



More support from University and Students Union towards international students' employability

Union Notes:

1. Due to the changes in immigration and visa rules it has become more challenging for international students to understand the right approach to employment opportunities in the UK.
2. Since the eradication of the post-study work visa which allowed International students to work for two years after their course had finished, it has even become more challenging for international students to seek employment in the UK.
3. Also, Coventry university has one of the highest numbers of international postgraduate student amounting to 57% from across 140 different countries (Wonkhe 2016).

Union believes:

1. There needs to be more support provided for international students in all our campuses in terms of gaining work experience during and after their studies.
2. As a Students' Union, we owe it to our students to support them in the best way we can regardless of their background.
3. Coventry University has over 10,000 international students majority of whom are members of CUSU. However, CUSU Staff profile (excluding sabbatical officers) is not a representative of these students as it is not allowed to recruit and sponsor non-UK/EU applicants.
4. Obtaining a Tier 2 or 1 sponsorship will would make our Union a fairer and more accessible employer and would ensure that everyone would have a right to apply for jobs at the union, regardless of their immigration status.

Union Resolution

1. The Executive team should work with relevant departments such as careers to provide extra support for international students. For example, creating a careers fair focused on international students by bring employers that sponsor visa in to the campus.
2. The union should research, consult experienced immigration professionals and invest in a sponsorship licence (tier 2) or explore other options to make the SU jobs accessible to all members of the student body.
3. Executive team should work with relevant departments to create workshops on international students' employability across the Coventry University Group.
4. Promote the schemes offered by the university such as tier graduate entrepreneur visa.

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