













WONKHE	General election 2024: What the parties say on students and universities			
	Student finance & Student maintenance	Uni funding	Student experience	International
	<p>Ensure loan repayments do not exceed borrowed amount in real terms, (lower repayment thresholds and extended terms mean more graduates will pay more)</p>	<p>Cut "low-value courses" to fund 100,000 new apprenticeships Close university courses in England with poor outcomes - high drop-out rates or negative financial impacts Lifelong Learning Entitlement to start in 2025, offering adults loans for new qualifications No mention of student hardship or maintenance support rates</p>	<p>Work with universities to ensure students get the contact hours they are promised and their exams get marked.</p>	<p>End ability of international students to bring dependants Increase salary threshold for Skilled Worker visas Require international students to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge in full and raise it to £1,035 Require migrants to undergo a health check in advance of travel Ensure international students can integrate into communities and participate in the economy</p>
	<p>Proposes to review higher education funding, including examination of student finance reforms to ensure access, participation, and quality.</p> <p>Mentions making maintenance grants for disadvantaged students available immediately. Studying the current finance system for reforms.</p>	<p>Comprehensive strategy for post-16 education, guaranteeing training, an apprenticeship, or help to find work for all 18- to 21-year-olds</p> <p>"Skills England" to unite business, training providers, unions, and government for a highly trained workforce</p> <p>Reform Apprenticeships Levy into a flexible Growth and Skills Levy Support research institutions - ten-year budgets for research</p>	<p>Improve access to universities and raise teaching standards</p> <p>Set out the role for different providers in its post-16 skills strategy</p> <p>Enable students to move between institutions and strengthen regulation</p>	<p>Reform the points-based system to be fair and properly managed</p> <p>Impose appropriate visa restrictions and link immigration to skills policy</p> <p>Ensure employers and recruitment agents do not abuse the visa system</p>
	<p>Establish review of higher education finance</p> <p>Avoid retrospective raising of rates or selling loans to private companies</p> <p>Reinstate maintenance grants for disadvantaged students to ensure living costs are not a barrier</p> <p>Deliver Sharia-compliant student finance</p>	<p>Guarantee apprentices are paid at least the National Minimum Wage by scrapping the lower apprentice rate.</p> <p>Create "Lifelong Skills Grants" with £5,000 for all adults to spend on education and training, aiming to increase to £10,000 when finances allow</p> <p>Continue participation in Horizon Europe and join the European Innovation Council.</p> <p>3% of GDP to be invested in research and development by 2030, rising to 3.5% by 2034</p> <p>Invest in education and training, including increasing the availability of apprenticeships and career advice for young people</p>	<p>Statutory Student Mental Health Charter and require universities to make mental health services accessible to their students</p> <p>Give unis a statutory duty of care for their students</p> <p>Expand opportunities for young people to study, teach, and volunteer abroad by returning to the Erasmus Plus programme</p>	<p>Transfer policy-making over overseas students out of the Home Office and into other departments</p> <p>Report international student flows separately from estimates of long-term migration</p> <p>Extend participation of devolved administrations in developing UK-wide policy on student visas to ensure rules are sensitive to regional and sectoral skills needs</p>
	<p>Fully fund every higher education student</p> <p>Restore maintenance grants and scrap undergraduate tuition fees</p> <p>Plan to cancel graduate debt in the long term</p> <p>Introduce a Universal Basic Income (UBI) to provide financial security for everyone to start a business, study, train, or live with dignity</p>	<p>Work with unis to address challenges related to changes in employer contributions for the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)</p> <p>Increase investment in research and development by over £30bn during the five-year parliament, focusing on the climate and environmental crisis</p> <p>Partner with universities on Research and Development, emphasise international collaboration, and support research in the Global South</p>	<p>Rejoin the Erasmus Programme, enabling students to study for a year in another European country</p>	<p>Campaign to abolish the No Recourse to Public Funds condition</p> <p>Extend the right to vote in all elections and referendums to all visa-holding residents</p> <p>Simplify and expedite the visa application process with empathy and intelligence</p> <p>Charge visa application fees only at cost</p> <p>Ensure migrants with visas have free and comprehensive access to the NHS</p> <p>Allow migrants, including students, to bring family members who would normally live with them in their country of origin</p>
	<p>Scrap interest on student loans</p> <p>Extend student loan repayment periods to 45 years</p> <p>Write off fee loans pro-rata over 10 years of NHS service for doctors, nurses, and medical staff</p>	<p>Impose heavy financial penalties on universities allowing political bias or cancel culture</p>	<p>Restrict undergraduate numbers well below current levels due to concerns about course quality and student value</p> <p>Enforce minimum entry standards for university courses</p>	<p>Implement strict limits on immigration to relieve pressure on housing, public services, increase wages, and protect culture, identity, and values, with exceptions for essential healthcare skills</p> <p>Introduce new visa rules for international students barring dependents and allow only those with essential skills to remain</p>

