
Elections Guidance for International Students

Worcester Students' Union holds elections every spring to elect three sabbatical officers. These officers then take up their role in that following summer (normally in June) and work for the Students' Union for a year, representing all students studying at University of Worcester. Worcester Students' Union's student elections have no connection with local government elections, and there is no requirement to register to vote. As long as you are a registered University of Worcester student, you can get involved - you can run as a candidate and / or vote in the elections!

As an international student, you can stand for election (which means you become a candidate in the election and students can vote to elect you into this position), and if necessary, you can extend your stay in the UK in order to work full-time as a Students' Union Sabbatical Officer.

Prior to October 2020, international students were granted a Tier 4 visa in order to study in the UK. From the 5th October 2020, 'Student permission' replaced 'Tier 4 (General) student leave'. The Student route now includes both students who apply for immigration permission on or after 5th October 2020 and holders of Tier 4 (General) student immigration permission.

The Student route allows students to work full time as Elected Students' Union (Sabbatical) Officers at the students' union associated with their place of study (or elected National Union of Students officers) for up to two 2 years. Effectively the Home Office considers this period of employment as part of the course of study.

If any international student studying at University of Worcester wishes to run for a Students' Union Officer role, the University of Worcester can still sponsor their visa. If you are an international student interested in running in the election, you will just need to have a meeting with [International Experience Team](#) to understand the implications, especially if you are choosing to run before you graduate (so you are taking a year out of your studies to do the role).

You can find a lot more information about extending your visa if you run in our elections on the UK Council for International Student Affairs website [here](#).

You can also find the legal guidance put together by National Union of Students post-Brexit [here](#).

Steps to take:

- Consider if you'd be interested in running in the Students' Union Elections (nominations close on 19th February 2024 so make sure you leave plenty of time!)
 - Read through all our Election Rules and Guides on the [Candidate Information Hub](#)
 - Read through the [UK Council for International Student Affairs advice](#)
 - Book a meeting with the [International Experience Team](#) to explore the implications for you and what process you may need to follow
 - [Book a meeting](#) with the Student Voice Team or drop us an [email](#) if you have any questions at all!
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