

Policy name: **Childcare / Creche Facilities on Campus**

Date Presented: 07/02/24

Lapse Date: May 2025

STUDENT COUNCIL FACTS:

- Creche facilities previously operated across multiple campuses for over 40 years until 2016.
- The last feasibility study was undertaken in 2019, pre covid and pre the opening of the new Belfast Campus.
- Multiple third level institutions including QUB, currently operate successful Creche/ Childcare facilities for students and staff in dedicated university facilities.
- Currently, the average cost of a full-time childcare place in NI is £170 per week per child (£186 for day nursery, £166 for childminder run place).
- The current model of funding excludes international students and is not fit for purpose for all students.

STUDENT COUNCIL BELIEVES:

- All students should have access to creche facilities across all three campuses.
- The university should commission a feasibility study to look into provision of childcare/ creche facilities through a multi-model approach (looking at on campus, off campus, subsidies, partnerships, charity model and localised provision).
- UUSU and University should undertake an awareness campaign around current facilities available in the community, grants/ funding available to help students and staff.
- The university should not seek to make a profit on childcare provision if implemented, with provision being a responsibility towards our commitment on widening access and lifelong learning for all.

STUDENT COUNCIL RESOLVES:

- UUSU should lobby the university to take action, commission the feasibility study and look for active solutions to support students and staff. This should be focused on provision on campus first and foremost on a not-for-profit basis..
- UUSU should undertake an awareness campaign around rights and the funding and support available for students.

Name of Proposer: *Student Executive*

Name of Seconder: *Eoin McGlinchey*