

YOU
DESERVE
BETTER
PAYMENT

PLACEMENTS ARE WORK,
AND WORK DESERVES PAY.



WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR.

Pay the Placement isn't just about raising awareness. It's about change. We're campaigning to:

1. GET YOU PAID FOR YOUR PLACEMENTS HOURS

We're pushing for all nursing and healthcare students to be paid for their placements. Because real work deserves real pay, simple as that.

2. PUSH FOR NATIONAL CHANGE FOR HSC STUDENTS

We're backing the Royal College of Nursing's call for a full review of healthcare student funding. The system's broken and it's time the Government fixed it.

3. IMPROVE LOCAL SUPPORT

We're acting now by being clear about the real costs of healthcare courses, including uniforms, DBS checks, transport and parking. We're launching a second-hand uniform sale, creating a pre-placement guide for HSC students, and pushing for better local support, including lower travel costs, more discounts and increased Hardship Loans.

THE CAMPAIGN TIMELINE.

16 FEB – 24 APRIL

PHASE 1: BUILD & ONBOARD

What we need from you:

- Post about the campaign
- Share your story with us

11 - 17 MAY

PHASE 3: NATIONAL CAMPAIGN WEEK

This is the main moment for visibility and collective action!

Key dates:

- Tuesday 12 May: International Nurses Day

What you can do:

- Push petition sign-ups and shares
- Share your own story on your social media channels
- Show support for the campaign online and in-person

8 MARCH
**International
Women's Day**

7 APRIL
**World
Health Day**

27 APRIL – 9 MAY
PHASE 2: MOBILISATION

What you can do:

- Promote campaign week

20 - 31 MAY
PHASE 4: CELEBRATE IMPACT

Key dates:

- Wednesday 20 May: Petition closes

What you can do:

- Share final push for the petition 0 rally all of your friends and family
- Reshare and celebrate content

MAKE SOME NOISE.

This guide shows you how you can get involved and speak up for paid placements. You're doing real work for £0 and it's time people heard about it. Got 2 minutes? That's all you need.

1. POST IT

Share what placement really looks like. Download a template or make your own, post a photo or video, and use #PayThePlacement.

4. SIGN IT

Back Grace's petition. It takes less than a minute and adds real pressure.

2. SAY IT

Tell your story, anonymously if you want. Help show what placement actually costs you.

5. SHOW UP

Join Campaign Week 11-17 May 2026. Post, share, and get others involved. This is the moment we go all in.

3. SEND IT

Email your MP. Use our template, add your experience, and hit send.

MAKE SOME NOISE.

1. POST IT

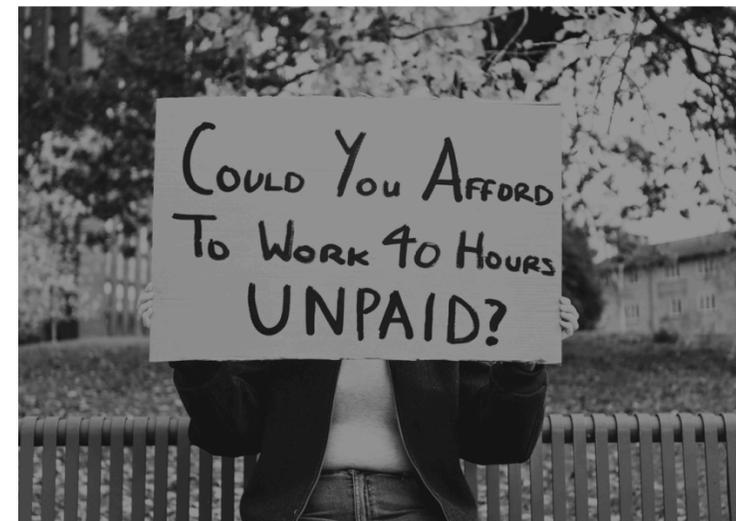
Let people see what's really going on. Download an image or make your own placard, share a photo or video, and tell your story on Instagram, Facebook or TikTok etc. You don't need perfect, just be real.

