

## Free Prescriptions

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### **This Union Notes:**

1. The cost of being a student is higher than ever before - with the rising costs of tuition, rent and basic amenities.
2. That students, unless exempted, incur a cost of £6.85 each time medicine is prescribed and a minimum of £15.90 for dental treatment.<sup>1</sup>
3. That some students cannot afford current healthcare charges.
4. The current system for processing exemptions, the HC1 form, is bureaucratic and costly and deters many eligible for exemption from applying for such.<sup>2</sup>
5. That NUS is petitioning the government to exempt students from such charges.

### **This Union believes:**

1. Student expenses should be minimised.
2. That healthcare charges are a burden to the personal finances of students.
3. That healthcare costs discriminate unfairly against those students who rely on medicine on a daily or weekly basis.
4. That the HC1 form is unacceptable as the process through which a student can lodge a case for exemption from prescription charges.
5. The government should undertake a comprehensive review of prescription charges the desirable outcome of which would be:
  - i. To exempt all persons in full time education or training, regardless of their ability to pay from healthcare charges.
  - ii. A better system for processing cases of exemption.

### **This Union resolves:**

1. To launch a campaign, under the supervision and guidance of the welfare officer, with the aim of achieving a government review of healthcare charges and student exemption from them.
  2. To write to the Minister for Health and any other person or body considered relevant to inform them of our view.
  3. To publicise the NUS petition to the student body and encourage students to sign.
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1. Prescription charges are subject to annual review, figures shown are those established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_4131675](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4131675)

2. <http://www.officeronline.co.uk/welfare/273987.aspx>