



CONFERENCE

18TH – 19TH JUNE 2019
BERLIN



STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES (STAR)

Equal Access Campaign

AT A GLANCE

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR is the national charity of students building a society where refugees are welcomed and supported to thrive as equal members of the community. We do this by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteering in the community - Campaigning to change policy - Educating people about refugees and asylum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR was established in 1994 and today we have a network of student groups at 50 universities and colleges across the UK & Ireland. • EQUAL ACCESS CAMPAIGN: In 2008 we launched a campaign to improve access to higher education for asylum seekers and refugees. We lead the campaign in partnership with the NUS (National Union of | <p>Students) and work with a large coalition of organisations.</p> <p>We:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support student groups and staff to lobby their universities for scholarships and bursaries • bring the sector together to create more effective change • advise universities on best practice • change national policy |
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CORE OBJECTIVES

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| <p>1. Get universities to classify all those seeking asylum as home students for fee purposes & offer scholarships that cover study and maintenance</p> | <p>costs for people who have come to the UK seeking refugee protection and to well publicise how people can apply.</p> | <p>2. Improve access pathways, advice and support available.</p> <p>3. Achieve national policy change to improve access</p> |
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ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- Huge increase in universities offering scholarships now 66 offering 200+ places (from 7 universities in 2012, 31 in 2016)
- Improved quality of scholarships and support in universities
- Increase in access and pre-sessional courses
- 2 conferences for universities and partners to share good practice
- Great partnership working
- Better advice and support available on access to HE for refugees and asylum seekers
- Policy changes: resettled Syrian refugees given refugee protection so instant access to university funding, people living in UK for a long time given access to university funding, revised guidance on study bans for people seeking asylum

LESSONS LEARNT

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| <p>1. Importance of creating access pathways to university and providing good advice not just scholarships.</p> | <p>2. Need for oversight of scholarships to ensure they are well advertised, fit for purpose and sustained.</p> | <p>3. There are now lots of resources and good practice to learn from - don't reinvent the wheel!</p> |
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FURTHER INFO

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