

NUS MANIFESTO

GENERAL ELECTION 2019



THIS IS THE ELECTION OF OUR LIVES. The last few years have seen the UK divided. Hate crime is on the rise. Austerity has exhausted everyone. Public promises have turned into lies. Money-making competition has failed. And 'me before you' culture has made us ever more isolated.

Investment is falling, in our education, in our health, in our businesses. Crises are growing; climate change, social care, and more. Our society is failing, but we can change this.

History shows that when students lead, political leaders follow. The NHS was still a pipe dream in the 30s when students were fighting for students' access to universal healthcare. Many viewed Apartheid, LGBT+ and women's rights, as eccentric or marginal causes, when students campaigned in the 1960s and 70s. Climate change was widely mocked when we pushed our first environmental awareness ideas in the 1970s and 80s; and #MeToo was still over a decade away when we gathered our first evidence of sexual violence and harassment on our campuses.

When students lead we achieve change for the better. When students lead we fight for everyone; improvements to our rights improve everyone's rights. When students lead we blaze a trail for those here now and those who come after. When students lead we can reset our society, so it works for the good of us all.

When students lead we can have an education system for the benefit of all; an end to Brexit in the public interest and a healthy society for the good of everyone.

Look at our history, look at our manifesto. There are answers out there, just listen.

Zamzam Ibrahim, NUS National President

#whenstudentslead

nus
national union of students

nus scotland
national union of students

nus wales
national union of students

ucm cymru
undeb cenedlaethol y myfyrwyr

nus
usi
Northern Ireland

NUS MANIFESTO

GENERAL ELECTION 2019

#whenstudentslead
**We fight for an education system
for the benefit of all**

Education is the fuel for our society and economy. It is the gateway to equality. It's where we'll find solutions to climate change. It's how we get qualified to get a job and re-train when the world changes.

Despite education being the key to our future, politicians have failed to deliver a coherent strategy in more than a decade, and overall spend on education has fallen. The election should be used to put this right. While education funding is a devolved issue, policymakers must be aware of the impact their decisions can have across the UK.

The market has failed us. It's time for a National Education Service which is accessible, funded, and life-long.

#whenstudentslead
**WHEN
STUDENTS
LEAD**



#whenstudentsvote

When students vote we'll be voting for parties that commit to:

- 1 Work to develop a new post-16 education system in England which is accessible, funded and lifelong
- 2 Move from a marketised approach to education to one where cooperation, partnership and collaboration are central
- 3 Restore maintenance grants across further and higher education
- 4 Improve apprentice and student rights and protections
- 5 Abolish the Prevent Duty in further and higher education

NUS MANIFESTO

GENERAL ELECTION 2019

#whenstudentslead

We fight to end Brexit in the
public interest

Cracks in our society are coming to the fore. Brexit has created political paralysis and too often a less tolerant and more fearful society. Meanwhile, students and young people have been ignored by too many politicians, even though it is their future that will be decided in the next few months.

Brexit dominates this general election. We must take this opportunity so students and young people have their voice heard, tell our leaders what they want our relationship with our closest neighbours to be, and reject the narrow-minded, insular attitude that threatens to make the UK the poorer socially and financially.

#whenstudentslead
**WHEN
STUDENTS
LEAD**



#whenstudentsvote

When students vote we'll be voting for parties who commit to and candidates who endorse seven essential policies; those who will:

- 1 Hold a People's Vote on any Brexit deal agreed by the UK Parliament
- 2 Guarantee EU funding which supports access to further education will be replaced in the event of Brexit
- 3 Guarantee EU funding which supported research in higher education will be replaced in the event of Brexit
- 4 Protect inward and outward student mobility post-Brexit, including participation in Erasmus+ or any successor schemes and cross-border study on the island of Ireland
- 5 Create a fair immigration system for all migrants including international students, with an expedited legal guarantee of a post-study work visa lasting at least two years for international students
- 6 Ensure no hard border on the island of Ireland and protect the Good Friday agreement
- 7 Secure medical supplies from the risk of a no deal Brexit

NUS MANIFESTO

GENERAL ELECTION 2019

#whenstudentslead

**We fight to build a healthy society
for the good of everyone**

For students to thrive in their education they must be able to live and work in a healthy society. They must be able to access support for mental or physical health needs. They have a right to safe and affordable housing. They need to have their voices represented and not be faced with unfair constraints when voting. And as a society we have to address the climate crisis to safeguard our future.

The election is an opportunity to send a key message on these basic rights, not only for the benefit of students but of society as a whole. NUS wants parties standing in this election to commit to seven policies, and we encourage all students and young people to consider voting for parties and candidates who endorse them. It is also very important for all parties to recognise the effects of their decisions on Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, even in areas where policy is devolved.



#whenstudentsvote

When students vote we want:

- 1 Invest in the NHS to address the mental health crisis
- 2 Tackle the spiralling costs of student accommodation and ensure rooms are accessible to all students
- 3 Ensure all those in post-16 education can access healthcare – from an end to prescription charges on apprentices to abolishing the health surcharge levied on international students across the UK
- 4 Invest in healthcare students to ensure the future of the NHS workforce
- 5 Extend the provision of transition related healthcare services across the UK
- 6 Protect the integrity of our democracy and ensure that politics is accessible to all students
- 7 Take urgent action on the climate crisis