

TO: Assembly

FROM: Phoebe Archbell

RE: International Tuition Fees

DATE: 12 March 2019

Assembly Notes:

1. That tuition fees for Undergraduate non-EU international students at Durham for 2018/19 are £18,300 for classroom-based subject and £23,100 for laboratory-based subjects. The fees can rise to as high as £25,600 for Postgraduate Taught courses.¹
2. These fees are significantly higher than those paid by UK and EU students, which are capped at £9,250 for all Undergraduate degrees.
3. The ongoing Brexit process would also mean that EU students will have to pay the same level of fees as non-EU international students, from 2020/21 onwards.
4. Research has shown that 36% of international students have said they would be less likely to study in the UK post-Brexit.²

Assembly Believes:

5. That many international students currently feel unwelcome when coming to study in the UK. This is largely due to the hostile environment created created by the Government towards immigration, but is also due to the extortionate cost of international tuition fees.
6. That the level of international tuition fees can pose financial barriers to international students, making them less able to study at Durham and less able to partake fully in the wider student experience.
7. That the level of international fees could harm the University's ability to attract international students to Durham, something that will be particularly important for UK Universities post-Brexit and in light of the current post-18 funding review.
8. That the level of international fees is not matched by the quality of the tuition provided, and that by hiking fees further, Durham University risks offering courses that are of poor value in relation to competitors both domestically and internationally.

Assembly Resolves:

9. To mandate Students' Union Officers to work with the International Students' Association to lobby the University for a freeze in international tuition fees for a period of five years, across all programmes offered to international students by the University.

¹ <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/university-tuition-fees/reddin-survey-of-university-tuition-fees/>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/may/17/show-international-students-welcome-uk-teaching-quality>