**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](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/register-vote#commonwealth). 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](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/running-electoral-registration-england/eligibility-register-vote/what-are-nationality-requirements-register-vote/can-a-commonwealth-citizen-register-vote#footnote3_laaCoC) and election eligibility tools such as [canivote.org.uk](https://canivote.org.uk/faqs/).

**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 BarbudaAustraliaThe BahamasBangladeshBarbadosBelizeBotswanaBrunei DarussalamCameroonCanadaCyprusDominicaFiji IslandsGabonGhanaGrenadaGuyanaIndiaJamaicaKenya Kingdom of EswatiniKiribati | LesothoMalawiMalaysiaMaldivesMaltaMauritiusMozambiqueNamibiaNauruNew ZealandNigeriaPakistanPapua New GuineaRwandaSamoaSeychellesSierra Leone Singapore Solomon Islands South Africa Sri LankaSt Kitts & Nevis | St LuciaSt Vincent & The GrenadinesThe BahamasThe GambiaTogoTongaTrinidad and TobagoTuvaluUgandaUnited Republic of TanzaniaVanuatuZambiaZimbabwe |

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 Fiji and 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

Monserrat

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.

**Qualifying European Union citizens**

You can register to vote if you are a citizen of:

* Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Spain who is resident in the UK, has permission to enter or stay in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, or who does not need permission
* any other EU country who on or before 31 December 2020 was legally resident in the UK, had permission to enter or stay in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, or who did not need permission, and this has continued without a break

The other EU countries are:

Austria

Belgium

Bulgaria

Croatia

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Estonia

Finland

France

Germany

Greece

Hungary

Italy

Latvia

Lithuania

Malta

Netherlands

Romania

Slovakia

Slovenia

Sweden

Qualifying EU citizens (excluding Cyprus, Malta and Ireland) can register to vote in local elections, and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus, Malta and Ireland are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK.

**How do you register to vote?**

If you have not already done so, you must [apply to join the electoral register](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) 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](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/postal-voting)](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/postal-voting) 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](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/voting-by-proxy)](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/voting-by-proxy) 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](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/voting-in-person?step-by-step-nav=ff81c31c-3282-49df-85a4-013887130110#content)
* [By post](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/postal-voting)
* [By proxy](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/voting-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](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need) 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.](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information) 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](http://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](https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Your-rights)