

# General Election 2017: Manifesto for the Mobility of Talent

Ahead of the General Election on 8 June, NUS Scotland, UCU Scotland and Universities Scotland jointly call on all political parties to include progressive, regional immigration and mobility policies amongst their plan for Government.

We want to see the next UK Government:

**1. Introduce a new post-study work visa in Scotland to allow qualified international graduates from further and higher education to stay in Scotland to work and contribute to the economy.**

The detail of that policy should enable Scotland to be competitive with universities in the US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Ireland.

Scotland attracts 31,000 students from outside the European Union to study in its universities, generating significant economic and cultural benefits for Scotland. Yet most of this highly-skilled and young demographic is forced to return home before joining Scotland's workforce meaning Scotland's business sector and public services lose out on talent as a result.

Public opinion in Scotland supports a policy change. A recent poll found 83% of Scots support the idea that international students should remain in Scotland to work for a period after they graduate rather than immediately returning to their home country. 67% of Scots think the economic impact of international students helps to create jobs. Only 27% of Scots think of international students as immigrants.

**2 To secure arrangements that enable students and staff from the EU and EAA to continue to move freely to Scotland without visa restrictions, to work and reside in the UK without limits on their ability to access public services.**

Scotland's universities are home to more than 4,500 EU staff. EU nationals account for more than one in ten of our staff and make up almost one in four of our world-class researchers. They are a much-valued part of our academic community and a significant contributor to what makes Scottish higher education so competitive. Their careers and their homes are in Scotland. We need to ensure they retain the right to reside, to work, and the right to use public services after Brexit.

### **3 To protect and create opportunities for the outward mobility of Scottish students after Brexit.**

More and more students in our universities are now taking-up opportunities to study and work abroad. The number of students going to Europe through Erasmus+ have grown by more than fifty per cent over the last 7 years. We do not want to see the door closed on these opportunities just as our home students are realising the benefits.

Higher education is devolved to the Scottish Parliament however some issues that directly affect Scotland's higher education sector, including immigration, are reserved to Westminster. Our manifesto ask focuses only on the reserved issue of immigration, not other devolved issues on which NUS Scotland, UCU and US agree.

#### **About our organisations**

**NUS Scotland** is the key voice for students in Scotland, working to promote, defend and extend the rights of students.

**UCU Scotland** represents academics, lecturers, trainers, instructors, researchers, managers, administrators, computer staff, librarians and postgraduates in universities and higher education institutions across Scotland .

**Universities Scotland** represents the Principals and Directors of Scotland's 19 higher education institutions.

There will be other issues upon which our respective organisations take a different perspective. That is our right as organisations which represent different memberships. However, where this happens this does not detract from our shared values.

For more information about our organisations please visit:

[NUS Scotland](#) | [UCU Scotland](#) | [Universities Scotland](#)

