

Don't
pull the
ladder up
behind
you



UNISON
Health Care

Don't pull the ladder up behind you

Congratulations on becoming a healthcare student, we hope you enjoy your course and go on to have a fulfilling and successful career.

While you get to grips with your studies, you may not realise that you are part of the last intake of healthcare students who will be supported by the NHS bursary while you are studying.

From next September, students on your course won't get the bursary. For them it will be tuition fees and loans and racking up thousands of pounds worth of debt during their student years.

This has implications for recruitment in the NHS. If fear of running up huge debts stops people choosing healthcare as a career what does that mean for patients? If there aren't enough new nurses, midwives and allied health professionals coming in what will that mean for you?

But it doesn't have to be that way. UNISON wants to see proper funding for healthcare students, either through a wage or a living bursary, so that it's possible for more people to become students like you.

The future of our NHS is too important to be turned into a game

of snakes and ladders where future students slide down snakes into a world of debt instead of getting their feet on the ladder towards a healthcare career.

Don't pull up the ladder behind you – get involved in UNISON's campaign. Together we can make a difference.

What you can do

- Sign up to our Thunderclap to help us send a strong message to the government about student funding.
- Write to your MP to ask them to sign Early Day Motion 294 about healthcare student funding.
- Tell us what difference the bursary made to your decision to become a nurse, midwife or allied health professional. Would you have been able to follow your dream if the bursary wasn't there for you?

You will find everything you need to do the above actions on our webpage at:
unison.org.uk/nhsbursary

Not in UNISON?

Join today at **joinunison.org** or call **0800 171 2193**