

For immediate release

Apprenticeships get boost as students deterred by uni fee increase

www.thestudentroom.co.uk

A new survey* from The Student Room has shown that almost half of students are less likely to go to university due to imminent tuition fee increases, with apprenticeships set to grow in popularity as a result.

The survey of over 3000 students by the world's largest online student community, showed 46% claiming they are less likely to go to university due to tuition fee increases allowed under The Higher Education and Research Bill, now being rushed through before the election.

Apprenticeships will be the leading alternative to the traditional university route, according to the TSR survey. Of those students who said they would no longer go to university if fees increased, 29% said they would target an apprenticeship instead. Students also said they were more likely to go straight into work (26%) or explore internships (10%).

Jack Wallington, Director of Community at The Student Room, commented, "It's positive to hear that students are considering all pathways; apprenticeships and going straight into work are equally viable options to university. But the depressing message is that almost half of students are being put off university by cost, not through choice.

"The student body should be valued as a precious bank of skills and knowledge for the benefit of our future economy and society. Yet, as tuition fees edge closer to £10,000 and interest rates on loans increase, students are being milked as cash-cows. Attention must now turn to supporting those from low-income backgrounds who are likely to be the first deterred from university by fee increases."

Students who choose to take a degree apprenticeship can earn a university degree with none of the associated tuition fees. Degree apprenticeship schemes enable students to earn while they learn, gaining a degree and relevant industry work experience at the same time. Although the range of degree apprenticeships is currently limited, this is set to expand significantly because of the government's new apprenticeship levy, which aims to fund three million new apprenticeships in England by 2020.

**The Student Room polled 3,227 from 28 April to 2 May 2017.*

ABOUT THE STUDENT ROOM

Founded in 2001, The Student Room is the world's largest online student community and the UK's no.1 education website according to ComScore data. The Student Room has over 3 million registered members, primarily aged between 14-24 and attracts over 8 million visitors a month. It provides student-to-student advice on studying, educational career choice and lifestyle issues. The Student Room works directly with most UK universities as well as a wide range of leading brands and companies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS OR CASE STUDIES, PLEASE CONTACT:



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