamh Phillips  
Briony Slade