

2334 Oppose the Roll-out of Universal Credit

Proposer: Hannah Murgatroyd Students with Disabilities Officer

Seconder: Lysander Hugo Welfare Rep for Disabled Students Liberation Society

Council Notes

1. Only 16% of disabled people have a degree level qualification compared to 30% of non-disabled people.
2. Universal Credit replaces six means-tested benefits: Income Support, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit.
3. Universal Credit has been rolled out in Norwich for new claimants.
4. Current claimants of the benefits Universal Credit is replacing will have to apply for Universal Credit beginning in July 2019.
5. Students can receive Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credits under the old system.
6. Income-related Employment and Support Allowance views disabled students who are in receipt of Disabled Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment as automatically having a limited capacity for work. This means that they receive money before their Work Capability Assessment.
7. Universal Credit does not view students in receipt of Disabled Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment as having a limited capacity to work.
8. This means that many students are outright refused Universal Credit without ever going to a Work Capability Assessment.
9. Most full-time disabled students are not able to claim Universal Credit on other grounds as they are unable to seek work and do not care for children.
10. With the rules for Universal Credit barring disabled students from having a Work Capability Assessment it makes it impossible for students who haven't already had a Work Capability Assessment to get Universal Credit.
11. As disabled people, on average, face extra costs of £570 a month, according to Scope, the change to Universal Credit will put the welfare of disabled students at risk.

Council Believes

1. That Employment and Support Allowance and Housing Benefits have helped disabled students to access education away from home and help cover the costs of housing and extra costs that come from being disabled.
2. That the complicated rules disabled students face when applying for Universal Credit put more stress on the claimant when they're already facing significant stress from their university course and lack of money.

3. That being disabled comes with significant costs, such as repairs to mobility equipment and more, which disability benefits help to mitigate.

Council Resolves

1. To oppose the roll out of Universal Credit and the rules which make it near impossible for disabled students to claim.