

CAMPAIGN PACK

Free From Fees: Saving students from renting fees

Introduction

Labour Students' new campaign, #FreeFromFees, aims to save students from renters' fees when signing for properties for the 2019-20 academic year. This is because the law is changing, but to take advantage, students must not sign for next year's property too soon. This Campaign Pack will outline Labour Students' successes on this type of issue, why students can save money, how your Labour Club can help them, and the support Labour Students nationally will provide.

Past successes

Labour Students has long fought for better housing and a more affordable university experience for students on campus. Housing 17-18 campaign, Living Wage, etc. The hard work of clubs like yours has tangibly improved the lives of students across the country, and here's how we can do so yet again.

Renting fees: The change in law

From April 2019, the ban on renting fees will come into force. This means that landlords and letting agents won't be able to charge for:

Admin charges	Cleaning services when leaving
Credit checks	De-fleaing a property due to tenants' pets
Referencing	Gardening services
Guarantor charges	Renewal and exit fees
Property inventories	Setting requirements to having specific insurance companies

In total, renting fees cost on average **£200-£300 per person** per tenancy, although for many it is significantly more. While in the long-term this ban is welcome news for students, to benefit in the short-term, they need to be savvy. Although next year's housing contracts don't begin until the summer, and most students won't move in until September, **if they sign before April 2019** they are liable to be charged renting fees.

How your Labour Club can help students

- Raise awareness on campus through social media and street stalls
- Lobby your Students Union (SU) to also help raise awareness on campus
- Lobby your SU to pressure local landlords and letting agents to waive renting fees for houses moved into in or after April 2019 – this would save money for all students, regardless of when they sign.
- Continue the awareness campaign in and after April 2019, outlining that renting fees are no longer legal, to protect students from any sneaky landlords and letting agents who still try to charge for these costs.



Support from Labour Students nationally

- Leaflets and Posters for your street stall
- Model motion to propose at your SU
- Visits from National Officers to support the campaign on the ground
- Please contact the National Office to request free materials or a club visit.

In Summary

- For too long, students have been ripped off by universities, landlords and letting agencies when it comes to housing.
- With rising rents squeezing the cost of living, the banning of renting fees is welcome. However, for students to take advantage when signing for their 2019-20 properties, they must wait until April 2019.
- As Labour Students, this is a fantastic opportunity for us to help thousands of students save hundreds of pounds each on their housing costs, and make a real difference on campuses across the country.
- Best of luck with your campaign, and please contact the National Office if you have any questions or ideas.

