



Support for the Lancaster University Tenants Union Rent Campaign

As a result of debate and approval at Union Assembly on 4th February 2025, the following motion was approved as Union policy:

The Students' Union Notes:

The National Union of Students (NUS) and Generation Rent affordability threshold states that no student housing should be more than 50% of the maximum students' loan.¹ For Lancaster University, that equals £127 per week for a 40-week contract and £120.92 for a 42-week contract.

A survey undertaken in November 2024, posted on County, Pendle and Grizedale College's Instagram stories, received 214 responses. It states that 92.4% of respondents said their personal finances have been impacted by rent increases. 99.1% of students would be in support of a rent freeze, and 94.4% said they'd spend the difference between the rent for the 22/23 and 23/24 academic year on food or toiletries.

Since September 2021, the CPI index has increased 19%. The Maximum Student Loan has increased from £9,203 to £10,227 (11%).²

No information has been published in regard to the process behind rent increases, the rent prices from previous years, the split between affordable and premium rooms, and the number of accessible rooms.

The Students' Union Believes:

As a student body, we recognise the importance of affordable rent for our student community. With approximately 6,500 students living on-campus, affordable campus rent is paramount for the wellbeing of the student community.

¹ <https://www.generationrent.org/2024/08/06/students-struggle-amidst-a-lack-of-affordable-on-campus-accommodation-across-the-uk/#:~:text=Student%20accommodation%20is%20no%20different,be%20included%20in%20the%20analysis.>

² <https://www.gov.uk>

We support the ongoing campaign for affordable rent on Lancaster University Campus. Its mission is to demonstrate widespread support for a freeze and subsequent decrease of on-campus rent. However, we acknowledge that additional support is necessary to make this vision a reality.

As people who live on campus , or have lived on campus, we understand the intricacies and current challenges so will have insightful comments for local government and the university.

At least 40% of campus accommodation should meet the affordability threshold. Accommodation increases obliged to a contractual minimum should be increased by that minimum and no more.

Campus rent increases for accommodation fully owned by the university, with no minimum contractual increase(s) need to be capped at percentage increase of the Student Loans.

The University need to publish more information regarding the process behind rent increases, the rent prices from previous years, the split between affordable and premium accommodation and the number of accessible rooms.

The Students' Union resolves too:

- 1) Promote and participate in The Lancaster University Tenants Union campaign activities: we will actively support and raise awareness about the need for a decrease in on-campus rent, aiming to remove obstacles to education.
- 2) We will create a temporary working group comprised of the respective LUSU President, any other FTOs that desire to be on the group and 2 respective Tenants Union Representatives. In this working group, will discuss and agree on the best permanent solution. The solution must form a relationship which commits The Union to long-term support for The Tenants' Union, offering political and operational support where possible.
- 3) Advocate for tenants' rights courses for Lancaster University Students: We will help and support the providing of tenants' rights workshops with The Tenants Union. We (LUSU) will offer specialist support if possible, and if not we will lobby the University to offer said specialist support. To empower students living off-campus.
- 4) To make sure The Tenants Union appeals to a broad base of support: We will ensure that The Tenants Union is a credible organisation that every student wants to be a part of.
- 5) Lobby the University where possible for prioritisation of affordable on-campus accommodation.

Approved by Union Assembly:	February 2025
Lapses:	February 2028