			<p>Compel universities to provide 2-year undergraduate courses to reduce student debt and facilitate earlier entry into employment</p> <p>Introduce permanent exclusions for violent and disruptive students</p> <p>De-politicize the College of Policing by replacing the degree-standard entry requirement with an entrance exam</p>	<p>Close down fake courses that abuse the rules</p> <p>Introduce an employer immigration tax by raising the National Insurance rate to 20% for foreign workers</p>
	<p>Make university education free for all as an ultimate ambition</p> <p>Implement an apprenticeship living wage and support "colleges" in reducing financial burdens on students with initiatives like free travel and free meals</p> <p>Propose a Lifetime Learning Allowance with grants, loans, and free provision for lifelong learning</p> <p>£5,000 grant to Personal Learning Accounts for individuals over 25 to train or retrain, with additional loans for expensive courses and maintenance costs</p> <p>Trial the Lifetime Learning Allowance with those recently made redundant</p> <p>Provide tuition and maintenance loans for Levels 4, 5, and 6, including vocational qualifications, to all adults over 18</p> <p>Reverse the decline in part-time and mature study by offering more blended learning options and varied course lengths</p> <p>Support the principle of universal basic income (UBI) and back pilot programs</p>	<p>Expand student numbers at Welsh universities by attracting more Welsh-domiciled students and retaining UK and overseas students</p> <p>Collaborate to support flexible pathways into higher education, recognizing prior learning, and promoting short courses</p> <p>Increase government investment in Research and Development</p> <p>Seek to devolve Wales's share of UK Research and Innovation expenditure</p>	<p>Review the Seren programme to increase access for disadvantaged learners</p> <p>Offer summer schools at each Welsh university</p>	<p>Oppose Conservative proposals to increase skilled worker and family visa thresholds and fees</p> <p>Retain the graduate route visa</p> <p>Advocate for ending clauses like "No Recourse to Public Funds."</p> <p>Support greater powers for Wales over migration</p>
	<p>Defend free university tuition in Scotland.</p> <p>Demand an essentials guarantee for basic necessities.</p>	<p>No mention other than on fees</p>	<p>Call for re-entry to the Erasmus+ scheme to widen educational opportunities for Scotland's future generations</p>	<p>Devolve powers to create a bespoke migration system for Scotland.</p> <p>Value those who work, live, study, and invest in Scotland.</p>

	Health	Travel	Work	Renting	Plus
	<p>Implement Cass Review to protect young people questioning gender</p> <p>Stop routine NHS use of puberty blockers for gender dysphoria</p> <p>Open early support hubs for those aged 11-25 in every local community</p> <p>Expand NHS Talking Therapies by 50% to support those with anxiety, stress, and depression</p>	<p>Extend £2 bus fare cap in England</p> <p>Allocate £4.7 billion for transport priorities in smaller cities, towns, and rural areas in the North and Midlands</p> <p>Fund Northern Powerhouse Rail and the Midlands Rail Hub</p> <p>Provide £1 billion to support new bus routes in the North and Midlands</p> <p>Make accessibility improvements at 100 train stations</p>	<p>Maintain the National Living Wage at two-thirds of median earnings each year of the next Parliament, projected to be around £13 per hour.</p>	<p>Pass the Renters Reform Bill to deliver fairness in the rental market for landlords and renters.</p> <p>Abolish Section 21 and strengthen other grounds for landlords to evict private tenants guilty of anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>Implement a Registration Scheme to address concerns about China's influence</p> <p>Bring back the Bill to ban public bodies from imposing their own boycott or divestment campaigns against foreign countries and territories</p> <p>Require police to publish regular guidance on statements, chants, or symbols that may constitute an offence during political protests</p> <p>Explore ways for the police to recover costs of policing disruptive protests</p>
	<p>Improve mental health care by reducing waiting times and intervening earlier</p> <p>Recruit 8,500 new staff to treat children and adults, focusing on those at risk of suicide</p> <p>Establish new "Young Futures" hubs to provide open access mental health services for children and young people in every community</p>	<p>Modernise transport infrastructure by overhauling railways and bringing them into public ownership</p> <p>Create Great British Railways for unified, efficient services and introduce a new passenger watchdog</p> <p>Ensure rail services are reliable, affordable, and high-quality</p> <p>Reform bus system by granting local leaders the power to franchise services</p>	<p>Ban exploitative zero-hours contracts and introduce basic rights from day one for parental leave, sick pay, and protection from unfair dismissal</p> <p>Strengthen collective voice of workers and create a Single Enforcement Body to uphold employment rights</p> <p>Ensure minimum wage is a living wage, adjusting for the cost of living and removing discriminatory age bands</p>	<p>Overhaul regulation of the private rented sector by abolishing Section 21 "no fault" evictions</p> <p>Prevent exploitation of and discrimination against private renters and empower tenants to challenge unreasonable rent increases</p> <p>Ensure homes in the private rented sector meet minimum energy efficiency standards by 2030</p>	<p>Update rules around counter-extremism to stop radicalisation and hateful ideologies</p> <p>Bring down cost of energy and reduce food prices by removing barriers to businesses trading</p> <p>Improve voter registration, address inconsistencies in voter ID rules, and give 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in all elections</p>
