

# NUS WALES MANIFESTO

GENERAL ELECTION 2019

#whenstudentslead

WHEN  
STUDENTS  
LEAD



When students vote, they vote progressively for a fairer society, opportunities for all, and a sustainable future. And when students lead, they lead the way on equal education, a healthier society, and climate justice.

Let's reset our society so that the wider, public good of all our citizens is the driving force behind our policy and actions. Our manifesto focuses on three principles for action:

## An end to Brexit for the public good

**The last few years have seen the UK divided.** 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. Yet it is the future generations who stand to lose most.

Brexit dominates this general election. We call on all politicians to reject the narrow-minded, insular attitude that threatens to make the UK poorer – socially and financially.



NUS Wales wants parties standing in these elections to commit to these essential policies:

- 1 Hold a People's Vote on any Brexit deal agreed by the UK Parliament.
- 2 Guarantee that Wales' share of a post-Brexit Shared Prosperity Fund is devolved to the Senedd.
- 3 Guarantee that the levels of funding for Wales through current EU structural funds are not diminished in any way post-Brexit.
- 4 Give protections for EU nationals who are apprentices post-Brexit.
- 5 Protect inward and outward student mobility across the EU and the world post-Brexit, including participation in Erasmus+ or any successor schemes, as well as cross-border study on the island of Ireland.
- 6 Create a fair immigration system for all migrants, including international students, with post-study work visas lasting at least two years.
- 7 Ensure no hard border on the island of Ireland and protect the Good Friday agreement.
- 8 Secure medical supplies to limit the risk from a no deal Brexit.

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## An education system for the public good

**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.

Whilst the politicians elected to UK Parliament predominantly legislate on the English system, NUS Wales knows that through its decisions, budgets can grow or shrink. For more than a decade, overall spend on education in England has fallen. The next UK Parliament should put this right with due regard to the knock-on effect its decisions have to students studying in Wales.

## A healthy society for the public good

**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.

Many of the decisions that UK Parliament will take on these issues will only be made for students in England. Yet the funding decisions will either grow or shrink the funds available for our Senedd in Wales. Just as we ask UK Parliament to give due regard to its decisions on education, we ask for the same in areas of health, housing and the environment.

All parties should commit to:

- 1 Improve apprentice and student rights and protections.
- 2 Abolish the Prevent Duty in further and higher education.

All parties should commit to:

- 1 Protect the integrity of our democracy and ensure that politics is accessible to all students.
- 2 Scrap the health surcharge for international students.
- 3 Take urgent action on the climate crisis.