

PGovernment Financial Aid for Students Who Do Not Qualify for the Free Fees Initiative

An Comhairle Notes

That the Budget 2023 provided a € 1000 refund to those who had paid their €3000 Student Contribution Charge in full; anybody who were due to make a payment and/or made a payment in any way towards their Student Contribution Charge received a form of credit, reduction or refund if they qualify under the free fees scheme as an undergraduate student.

An Comhairle Applauds

The refund was a step in the right direction toward the abolishment of fees for students in Ireland. Although a one-time, cost of living measure, this was achieved after years of lobbying by USI, MOs, and countless Pre-Budget Submissions.

An Comhairle Further Notes

The Irish Government has done a disservice to students who are studying part-time, who are postgraduates, repeating, or those who are paying non-EU fees did not qualify for this reduction or refund. This gap in the budget shows the lack of awareness from the Irish Government surrounding the many types of students here and the struggles they face.

An Comhairle Regrets

Students in the north continue to face extremely high fees and student loans. Students are still ignored by the UK Government in a cost-of-living crisis.

An Comhairle Mandates

The USI Coiste Gnó to lobby the Irish Government to give a refund, discount or reimbursement to students who are not undergraduates who do not qualify under the free fees scheme. We also mandate the USI Coiste Gnó to include fee discounts as well as fees abolishment in future Pre Budget-Submissions throughout the Cost-of-Living crisis. We also mandate USI to support NUS-USI in its efforts to campaign for fairer education costs.

Proposed by: TUDSU (VP Welfare & Education CC)