

## rs21 work on campuses

*Agreed at June 2019 national meeting*

Around 50% of young people now enter Higher Education. Though the group disproportionately comprises those from wealthier families, it includes many young people from working-class backgrounds. Many students work in low-paid, insecure jobs to help fund their fees and living expenses. Many students don't expect to move into middle class jobs on graduation. Despite efforts to make courses narrowly serve employability, some courses encourage and enable students to question the way society is organised. Young people often face lower risks for engaging in political activism as students than as workers, and often have more flexibility in their use of time.

Universities are also sites of struggle over a variety of issues, including in recent years opposition to Prevent, over marketisation and cuts, the UCU strikes, student activism against rape culture, struggles against outsourcing of support staff, for divestment from fossil capital and arms. While sometimes rs21 might be involved directly in these struggles, rs21 can also try to draw students and higher education workers into other political issues.

rs21 should continue recruiting through our broad range of ideas and activism. We are trying to build a working class group with diversity in age and education and we also need to work on involving young people who are not students.

Despite low name-recognition, rs21 doesn't suffer from the bad reputation, rigid routines, narrow focus on student politics or ideological defensiveness of many left groups attempting to organise on campus. Some of our work on campuses has made a real contribution to movements, such as in Oxford where we have helped with anti-fascism and movements against sexual violence. In addition, some of it has brought significant direct and indirect benefits to rs21. This doesn't necessarily involve following the model of endless political meetings on campus. Sometimes politically sharp work around a topical issue can be more productive.

1. Local groups and members should work with the organiser to map our existing campus presence, including students and staff, societies.
2. rs21 will produce stickers, leaflets and posters in time for freshers' fairs this year.
3. Local groups and members should decide whether there is a local university they wish to try to organise around in 2019-20. If so, local groups and members should:
  - a) Make contact with any connections to students or workers at the university, or reach out to student societies, UCU branches etc.
  - b) Find out when freshers' fair is, and what access is possible
  - c) Identify suitable members and plan a presence during freshers' week
  - d) Plan any meetings on campus and consider suitable topics, times and locations for local meetings
  - e) Find out how to set up a student society and do so if possible - this enables room bookings etc
  - f) Ask the organiser for help where appropriate
  - g) Look out for local issues and flashpoints to organise around