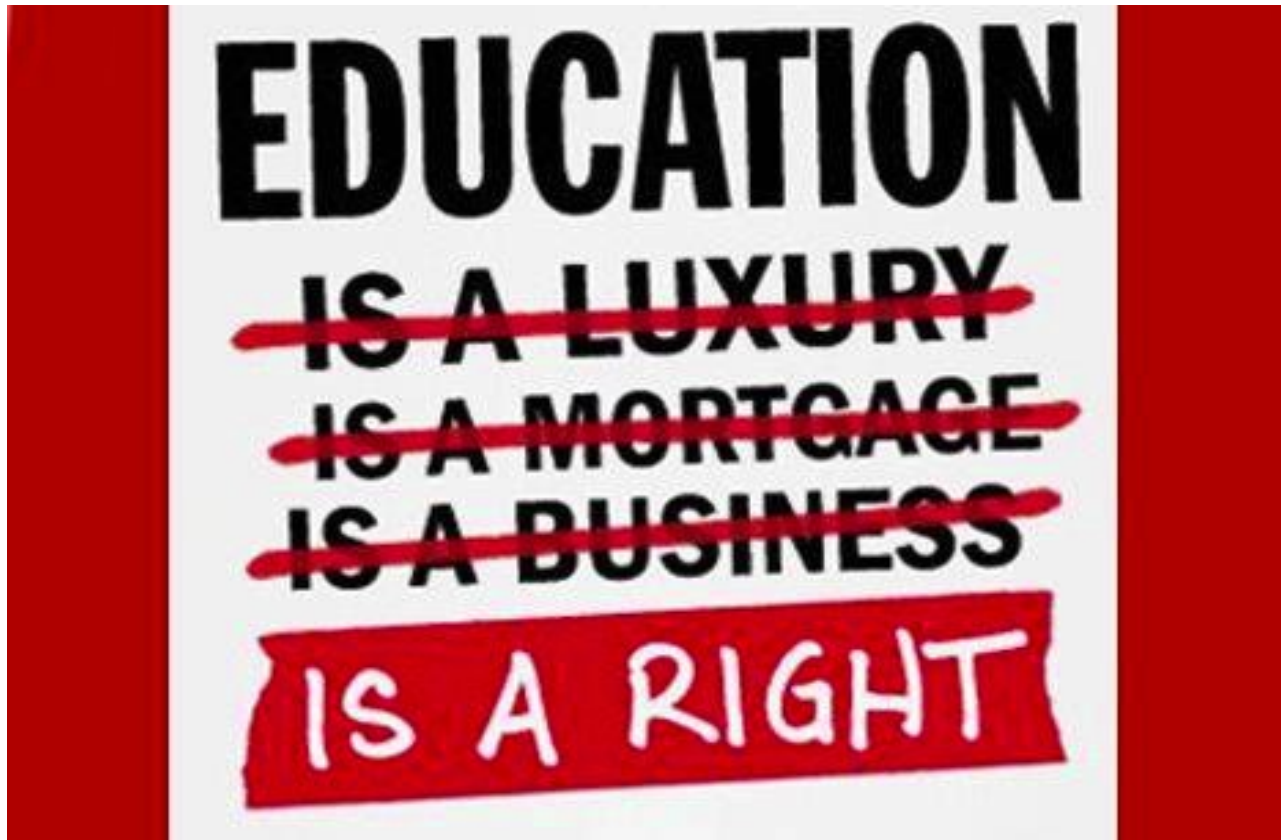


Free Education, not “value for money”.



We reject the idea that the most important thing in education is value for money. Everyone deserves a good education, regardless of what they pay. Education is not a commodity, and should be free. We reject the proposals of the Browne review to marketise and privatise Higher Education and the government's steps to put the proposals into practice. That the University of Bristol and other universities across the UK should meet its proposals is not something we should be demanding.

Instead we demand:

- **Free Education:** education should be free to all at the point of use, with adequate living grants and support, paid for by progressive taxation.
- **Democracy on Campus:** Campus should be run democratically by students and staff, for students, staff and the

community.

- **Justice on Campus:** All staff and lecturers deserve secure contracts, with sufficient pay. We demand an end to casualised contracts, and a maximum 5:1 pay ratio. All staff should be paid at least a living wage, and none should be forced to rely on food banks or loan sharks. We should not see ourselves as consumers, whose interests are opposed to those of lecturers or researchers.
- **Academic Freedom:** There should be adequate funding for research across all subject areas. Funding should not come from unethical companies and businesses. This includes but is not limited to: arms companies, the tobacco industry and fossil fuel companies

We feel that the 'ASS Protest Manifesto' takes the wrong approach to most of these issues: assuming that the Browne Review (and hence tuition fees and the current national funding structure) is ok; portraying us as consumers purchasing a product; emphasising our interests as opposed to those of the staff; and overlooking the importance of research in education and the university.

There should be more funding for ASS subjects – however we view these cuts and changes to the funding structure as an ideological attack, motivated by an ideology that holds economic growth, and the well-being of the richest in society, as its primary goal.

Its worth noting that Eric Thomas, Bristol's V-C, supported and lobbied for raising of tuition fees – and opposed the £9k cap.

Free quality education for all.

Written by members of Bristol Left.