

# NUS SCOTLAND MANIFESTO

## GENERAL ELECTION 2019

#whenstudentslead

**WHEN  
STUDENTS  
LEAD**



Students, and the communities they live in, are facing daily challenges caused by Brexit, poverty, austerity, the housing crisis, debt, punitive immigration policy, and precarious work, to name just a few. Divisions in our society at every level have an impact on the quality of life of our citizens. We need to reset our society so that the wider public good of all our citizens is the driving force in policy. NUS Scotland's manifesto focuses on three principles for action:

- An end to Brexit for the public good
- A fully funded education sector for the public good
- A healthy society for the public good

## 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.

NUS Scotland is calling for candidates in this election to:

- 1 Back a People's Vote on any Brexit deal agreed by the UK Parliament.
- 2 Guarantee the replacement of EU funding which currently supports access to vocational and further education, and research in higher education in the event of Brexit
- 3 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
- 4 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
- 5 Ensure no hard border on the island of Ireland and protect the Good Friday agreement
- 6 Secure medical supplies from the risk of a no deal Brexit



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## 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.

NUS Scotland is calling on all political parties to:

- 1 Work with the Scottish Government to ensure that no student in Scotland in receipt of benefit entitlement loses out because they are in receipt of student cost-of-living support
- 2 Commit to a Real Living Wage for all workers regardless of age, including apprentices
- 3 Abolish the Prevent Duty, a strand of the UK Government's counterterrorism strategy which has long been criticised for being racist and Islamophobic, in further and higher education



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## 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.



NUS Scotland is calling for political parties to:

- 1 Ensure politics is accessible to all by introducing votes at 16 for all elections and referenda, and opposing the introduction of voter ID
- 2 Invest in the NHS with additional resources available for healthcare in Scotland
- 3 Abolish the health surcharge levied on international students across the UK
- 4 Take urgent action on the climate crisis

## #whenstudentsvote

**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