

Union Council Motion

Motion Title: Decolonising the curriculum to be in line with the SU's core values.

Proposed by Jawad Ahmad

Edited by Ryan Narewal

Motion Passes into Policy on: 12th July 2021

Policy due to lapse by: 12th July 2025

Union Council Notes

1. Due to the current climate and racial prejudice in society. Students across the nation are calling for their respective university course reading lists to be more diverse by including more black and ethnic minority writers.
2. There is a lack of diversity in the curricula delivered by Aston University. This will stifle academic freedom, presenting to Aston students a western history and does not allow them to gain better knowledge from the many other intellectual giants of other cultures.
3. Curricula that derive from Eurocentric material will narrow the student's worldview to be Europe focused will not enable Aston students to broaden their view of the world.
4. Aston University has a very diverse campus with most students coming from BAME backgrounds. However, this is not represented in the delivery of subjects and modules.
5. BAME staff are also poorly represented in both senior academic and university leadership roles: of 19,000 employed as professors in the UK, only 400 are BAME women.
6. Recent data shows, 80.9% of White students received a first/2:1 compared with 67.7% BAME students – this will represent a BAME attainment gap of 13.2% nationally. At Aston the attainment gap is 3-5% with the Bangladeshi students showing the largest gap of 5% compared to white students in 2018 – 2019.

Union Council Believes

1. Aston University should be an inclusive teaching and learning environment. It is worth noting that inclusivity and diversity are a factor in decolonisation, but not the only factors.
2. By decolonising the curriculum it will enable us to call for deeper thinking about the content of our courses and how we teach them.
3. Through decolonisation, Aston University will become more open and more racially and culturally aware which will help to make the university safer for all.
4. Academic schools and disciplines must be more inclusive and represent the student.



5. The burden of tackling systematic changes should not solely fall on the responsibilities of the minority but by all.
6. The University staff should be representative of the student.

Union Council Resolves

1. To ensure that the Students' union updates the Byelaws so that the union will continue its work with the university to decolonise Aston.
2. To lobby that the university must improve diversity among academic staff and representation of the minority.
3. To lobby for the colleges to ensure that their curricula is a reflection of all.