

**Motion title:** Guarantor Scheme for Disadvantaged and International UEA Students

**Proposer:** Patryk Szalanski (School of PHA Convenor)

**Seconder:** Nathan Wyatt (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer)

**Summary:**

Many students are unable to provide a guarantor for a student property. Whether they are an international student, or a student estranged from their family, some of the most vulnerable members of our community are forced to hand over thousands of pounds in rent upfront. This puts many students at risk of falling into homelessness or insecure housing. UEA should follow other universities and provide a guarantor scheme to ensure this doesn't happen again.

**Council Notes:**

1. There was a previous motion for a guarantor scheme for UEA from 2015. This policy has lapsed but the need for a scheme has not disappeared. (1)
2. There are many non-Russell Group Universities that offer Guarantor schemes.
3. University of Plymouth has partnered with guarantor companies to ensure that international students don't have to pre-pay rent. (2)
4. University of Sussex has a limited guarantor scheme for a first come first served basis for limited number of students. (3)
5. University of Portsmouth has strict criteria for its guarantor scheme, including not having a guarantor from the UK (5)
6. Cardiff University has a case-on-case basis guarantor scheme (6)
7. University of Aberdeen has a similar Guarantor scheme for the University of Dundee (7)
8. University of Greenwich has a guarantor scheme for 2nd Year+ students (8)
9. Manchester Metropolitan University has already acknowledged the economic climate and the hurdles of finding a guarantor scheme by partnering with a company for a 5.5% fee of full 12 months' rent (9)
10. Keele University provides only low rent guarantor scheme (10)

**Council Believes:**

5. No student should have to pay thousands of pounds in upfront rent because they have no reliable adult to use as a guarantor.
6. Student homelessness shouldn't be a reality.
7. Students shouldn't have to choose between a roof or their education.
8. Young Adult Homelessness is a larger issue in East Anglia area compared to other parts of the UK.
9. The University shouldn't allow students to fall into the vicious loop of sleeping out rough or sofa surfing.
10. It is the SU's responsibility to look after its most disadvantaged students.
11. It is in the interest of the SU to look after the quality of time spent during university.
12. The UEA accommodation short term, high cost, contracts are not suitable for care-leavers and estranged students.
13. Care-leavers and estranged students require more support within the current economic climate.

**Council Resolves:**

5. Mandate the Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer to make this task a priority within this Academic Year.
6. To lobby the UEA to provide a guarantor
7. scheme for: • International Students • Care Leavers • Estranged Students
8. To ensure that the guarantor scheme includes a holistic approach as well to
9. prevent homelessness that might be imminent.
10. To consider the points mentioned within the 2015 motion when lobbying the University.

**References:**

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5. Article - Rent Guarantor Scheme [Internet]. Student Services -University of Portsmouth. [cited 2023 Nov 1]. Available from: <https://myport.port.ac.uk/portal/articles/3812>
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