

Anthony's binding contract?

Dear Prof. Wakeford,

I was informed that you have some experience with students complaining about universities. I was wondering if you can give me some advice regarding my situation. I was enrolled as PhD student at one of the University of London colleges. After having hard time with my supervisor who apparently does not have any previous experience in PhD supervision, he left the college without informing me. The Board of Graduate Studies asked me to submit a MPhil and when I've asked for a supervisor, they told me they cannot supervise me and therefore I have to withdraw from the college. After wasting time going through university complaint procedure, now I've decided to take them to the court to get my fees and costs back.

I really appreciate if you let me know what to do. Is there a possibility of having legal aid to take my case to the court.

Your advice would be very helpful to me and thanks indeed for your time.

Before turning the page, discuss the issues raised and the points you would make in your response

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Dear John,

Thanks a lot for your reply. Here are the answers to your questions:

1. *Were you 'registered' as well as 'enrolled'? If so, what did the letter say?*

I was registered and enrolled when my supervisor left the college. I have it in my student card (stamped every academic year).

on getting my fees back and other costs as a result of their decision (that I should) withdraw from the college, a decision which is by all means unfair.

6. Do I assume that your registration has now ended and that you have given up the hope of pursuing a higher degree?

Yes my registration has ended but the issue is not resolved although it has been now more than three years since my initial complaint. I have just started my PhD this year (at another college) hoping to get some money from my previous college to pay for fees next academic year as I will be crippled with having all these loans.

If you have not already done so, you might also be able to get further free advice from the London Union of Students postgraduate rep, the National Postgraduate Committee (if your College is a member) and possibly the Office of Independent Adjudication for Higher Education. I doubt if you could get legal aid but it might be worth following up.

I have asked for advice everywhere, student union, legal centres... I think there is a possibility of getting some legal aid as one of students did it.

But I have to tell you the other half of the story.

After my supervisor left, the College does not reply to my letters or complaints effectively. I went through litigation with a solicitor. In doing so, the College appointed me a new supervisor but I refuse to carry on my studies at the same College after I went through. So, I've asked for my fees to be transferred to another university, but they refused. So I went through Office of Independent Adjudicator, but they cannot deal with it as three years, since my initial complaint, has elapsed. Again my solicitor asked for my fees and other costs but they still refuse and he advised me to go the court. Now I am trying to get some financial help as I already took a loan to pay for my fees in other university.

Sorry for this long email. I have a lot of documents from the university. You will be puzzled how the university will try to avoid take responsibility for their students.

Please keep me going by offering some hope,
Kind regards
Anthony

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