

RESPONSE FROM WILLIAM BULLOCK

I wish to register my objections to the proposition that British undergraduates from outwith Scotland be charged more than Scottish students on the same course. I have two areas of concern.

1) Scotland needs the most intelligent workforce. Unfortunately we are a country in relative decline and the rest of the UK is the obvious source of the new citizens and entrepreneurial zest. Now, as in the past, population interchange is going to take place. The question is, in which net direction? Welcoming the best and brightest students from the South is the best policy to safeguard our population size and utility.

Graduates leave Scotland but I reject the notion that Southern students are more prone to this than any all other national groups. I studied at Strathclyde University then left for England along with some others. The Naval Architects were all Scandinavians and every graduate left for home. I stayed in England for over 25 years but now teach in Scotland. My children all studied in England but now work abroad. Does that imply they will never return to the UK? Your premis regarding who stays and who goes is very weak. You have no valid life long analysis, as that is an oxymoron. You have an opinion masked as fact that, if commercially published, would have to carry the warning that past performance is no guide to future performance.

2) It is a policy of exclusion and institutionalises racism. More graduates will stay if this is the best place for them to work and play. Recognising and valuing other cultures including Britishness is the civilized way of behaving and in our interests as a modern democracy. Disadvantaging a candidate because of their origin is not promoting a tolerant society. Very many people like me come to Scotland with a different accent and pay a price for it. Your discrimination from the top spills over so that discrimination against those from outwith Scotland *seems* to be given respectability. I fear what may be tolerable in banter is in danger of becoming institutionalised into the state.