

University to act as a guarantor

The Union Knows

- Landlords will usually want a guarantor who lives in the UK, as it's easier for them to take legal action against a UK resident if they need to.
- Around 15% of the Students studying at UWE are international. 11% are from outside of the EU.
- Home students from low income backgrounds, whose parents don't own property and who are care leavers can also struggle to find guarantors.
- Without a guarantor many landlords and agencies usually require potential tenants to pay from 6 – 12 months' rent in advance.
- Alternatives such as guarantor businesses e.g. Helping Hand, bring a large additional cost with them.
- Universities such as UCL, Goldsmiths, Royal Holloway, York, Essex and Kent already operate guarantor schemes for their students.

The Unions Believes

- International students already face high tuition fees when studying in the UK, facing an immediate cost of up to a full year's rent at the beginning of the academic year is an unfair burden.
- The need for a guarantor places a further barrier to accessing Higher Education for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- It is unfair that the nationality or background of a student plays a factor in their ability to find suitable accommodation.
- As the University actively recruits students internationally it has a duty to ensure that they are able to find accommodation during their studies.
- UWE has a responsibility to enable those from disadvantaged backgrounds to access higher education.

The Union Will

- Lobby the University to provide a free guarantor scheme.
- Work on a plan to support students struggling to find guarantors in the interim.

The Union Chooses

VP Community and Welfare

