

Annual Student Meeting (Additional Meeting July 2024)

Motion 5: Should the Students' Union lobby Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) to negotiate with the QMUL Encampment for Palestine and agree to the following demands from the Encampment?

Proposer: Muhammad Mohib

Seconder: Hadi Younas, Maeidul Khondaker

What do you want?

1. QMUL should divest from Booking.com, Barclays, Siemens, including financial accounts, and pledge not to invest in or enter a contract with any company in the future that is complicit in the oppression of Palestinians.
2. QMUL should implement a full academic boycott of Israel and Israeli universities including the recent partnerships with Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem under the Universities UK International's (UUKi) scheme and establish links with Palestinian universities.
3. QMUL should disclose all its investments on an annual basis, providing students with continuous financial transparency about all investments.
4. QMUL should ensure that all its spin-off companies sold are, by contract, never used in the field of surveillance or military, such as Vision Semantics Ltd (VSL).
5. QMUL should assure and protect Palestinian identity alongside freedom of speech against Israel by revoking the IHRA definition of antisemitism and adopt the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA).
6. QMUL should establish an academic scholarship scheme specifically for Palestinian students, particularly for those in Gaza, the West Bank, and refugee camps in neighbouring countries.

Why do you want it?

The demands of the QMUL Encampment for Palestine align with the values of QMSU and QMUL in relation to ethics and inclusivity. Furthermore, such demands aim at supporting an ethical approach to QMUL's investments and partnerships.

Pro-Palestinian students on campus have been repeatedly disregarded and belittled by the University management, who have engaged in confrontational and disturbing messaging towards the Encampment throughout its existence.

The demands of the Encampment have been widely supported by QMUL students, staff and alumni, all members of this community. As such, it is reasonable to conclude that there is widespread support from key stakeholders of this University to support the end of QMUL's complicity in the oppression of Palestinians.

The QMSU is an essential point of contact between students and the University. Moreover, the QMSU Executive Officers have previously released statements where they urged the university to be open to dialogue with representatives of the Encampment. Therefore, we believe that it is reasonable to request a more active involvement of the QMSU in lobbying the University to seriously negotiate with the encampment and implement these demands.

What impact will this have?

As students at QMUL we expect our Students' Union and University to uphold the values of honesty and justice. By implementing this motion, we join a wider movement aimed at fighting for the rights of Palestinians to live free from apartheid. It will also stop the complicity of our institution in aiding the subjugation of a long-oppressed people, some of whom are part of the QMUL community itself.

Additionally, this motion will show that there is a democratic mandate from QMUL students for the QMSU to challenge the unethical involvement and crude approach of our University to the Palestinian plight for freedom.

Such a motion will empower students on campus to speak up for the Palestinian cause and help to create a fairer and more inclusive environment for pro-Palestinian voices to be heard.