

Hertfordshire Students' Union

Drop the 3Ds

Proposer: Katie Morton

Secunder:

The issue:

A section of the Augar Review proposes that students who receive less than 3Ds at A-Level would be denied student loans to pay for their university education. This is to try and prevent the apparent participation of students in 'Micky Mouse' degrees but would instead provide numerous issues for current and future students as well as their institutions. This ruling could potentially stigmatise groups of individuals and convert universities back into their elitist heritage instead of providing equal and open opportunities that should be accessible to all.

It is the Universities precedent to provide degrees that benefit students. A national minimum degree threshold would not stop the applications to these courses as capable students could still apply due to miss-sighted course advertising. Therefore, Universities need to provide well rounded courses and students shouldn't be penalized for what they are being presented.

Why this is important to University of Hertfordshire Students:

*Over 10% of our current student population would be affected by this motion being passed. Not only does it decrease student access and choice through decreasing higher education opportunities, but this cut in student applications and therefore places being accepted would vastly reduce the funding our university receives. This would therefore lower opportunities for **all** Hertfordshire students and decrease our diverse community which we're all so proud of.*

Furthermore, this motion doesn't seem to consider the diverse circumstances in which we accept our students in. In this situation we could be presented with the most amazing artist or musician who potentially would no longer be able to study their talent due to only achieving 3D's.

If this proposal becomes policy, it is not clear whether it will affect current students but it is unlikely. It is difficult to tell at this time whether the policy will impact upon Foundation Degree students at our Consortium (Partner) Colleges. Students who undertake this programme are more likely to have entry grades below 3Ds.

Action:

The Students' Union should openly condemn this section within the Augar review. Students should be made actively aware of the changes happening in higher education that will affect themselves and the future generation through policy workshops and communication with our officers and NUS delegates. NUS delegates should stand against this proposal should it come up at the NUS conference.

Voting for this motion would allow us to take an immediate stance with our university which will provide us with a stronger platform to reject this proposal.

Officer responsible: