

# General Election Manifesto Toolkit

This is a toolkit to be used to find out the views of your local candidates on the issues that are important to students.

## Informing students

This election will be crucial for our students and so we want to make sure that they make an informed choice at the ballot box. NUS Scotland has produced a manifesto for this election with the key policies that we would like to see all parties commit to. While party policy will be one determinant of how students vote, the politics of individual candidates standing in your local constituency will also be very important. We have produced a [briefing](#) to help you to find out what some of the views of your local candidates are. This is a toolkit with some resources to help you to question candidates further, along with questions that you can send them to give them an opportunity to express in what ways they are committed to the policies in our manifesto.

If you would like more information on any of the policy areas covered, either for yourself or to inform candidates, we have produced a [policy briefing to accompany the manifesto](#). All of these can be found on the General Election Hub.

This toolkit contains a draft letter to send to candidates, and questions to send to candidates on each of our asks from our manifesto.

If your institution provides apprentice training, it might also be worth questioning candidates on issues important for apprentices. For some ideas as to what these might be look at the [manifesto](#) from the National Society of Apprentices.

## How to find your local candidates

It might be the case that your students are spread across multiple constituencies. If so you will need to make a decision as to whether you want to focus your activities on one of these constituencies or target the candidates in all of them. The briefing on choosing constituencies should help you to decide this.

A full list of local candidates will be published on the website of your local council. You can find your local council [here](#).

[democraticdashboard.com](#) can be used to search for all the candidates in your constituency and to find out how best to contact them.

Address line 1  
Address line 2  
Town/City  
Postcode

Date

Dear ...,

I am writing to you as the ... of ... Students' Union to enquire about your views on the issues that matter most to students ahead of the upcoming election on 12th December. As a candidate running to be MP for ..., if elected you will represent thousands of students and so we want to make sure that you will represent our views. Having the support of this group of students will also be essential for you getting elected.

As you may have already seen the National Union of Students Scotland (NUS Scotland) have launched a manifesto for this election containing the key policies that students will be looking to all parties to commit to when it comes to voting. While party policy is decided at a national level the views of local candidates will also be very important to inform students ahead of polling day. I am therefore writing to you to seek your views on all policies that are contained within this manifesto. I have attached a document containing all of these policies and would be most grateful if you could reply to this detailing –

- Whether you agree that this policy should be implemented by the next government and if not why not.
- How you can demonstrate your commitment to this policy.
- Whether you commit to always voting in favour of this policy should you be elected as our MP.

Please do fill this in for all policies that you feel you are able to answer. We plan to publish your answers, and any non-answers, to our students so that they may be informed of your views and we will take your reply as an indication of your consent for us to do so.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have or to provide further information on any of the policies.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

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[www.nus.org.uk/scotland](http://www.nus.org.uk/scotland)

**nus** *scotland*  
national union of **students**

## An end to Brexit for the public good

Students and young people have been ignored by too many politicians throughout the Brexit process. Yet it is students and young people that stand to lose the most. That's why it is crucial that their voices are heard in this general election.

<b>Do you back a People's Vote on any Brexit deal agreed by the UK Government?</b>	
<b>In the event of Brexit, do you support replacement of EU funding which currently supports vocational and further education, and research in higher education?</b>	
<b>Do you support outward student mobility post-Brexit, including participation in Erasmus+ or any successor schemes?</b>	
<b>What will you do to back a fair immigration system for all migrants including international students?</b>	

## An education system for the public good

While education is devolved, public funding available for education and skills in Scotland goes up or down due to decisions taken by the UK Parliament. For more than a decade, overall spend on education in England has fallen. The next UK Parliament must reverse this decade of decline and, in doing so, make additional funds available for apprenticeships, further and higher education in Scotland.

There are a range of issues which are reserved to the UK Parliament and impact on the daily lives of apprentices and students in Scotland.

<b>Right now universal credit recipients in Scotland have more of their benefit cut if they are eligible for student support, compared to their counterparts in England and Wales. This needs to get sorted between the Scottish and UK governments. What will you do to make sure this happens?</b>	
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<b>Do you support payment of the Real Living Wage to all workers of all ages including apprentices?</b>	
<b>Will you commit to abolishing the Prevent Duty in further and higher education?</b>	

## A healthy society for the public good

For students to thrive, they need to be supported by, and contribute to, a healthy society. Many of the decisions taken in the UK Parliament will have an impact on students and Scottish society as a whole.

<b>Do you back votes at 16 for all future elections and referenda?</b>	
<b>Will you oppose the introduction of voter ID schemes?</b>	
<b>Will you commit to scrapping the health surcharge for international students?</b>	
<b>What action will you take to tackle the climate crisis?</b>	