

Voter Registration for International Students

The UK is holding a Parliamentary General Election on 4 July 2024.

A Parliamentary General Election is where the entire United Kingdom vote to select their local Member of Parliament (MP). These elected MPs will represent their local area in the House of Commons. The party with the most MPs will form a government, and the leader of that party becomes Prime Minister.

Certain international students are eligible to vote in the General Election. As individuals who have rights in the UK, it is important for international students who are eligible to vote to raise their voice and shape the debate in this election. We encourage all those eligible to take part in the election – your vote matters!

Who can vote?

To vote in the General Election on 4 July 2024, an international student must be:

- 18 years of age or over on polling day (4 July 2024), and
- be a British citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, and
- be resident at an address in the UK.

EU citizens are not eligible to vote in Parliamentary General Elections in the UK. Citizens of Cyprus and Malta however are able to vote.

Citizens of the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are eligible to register to vote when resident in the UK.

Commonwealth citizens that are resident in the UK (are living at a UK address), have leave to enter or remain in the UK, or do not require such leave, are eligible to register to vote in the UK.

Citizens of British Overseas Territories are eligible to register when resident in the UK. Former residents of Hong Kong who hold a British Dependent Territories, a British Nationals (Overseas) or British Overseas passport also meet the nationality criteria for all elections in the UK.

You can see the list of Commonwealth countries, British Crown dependencies and British overseas territories [here](#). This is a long list and will apply to many international students studying in the UK.

If you are unsure if you are eligible to vote in the UK, you can consult the [Electoral Commission](#) and election eligibility tools such as canivote.org.uk.

Qualifying Commonwealth citizens

The definition of a 'Commonwealth' citizen includes citizens of British Crown dependencies and British overseas territories. A 'qualifying' Commonwealth citizen is someone who has leave to enter or remain in the UK, or who doesn't require that leave.

Commonwealth countries:

Antigua and Barbuda	Lesotho	St Lucia
Australia	Malawi	St Vincent & The Grenadines
The Bahamas	Malaysia	The Bahamas
Bangladesh	Maldives	The Gambia
Barbados	Malta	Togo
Belize	Mauritius	Tonga
Botswana	Mozambique	Trinidad and Tobago
Brunei Darussalam	Namibia	Tuvalu
Cameroon	Nauru	Uganda
Canada	New Zealand	United Republic of Tanzania
Cyprus	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Dominica	Pakistan	Zambia
Fiji Islands	Papua New Guinea	Zimbabwe
Gabon	Rwanda	
Ghana	Samoa	
Grenada	Seychelles	
Guyana	Sierra Leone	
India	Singapore	
Jamaica	Solomon Islands	
Kenya	South Africa	
Kingdom of Eswatini	Sri Lanka	
Kiribati	St Kitts & Nevis	

This list doesn't include the UK.

Please note:

- Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK.
- Citizens of Zimbabwe retain their voting rights despite the countries having been suspended from the Commonwealth.

British overseas territories

Anguilla
Bermuda
British Antarctic Territory
British Indian Ocean Territory
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Falkland Islands
Gibraltar
Montserrat
Pitcairn Island
St Helena and dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha)
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
Sovereign base areas on Cyprus
Turks and Caicos Islands

Hong Kong

Former residents of Hong Kong who hold a British Overseas Territories, British Nationals (Overseas) or British Overseas passport qualify for registration.

How do you register to vote?

If you have not already done so, you must [apply to join the electoral register](#) before you are able to vote. Your deadline to apply to join the electoral register so that you can vote in the general election is 18 June 2024. This deadline is the same no matter how you plan to vote.

If you wish to **vote by post**, you must [apply separately](#) by 19 June 2024. The easiest way to register is on the Electoral Commission website.

If you wish to **vote by proxy** (another eligible, registered voter votes on your behalf), you must [apply separately](#) by 26 June 2024.

How do you vote?

Once you are registered to vote you are able to vote in three ways:

- [In-person at your local polling station](#)
- [By post](#)
- [By proxy](#) (someone else votes on your behalf)

If you are voting in-person, you will receive a polling card at your address in advance of the election which you should take with you to the polling station (this location will be marked on your polling card). You must bring [photo ID](#) with you to the polling station (this list includes biometric residence permits, passports, and other forms of ID). You will not be able to vote without photo ID.

You are allowed one vote. You do not vote for the Prime Minister in this election, you vote for your local MP. You can see the list of candidates that you can vote for by [entering your postcode online](#). The current Prime Minister or the leader of another political party may be your local MP, in which case they are treated in the same way as all other local MPs that are standing to be elected.

Polling stations open at 7am and close at 10pm on polling day.

What happens after I have voted?

After you have voted you can watch or listen to live media reports on the election results as they happen.

The national election results are published by the Electoral Commission. You can also see the results for your local area.

More Information

- The Electoral Commission:
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>
- Who can vote?
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote>
- Gov.uk:
www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk/general-election
- UKCISA – Your rights:
www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Your-rights