

WE WON'T PAY £9K! Scrap tuition fees



photo Paul Mattsson

Last month it was revealed that as the Ucas university application service opened for 2012, applications were down by 9% on last year. Nobody is surprised of course – we can't afford £9,000 a year fees!

Universities themselves are being forced to acknowledge this. In fact, some are considering reducing the fees they planned to charge.

And the same thing is happening to college applications now that EMA payments are gone. A whole generation is having to weigh up whether poverty while you study and crushing debt for decades afterwards is a price worth paying for further and higher education.

Youth Fight for Jobs doesn't think anyone should have to make that choice. Education should be a right for all.

When the decisions to increase fees and scrap EMA were made last year hundreds of thousands of young people took part in a movement against this government. They broke the silence on the Con-Dem cuts and set the stage for all the protests, demonstrations and strikes we've seen since.

We need that fighting spirit again this year. We can force the government to retreat on fees. We can still force local councils to bring back EMA for students in their areas – it's already happened in two London boroughs.

Students need to continue to develop their own democratic and mass movement, including building Youth Fight for Jobs and Education groups in all the colleges, sixth forms and schools as well as the universities.

On 30 November hundreds of thousands of public sector workers will be on strike to defend their pensions. Students should join them. With students joining their teachers and lecturers on the picket lines and demonstrations around the country, we could see a real shutdown of education.

The Jarrow marchers, who marched 330 miles to demand a decent future for young people, ended their five week journey with a rally of thousands in London last week (see pages 6 and 7). Young people are proving that we're ready and willing to fight back. We won't be a lost generation, fight for jobs and education!

Youth Demand a Future!

- Create jobs
- Bring back EMA & scrap fees
- Save youth services
- Scrap workfare
- Build affordable housing

www.youthfightforjobs.com

www.socialiststudents.org.uk

www.jarrowmarch11.com

What we stand for

The Socialist Party fights for socialist change – a democratic society run for the needs of all and not the profits of a few. We also fight, in our day-to-day campaigning, for every possible improvement for working-class people.

As capitalism dominates the globe, the struggle for genuine socialism must be international.

The Socialist Party is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), a democratic, socialist international that organises in over 40 countries.

Our demands include:

Work and income

- Trade union struggle to increase the minimum wage to £8 an hour without exemptions as an immediate step towards £10 an hour. For an annual increase in the minimum wage linked to average earnings.
- All workers, including part-timers, temps, casual and migrant workers to have trade union rates of pay, employment protection, and sickness and holiday rights from day one of employment.
- An immediate 50% increase in the state

retirement pension, as a step towards a living pension. Reinstatement of the link with average earnings now.

- Reject 'Welfare to Work'. For the right to decent benefits, education, training, or a job, without compulsion.
- Scrap the anti-trade union laws! For fighting trade unions, democratically controlled by their members. Full-time union officials to be regularly elected and receive no more than a worker's wage.
- A maximum 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

Public services

- No to privatisation and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Renationalise all privatised utilities and services, with compensation paid only on the basis of proven need.
- Fully fund all services and run them under accountable, democratic committees that include representatives of service workers and users.
- Free, publicly run, good quality education, available to all at any age. Abolish university tuition fees now and introduce a living grant. No to academies and free schools!
- A socialist NHS to provide for everyone's health needs – free at the point of use and under

democratic control. Kick out private contractors!

- Keep council housing publicly owned. For a massive building programme of publicly owned housing, on an environmentally sustainable basis, to provide good quality homes with low rents.

Environment

- Major research and investment into replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy and into ending the problems of early obsolescence and unrecycled waste.
- Public ownership of the energy generating industries. No to nuclear power. No to Trident.
- A democratically planned, low fare, publicly-owned transport system, as part of an overall plan against environmental pollution.

Rights

- Oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, disability, sexuality, age, and all other forms of prejudice.
- Repeal all laws that trample over civil liberties. For the right to protest! End police harassment.
- Defend abortion rights. For a woman's right to choose when and whether to have children.
- For the right to asylum. No to racist immigration laws.

New workers' party

- For a new mass workers' party drawing together workers, young people and activists from workplace, community, environmental and anti-war campaigns, to provide a fighting, political alternative to the pro-big business parties.
- Trade unions to disaffiliate from the Labour Party now and aid the building of a new workers' party!

Socialism and internationalism

- No to imperialist wars and occupations. Withdraw the troops immediately from Iraq and Afghanistan!
- Tax the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and banks that dominate the British economy, and run them under democratic working-class control and management. Compensation to be paid only on the basis of proven need.
- A democratic socialist plan of production based on the interests of the overwhelming majority of people, and in a way that safeguards the environment.
- No to the bosses' neo-liberal European Union! For a socialist Europe and a socialist world!