

Motion Name: Extending the eligibility criteria for students doing non-modular professional programmes as second undergraduate degrees.

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Background:

1. Sheena Warman and Jo Hartland led a Faculty of Health Sciences student finance survey in the spring of 2024 which has highlighted the financial difficulties faced by many students, and particularly highlighted the challenges faced by veterinary students undertaking the accelerated graduate degree. The accelerated graduate programme is a 4-year veterinary degree designed for students who already have a 2.1 or above in a science related degree as opposed to students following the traditional 5-year degree route
2. Students within the 4-year veterinary medicine degree do not receive a tuition loan from the government but are entitled to a mean-tested maintenance loan. This means students participating in this course as a second undergraduate are having to self-fund the tuition loan whilst simultaneously participating in mandatory placements making it difficult for students to be able to have a part time job.
3. Those within degrees within medicine, veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing have increasing costs such as placements which are mandatory of these degrees. These costs include clothing, travel, accommodation and other living expenses whilst working for free on placements.
4. The University of Bristol bursary is applied to all students whose household income is less than £50000 and are receiving a maintenance loan from the government. This bursary is only applied to students who are enrolled on their first undergraduate degree.

Purpose:

1. Promote welfare of students participating a second undergraduate degree within a professional programme by reducing some of the financial burden.
2. Better support students during veterinary placements such as financial support for accommodation.
3. Help reduce some of the financial stress experienced by students on professional programmes.

Actions:

1. Encourage the university to increase eligibility for the University of Bristol bursary making it available for those participating in a professional programme as a second undergraduate. This will include students within medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine.
2. Encourage the university to increase financial support for students attending mandatory placements such as increased support for travel costs.