

Policy name: **Public Transport**

Date Presented: **02/11/17**

Lapse Date: **May 2024**

STUDENT COUNCIL NOTES:

That the UUSU Student Council should lobby for fairer and cheaper public transport for students. Translink do not provide an option for a return ticket within Northern Ireland to depart the Coleraine Campus on a specific day and return on another and neither do they offer an open return.

The cost of a yLink day return ticket is capped at the cost of £12.30.

The cost of a yLink single ticket is capped at the cost of £8.

This costs students up to £16 a trip, provided that they have a student yLink card, which continues to add up should there be a demand for them to be home often at times at the weekend.

There is an expected rise of 1.6% in March this year to the cost of public transport.

STUDENT COUNCIL BELIEVES:

The government has a responsibility to provide fairly priced public transport and by imposing similar pricing for both students and people working full time, it places a financial burden on youth furthering their education. The cost of public transport could be made a lot cheaper for students if they could purchase a different day return ticket.

Translink do not make a loss in terms of providing the service if they allowed passengers to purchase open return or different day return ticket.

An open return and different day return tickets are available in mainland Britain counterparts.

The yLink card is predominantly used by students but is not available to any student who is older than 23. This means that many students have to avail of the 24+ card, giving them 33% off train travel and 50% off Enterprise fares. This costs the user £8 per year and does not include any discount on bus travel, which is provided by the yLink card.

STUDENT COUNCIL RESOLVES:

The UUSU Student Executive should contact the other university's Student Councils and join with them to bring this matter to the attention of the government.

UUSU shall also campaign on the following three issues: campaign for travel bursaries or free travel for students; campaign for the Y-Link card to be extended to students over 24 and campaign for subsidized cross-border travel for commuting students.

For UUSU, with potential consultation with NUS-USI where and when appropriate, to lobby Translink to develop a ticketing option for passengers, that include students, allowing them to purchase either an open return ticket or a ticket that is valid for return on a different day other than the day that it was first used for travel.

For UUSU, with potential consultation with NUS-USI, where and when appropriate, to lobby Translink to include discount on bus travel within the 24+ card.

Name of Proposer: *Ashley Doonan*

Name of Seconder: *Conan Meehan*

Policy renewed on 26th April 2023.

