

MP Letter

Re: Campaign to Support Nursing Students – Fairer Placement Conditions

Dear [MP's Name],

I am writing to you as a student of the University of Essex to request that you assist the Students' Union in advocating for improved conditions for nursing students undertaking clinical placements.

As it stands, nursing students are required to complete a minimum of 2,300 hours of unpaid clinical placements as part of their degree. These placements are vital for their training, but the demanding workload combined with academic commitments places many students under serious financial and emotional strain.

We believe this system needs reform.

Our campaign is calling for major change - to pay students for placement hours or to reduce the number of required placement hours. We believe this approach not only recognises the significant contribution that nursing students make during their training, but also helps to attract and retain qualified nurses.

Many of our nursing students are balancing intense unpaid placements with part-time jobs, family responsibilities, and rising living costs. Without these changes, we are not only putting the progress and wellbeing of current nursing students at risk, but actively driving many talented, compassionate individuals away from the profession altogether.

We would greatly appreciate your support in championing this issue in Parliament and with relevant ministers and for recognising the vital role they play in the future of our NHS.

Yours sincerely,