	<p>Improve early access to mental health services via mental health hubs and mental health check-ups</p> <p>Open walk-in hubs for young people in every community</p> <p>Extend young people's mental health services up to the age of 25</p> <p>Increase access to clinically effective talking therapies</p> <p>Focus on preventing and treating eating disorders and challenging weight stigma</p> <p>Make prescriptions free for chronic mental health conditions</p> <p>Support public education initiatives like Time to Talk</p> <p>Recognise link between mental health and debt to ensure better support</p>	<p>Introduce a "Young Person's Buscard" to give 19- to 25-year-olds a third off bus and tram fares</p>	<p>Establish independent review to recommend a genuine living wage across all sectors</p> <p>Introduce new "dependent contractor" status with basic rights like minimum earnings, sick pay, and holiday entitlement for gig economy workers</p> <p>Set a 20% higher minimum wage for zero-hour contract workers during normal demand</p> <p>Allow right to request fixed-hours contracts after 12 months for zero-hour and agency workers</p>	<p>Ban no-fault evictions and make three-year tenancies the default</p> <p>Establish a national register of licensed landlords</p>	<p>Tackle rising food prices through a "National Food Strategy"</p> <p>Boost participation in sports and physical activity by investing in leisure centres, swimming pools, grassroots facilities, and supporting community sports clubs</p> <p>Expand Youth Mobility Scheme by negotiating with the EU to extend it, increasing the age limit from 30 to 35, and abolishing fees for these visas</p>
	<p>Ensure rights of those struggling with mental health are respected and supported by a legal framework</p> <p>Focus on major improvements to mental health care, equating it with physical health care</p> <p>Ensure access to evidence-based mental health therapies within 28 days for everyone</p>	<p>Push for local authority control of buses and fund enhancements to urban bus services</p> <p>Call for publicly owned railways with affordable fares and rapid electrification</p>	<p>Propose a £15 minimum wage for all ages</p> <p>Legislate for full employment rights from day one</p> <p>Fund the enforcement of workers' rights</p> <p>Campaign for safe sick pay to benefit workers, employers, and public health</p>	<p>Empower local authorities to introduce rent controls</p> <p>End no-fault evictions</p> <p>Allow tenants to insist landlords access property-linked finance for improvements, with landlords repaying the debt without passing costs to tenants</p> <p>Introduce long-term leases and give renters the right to demand energy efficiency improvements</p>	<p>Develop evidence-based reform of drug laws, focusing on reducing harm</p> <p>Protect night-time economy by reviewing planning regulations and empowering local authorities to ensure space for cultural life</p> <p>Exempt cultural events, such as theatre, museum tickets, and gigs in local pubs, from paying VAT</p>

	Provide tailored mental health services for communities of colour, children and adolescents, older people, and LGBTQIA+ communities		Introduce a single legal status of "worker" with full rights from day one for gig economy workers	Establish Private Residential Tenancy Boards for cost-effective and speedy dispute resolution	Call for an immediate bilateral ceasefire in the Israel-Gaza conflict, the return of hostages, condemn both the murder of Israeli civilians by Hamas and Israeli war crimes against Palestinian civilians Recognize state of Palestine and end all UK arms exports to and military cooperation with Israel
		Scrap HS2 to save £25 billion Stop the war on drivers by banning ULEZ Clean Air Zones and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods Enhance existing rail and road links with integrated services		Boost the monitoring, appeals, and enforcement process for renters with grievances	Reform the postal voting system to prevent electoral fraud, and introduce proportional representation voting for the House of Commons Propose a comprehensive Free Speech Bill to stop left-wing bias and politically correct ideology, end cancel culture, left-wing hate mobs, and political bias in public institutions
	Transferring full powers over the Mental Health Act to Wales	Advocate for the re-nationalisation of railways and major bus services in Wales and the UK Support the regulation of buses and integration of bus and rail services to prioritise passengers' needs over private company profits Propose a young people's Bus Pass	Support legislation to tackle insecure work Abolish compulsory zero-hours contracts Establish the right to disconnect from work outside normal hours	Propose a Right to Adequate Housing Bill in Wales to introduce rent controls to make housing more affordable	Support for non-violent protest as a democratic right Support voting at 16, ending voter ID requirements, and implementing proportional representation with a preference for the Single Transferable Vote system Call for a ceasefire in Gaza, release of hostages, negotiated end to the conflict, recognition of Palestine, condemnation of violence by Hamas and the Israeli government, and accountability for Israeli ministers Oppose anti-boycott legislation and support methods like boycotts, divestment, and sanctions
	Demand a radical public health approach to tackle the drugs death crisis. Decriminalise drugs for personal use.	Call for the UK Government to transfer full powers for integrating track and train to Scotland.	Demand the UK Government devolve employment rights and the minimum wage to Scotland. Argue to scrap exploitative practices and close the gender pay gap. Propose a single worker status, scrap the sick pay threshold		Demand the UK Government restore freedom of movement within the EU. Introduce "Martyr's Law" to ensure "open access" venues have terror prevention plans. Demand the UK Government extend the voting age to 16 and eligibility to all residents, including international students and refugees. Call for the repeal of Voter ID legislation and advocate for automatic voter registration.