 <p>Capilano Students' Union</p>	Policy No.	Approval Authority
	IS-06	Board of Directors
	Policy Name	Approval Date
	Needs-Based Grants	November 22, 2019
	Responsible	Scheduled Review
	Campaigns & Advocacy Committee	<i>October 2022</i>

Summary

On average, those who have a university degree earn more than those with only a high school diploma. As such, having a post-secondary education is now essential to obtaining a career. Yet students are confronted with up-front tuition fees that “compromise access to education for those who face financial barriers in their youth.”¹

The majority of students from low-income households who do decide to pursue post-secondary pay for their education through student loans. This places them at a disadvantage compared to their peers who can pay out of pocket or have family support to pay for their education. Those who take out loans end up paying more for their education due to interest incurred on their loans. As debt levels increase, the likelihood of degree completion decreases, as students choose to enter the workforce instead of going further into debt to finance their education.

There are post-program supports in the form of debt forgiveness and low-interest rates for those who are struggling with repaying loans. However, students are often unaware of these programs prior to entering post-secondary, and these programs do not reduce the barrier of the up-front cost of education. Up-front, non-repayable grants will help people who would not otherwise be able to attend post-secondary.

British Columbia is the only province without a needs-based grants program. Students in BC pay more for their education than their peers across the country who have access to non-repayable grant programs. Education should be affordable and accessible no matter where you live in Canada. As such, the province of BC should recreate a needs-based grants program for all BC students that is accessible to all undergraduate and graduate students, is not contingent on program completion, and includes provisions for students with accessibility needs or dependents.

Definitions


In this policy:

“needs-based” means funding that is given based on financial need rather than for academic performance, athletics or other community involvement.

Rationale

The Capilano Students’ Union has adopted these policy principles because:

¹ Ivanova, Iglia, “Paid in Full: Who Pays for University Education in BC?”, 6, January 2012, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, accessed online: https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC%20Office/2012/01/CCPA_Paid_in_Full_2012_web.pdf.

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- Students who take out loans will pay more for their education due to incurred interest;
- Students are less likely to complete their degree as their debt levels increase;
- A comprehensive needs-based, non-repayable grants program would reduce student loan debt and increase program completion rates;
- Non-repayable grants help students who would otherwise not be able to get through post-secondary;
- The majority of students who take out student loans come from low and middle-income families, and are more likely to come from marginalized backgrounds;
- The most cited reason for not attending post-secondary education, from individuals from lower incomes, is the up-front cost of education;
- Up-front grants at the point of enrollment will increase accessibility to post-secondary education;
- Everyone should have access to education; and
- British Columbia is the only province without a needs-based grants program.

Policy Principles

1. The Capilano Students' Union supports a needs-based grants program which is:
 - a. accessible to part-time and full-time undergraduate and graduate students,
 - b. is not contingent on program completion; and
 - c. includes provisions for students with accessibility needs and/or dependents.
2. The Capilano Students' Union will advocate the provincial government and support initiatives to re-introduce comprehensive needs-based grants for low-and-middle-income post-secondary students in British Columbia.

Research Documents

Ivanova, Igluka, "Paid in Full: Who Pays for University Education in BC?," 2012, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, accessed online:
https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC%20Office/2012/01/CCPA_Paid_in_Full_2012_web.pdf.