

Report on official motions discussed at LSE Branch

Motion title: Motion on support for PGRs

Date and type of General Meeting / Session: Branch Meeting 17 May 2024

Status: Passed

Motion text:

The branch notes:

- Postgraduate researchers ('PGRs') have experienced considerable pressure of rising costs of living, as evidenced by the [UCU submission to the APPG for Students Inquiry into the Impact of the Cost-of-Living Crisis on Students](#).
- The recent Financial Reward Package will have marginal influence on postgraduate researchers who are employed as Graduate Teaching Assistants on fractional contracts.
- The LSE has not fulfilled its pre-pandemic promise to review GTA contracts across departments with a view to harmonising (inter alia) preparation time and marking time.
- The LSE still admits self-funded PGRs, despite a commitment (as per the Research Strategy) to 'enhancing the package of support for doctoral students and early career researchers'.
- Following the PhD Action Network's campaign in spring 2022, the LSE increased its doctoral stipends to minimum rates set by UKRI (inclusive of London weighting), though it has not provided written confirmation whether it will match similar increases in the future.

The branch believes that:

- The path for transformative change for PGRs has been set out by the PGRs as Staff UCU campaign manifesto.

The branch resolves to:

- Consult PGR members on their views in advance of any negotiations regarding pay improvement.
- Campaign for bringing doctoral stipends in line with academic pay grading structure, together with the right for sick leave, sick pay and parental leave."
- Promote the goals articulated by the PGRs as Staff UCU campaign locally, focusing especially on PGRs' lack of comparable terms and conditions as employees in relation to sick leave, parental and adoption leave and special leave.

- Boost PGR membership, inter alia by seeking to attend doctoral programme induction meetings at the start of Autumn Term.

Amended: Yes.

Total votes:

- In favour: 35
- Abstained: 1
- Against: 0

Notes: (if any)