

SAY YES-YES TO NUS!

NUS Scotland Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nusScotland>

NUS Scotland Website: <https://www.nus-scotland.org.uk/>

VOTE YES-YES to NUS Scotland and campaign together to extend and defend our rights:

- Giving you the opportunity to put your local issues to government
- Fighting *against* exorbitant tuition fees and *for* financial support that meets the real cost of living
- Campaigning for our right to access safe and affordable housing

Over the past two years we've won for you:

- £2.5 million for St Andrews' students during the pandemic for mental health, hardship and rent rebates
- £350 extra in the pockets of Scottish undergraduate students from next year
- The right to leave student flats before the end of your lease

NUS Scotland has two teams fighting on our behalf:

- NUS UK campaigning for student rights
- NUS Charity to support the student association and deliver cheaper prices in bars, cafes and shops

We're asking you to say YES to joining both.

What has NUS UK won for you?

- Almost £2.5 million (£2.495m) over the course of the pandemic to address mental health, student hardship and digital poverty at the University of St Andrews, including:
 - £1,076,947 of additional COVID Discretionary Funds to address student hardship – and won the right of international students to access these
 - £1,316,197 for the University of St Andrews to provide rent rebates to students
 - £61,448 of digital funding to tackle digital poverty
 - £25,000 of funding for mental health and wellbeing
 - **£16,000 for the University of St Andrews Students' Association to provide additional welfare support during the pandemic – This is more than the cost of membership to the NUS**
- An extra £350 per year in the pockets of Scottish higher education students from next year. That's on top of an additional £21 million for student cost-of-living secured in 2018, delivering better bursary support and a bursary of £8,100 for care-experienced students.
- The right for students to end leases early during the pandemic, allowing over 6,500 students to leave their tenancy without financial penalty.
- A £20 million Scottish Government investment – to improve counselling provision at colleges and universities, thanks to NUS Scotland campaigning.
- **NUS Scotland successfully campaigned for undergraduate tuition fees to be scrapped for Scottish students.**
- Secured a u-turn from the UK Government on plans to alter the student loan repayment threshold for graduates who have received loans from Student Finance England.

What is NUS Scotland campaigning on?

- We're campaigning for a Summer Student Payment for all students in Scotland, as part of a package of year-round support that meets the cost of living, based on grants not loans.
- A Student Housing Strategy, which includes the introduction of rent controls in purpose-built student accommodation and the private rented sector; extends tenancy rights to include all students; and creates a student housing guarantee.
- Delivery of the Scottish Government's commitment to a Student Mental Health Action Plan, backed up with adequate and long-term public funding.
- To break education's links with private companies responsible for the climate crisis and exploitation in the global south today which span the fossil fuel industries, arms trade, border force operations and more.
- A Scottish Student Exchange Programme that replaces Erasmus+ and addresses the inadequacies of the Turing Scheme.

How does NUS Charity support students' associations?

- Provide support, learning and development to students' associations to develop and grow so they can better represent you and influence change.
- Saving students money - St Andrews Union will be able to access their collective bargaining power - collective buying means cheaper prices for you in the union bar, shop and cafe.
- Ethical trading – sourcing ethical products through their purchasing consortium so you know you are buying products fairly.
- Taking on the big fights for your students' association, this year NUS Charity are taking HMRC to court on unfair approaches to VAT which are costing student unions hundreds of thousands of pounds.
- NUS Charity creates affordable partnerships for students' associations to benefit from practical support, such as HR guidance and legal support.
- NUS Charity unites students' associations to strengthen the collective, and to champion St Andrews Union nationally.

Why vote YES-YES?

- To campaign together on liberation issues, alongside any student who faces oppression, campaigning: for a fair system of gender recognition for trans people; to decolonise our education system; successfully lobbying for free sanitary products and investment to combat gender-based violence, and more.
- NUS campaigns on your local issues and represent you at Holyrood, Westminster and in national media.
- NUS provides networking events, training courses and opportunities for students – you can attend our national conferences, set our policy direction and stand for election.

- St Andrews University Students' Association will be part of the wider student movement – backed up by the collective voice of 500,000 students in Scotland and 7 million students across the UK.