Copy and paste captions:

I work ___ hours on placement. I get paid £0. That's not learning. That's labour.
#PayThePlacement

Placement costs me £___ a week. I still show up. I still care. I still get paid £0.
#PayThePlacement

I'm supporting a campaign to pay nursing students for their placements. Because real work deserves real pay.
#PayThePlacement
www.paytheplacement.com



Images you can use:

We've made some image templates to make this as easy as possible. [Download one here](#), add your message, and post it.

Create your own placard

Want to go one step further? Make your own placard.

Grab a cardboard box, a marker, and write what placement really looks like for you. Then snap a photo and share it.

Need ideas? Start here:

- "I work ___ hours for £0"
- "Would you work 40 hours unpaid?"
- "Placements are work. Pay us."

MAKE SOME NOISE.

2. SAY IT

Your experience matters, and it can help change things. We're collecting real stories from nursing students to show what placement actually looks like, and what it's costing you.

You can share as much or as little as you want.

You can stay anonymous.

No pressure. No perfect wording. Just tell it how it is.

Think about:

- How many hours have you done on placement?
- What does placement cost you each week?
- What have you had to give up because of placement?
- How has this affected you?

No pressure. No perfect wording. Just tell it how it is.

Leave your story here.

“Not to be treated like a paid member of staff. We should be learning, not filling in staffing gaps. Give us opportunities, not obligations.”

“Payment during placement. This is especially important over summer placements, as the last SFE payment is in April. This does not stretch through to end of academic year.”

“More support for students. I had a very horrible experience during my last placement. The learning support fund is not enough, because £2.50 does not cover much of our transportation.”

MAKE SOME NOISE.

3. SEND IT

Tell your MP what's really going on.

A quick email can go a long way, especially when lots of students send them.

We've made it easy to get started.

You can use our template and tweak it to reflect your experience.

Because the people making decisions should hear directly from the people affected.

Subject line:

Nursing students in your constituency are working unpaid

Email draft:

Hi [MP's name],

I'm a nursing student at the University of Essex, and I'm currently completing a compulsory placement as part of my degree.

On placement, I work long shifts in real healthcare settings, supporting patients and staff, but I am not paid for any of this work.

At the same time, I am covering the cost of travel, food and living expenses, often spending £30–£70 a week just to attend placement. Many students are struggling to keep up financially, and some are being pushed to consider leaving their course altogether.

This isn't a small issue. Over 60,000 student nurses across the UK are currently working unpaid in the NHS, despite delivering essential care.

I am asking you to:

- Support calls for paid placements for healthcare students
- Back a full review of healthcare student funding
- Raise this issue in Parliament and with the Department of Health

If the NHS relies on student nurses, then student nurses should not be expected to work for free.

I would really value a response outlining your position on this issue.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Postcode]

MAKE SOME NOISE.

4. SIGN IT

Back, fellow student, Grace's petition and help turn this into national change.

The more signatures we get, the harder it is to ignore. It takes less than a minute — and it adds real weight to the campaign.

Sign it here:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/746707>

**You're already doing the work.
Now let's make sure it's ~~recognised~~ paid**



MAKE SOME NOISE.

5. SHOW UP CAMPAIGN WEEK: 11-17 MAY

This is the moment we go all in. From 11-17 May, students across the country will be speaking up, sharing their stories, and pushing this campaign everywhere; online and on campus.

If you do one thing, do it this week.

How to get involved:

- Post your story or placard
- Share the petition
- Talk about it with your friends and course mates
- Repost others and keep the momentum going
- Share the [campaign week assets](#)

You're already doing the work.
Now let's make sure it's ~~recognised~~ paid



PAY THE PLACEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
STUDENTS*
UNION

2,300 HOURS.
£29,900 WORTH OF
WORK.
£0 PAY.

YOU WOULDN'T WORK
FOR FREE,
WHY SHOULD THEY?

**CAMPAIGN WEEK
11 - 17 MAY 2026**

One week. One goal.
Fair pay for healthcare students.
One action.
SIGN THE PETITION.



PAY THE PLACEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
STUDENTS*
UNION

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