

Policy name: Support for breastfeeding students

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Student Council notes:

Many students begin or return to their studies after giving birth, a number of them will be breastfeeding.

Currently there are inadequate facilities for breastfeeding students on at least Jordanstown and Magee campuses.

Breastfeeding students need access to a suitable room to express to avoid the risk of infection, as well as maintain their milk supply.

Breastfeeding students need a room with a comfortable chair, a plug, and privacy. Best practice would include access to a fridge to store expressed milk.

Student Council believes:

We should support students who are beginning or returning to study after having a baby, including breastfeeding students.

Many staff will also be impacted by the lack of adequate breast feeding facilities.

Currently breastfeeding students are relying on the good will of university staff for access to a private room, or expressing in unsuitable rooms.

The lack of suitable facilities may contribute to students dropping out of university, or ceasing breastfeeding earlier than they would otherwise choose to.

The current situation may breach equality legislation and health and safety regulations.

Student Council resolves:

The Student Executive will write to the university to highlight this issue and raise the lack of adequate breastfeeding facilities on campus.

The Student Executive will explore if there is a student union space that could be used by breast feeding students as a temporary solution.

That Student Executive lobby the University to become an institution friendly for breastfeeding mothers with 'Breastfeeding Welcome here' scheme membership or similar.

That UUSU bar and café facilities become accredited to this scheme and to display the relevant stickers.

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