

Manifesto – Chris Taylor for Education

Vote Chris Taylor to democratise and liberate our education.

COVID-19 has laid bare the University's priorities and intentions. This year has shown us that, in the Uni's eyes, we are simply cash cows, here to make the University profit and keep the executives happy. They have ignored our open letters and petitions demanding support and they left us to wade through this pandemic on our own.

We have found ourselves powerless, with no procedures to voice our anger and no channels to make change. That is why I am standing to democratise our University and liberate our education, building a system which works for us.

I have spent my entire university career fighting for students. I wrote and organised the Safety Net open letter campaign and argued the need for support on BBC radio. I've been part of many student campaigns including Undoing Borders, Nottingham Students' Assembly and protests against tuition fees. I'm more than ready to continue this fight as your Education Officer.

If elected, I will fight for:

- No Detriment Policy

As author of the Safety Net open letter, I stand with the 8000 UoN students who demanded fair academic support. I demand in the strongest terms that a No Detriment policy is enacted, covering the entire pandemic and every department. Our grades shouldn't suffer due to this pandemic.

- Tuition fee refund

UoN must refund students for lost learning and experience during COVID-19. Paying over £9K for remote online learning with next to no support is an insult. We deserve our money back.

- Vote of No Confidence in Vice-Chancellor Shearer West

I will demand a performance review and vote of no confidence in VC Shearer West, over the handling of COVID-19 and lack of student support throughout, and the impact this has on our education.

- Decolonise the curriculum

The University must work actively to dismantle colonial power structures left unchallenged within course content. I will work with the Liberation Officer in pushing UoN to adopt a definition of decolonisation. To further this, I will call for a University-wide review into total decolonisation of the curriculum, led by panels of students and staff. Each school must promote an accessible curriculum with diverse and inclusive reading lists, include a focus on non-Western perspectives where possible, and include teaching that confronts the role of their subject area, past and present, in colonialism.

- Student Representation

I will make it easy to highlight problems without fear of being marked down

- Expand course rep system into a clear and accessible structure.
- Reps should hold regular surveys to highlight issues.

- Build official channels making it simple to bring up problems with your course/department.
- Improve LCF to establish open two-way communication between students and staff.
- Working closely with reps to challenge problems found across Uni and bring them up at board meetings.

- Represent YOU

As Education Officer I will hold regular forums and meetings, working closely with course societies and campaign groups like Nottingham Students' Assembly, and individuals. Guided by students on policy to bring forward YOUR agenda to Uni board meetings. I am committed to fighting for us to have a greater say in our education.

- Review assessment and teaching

Returning to in-person teaching is an opportunity to fix our outdated education system. Higher Education relies on lectures and exams: the easy and cheap option, designed to churn out as many of us as possible.

Lectures are often inaccessible, especially for those who struggle with their mental health and mobility. Exams are a memory test: stressful, unfair, and unrepresentative of real life.

I want a University-wide review into assessment and teaching, led by students, teaching staff and education experts. Schools should tailor the best methods for each subject. I will also demand 100% use of lecture capture. We can build an education system that works for us all.

- VC Town Halls

I will call for regular Vice-Chancellor Town Halls, so decisions about our education are made accountable to us.

- I will fight for a liberated and accessible education for all. This includes:
 - More in-department welfare funding and support
 - More female* authors on reading lists
 - End the Hostile Environment at UoN
 - Increased bursary and expand to include Postgraduates
 - Champion Anti-Casualisation movement to ensure Postgraduate Researchers are treated fairly
 - Recognise working conditions for staff are our learning conditions
 - Improve disability support access
 - Free childcare on campus
 - Cut hidden course fees: free reading list material, extend printer credit, remove parking fees on campus
 - Improve timetabling and IT services
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Why vote for me?

I am a committed campaigner, and over my 4 years at UoN I have dedicated my time and effort into fighting for students and the most marginalised in our society. Currently, I am running Undoing Borders UoN which aims to remove the hostile and racist environment that international students experience. I have taken part in many demonstrations; including the occupation of Trent building, the living wage campaign for all university staff, I supported lecturers on the picket line fighting for better working conditions and protested against tuition fees.

I'm a founding member and organiser of the Nottingham Students' Assembly fighting for better support. I wrote the open letter to the university demanding a safety net for all students so our grades would not be affected by the pandemic and I argued for this on BBC Radio Nottingham, representing students to publicise our cause.

I have been treasurer and social sec of Nottingham Labour Society and used my role to increase funding for women's* events.

Fighting against injustice, to have our voices heard and all of our rights met is what I am devoted to. As Education Officer I will be in your corner fighting for students, building a Uni that works for us. Vote for me to give students the power to lead the conversation about our education.

Vote Chris Taylor for a democratic, liberated, and accessible university. Power to the students.

Marketing Summary:

COVID has shown that the University is not working for us. I will fight to give students a voice, democratise our university and liberate our education.

Democratise:

Bring back no detriment policy

Refund tuition fees for 20/21

Assessment and teaching that works for US

Regular VC Town Halls

VONC in VC Shearer West

Improve course rep system

so you can make complaints without fear of being marked down

I will work closely with reps to raise your issues to the uni and fight for you

Liberate:

Decolonise the curriculum

Increase welfare funding and support within departments

End hostile environment on campus

Free childcare on campus

Vote for me to give students the power to lead the conversation about our education. Vote Chris Taylor for a democratic, liberated, and accessible university.