**Register to Vote and Voter ID – 2024**

(Summary of information for students)

Aims:

Spread the message about registering to vote and needing voter ID ahead of 2 May local elections (and in anticipation of the general election which will take place before 25 January 2025).

Uni ID cards are NOT classed as an accepted form of Voter ID so there’s information here as to what’s needed and how to get a free voter ID if you don’t already have one.

Electoral commission info and assets to download at this link: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/partner-charity-or-local-council>

Additional message around reliable sources/misinformation (more on this ahead of general election)

Background**:

Polling day – Thursday 2 May 2024**Exeter City Council is holding elections for Exeter City Councillors and the Police & Crime Commissioner for the Devon and Cornwall area.

Cornwall Council is holding elections for Police & Crime Commissioner for the Devon and Cornwall area.

Students’ home areas may vary.

Students can vote at local elections in both their home and Uni addresses, as long as they are in separate election areas. They must register to vote at both addresses. (You can only vote once in any distinct election – and in one area in a general election).

Some key deadlines:

* **Tuesday 16 April - Register to vote in 2 May elections**
* Wednesday 17 April: apply for a postal vote (you must already be registered to vote)
* Wednesday 24 April: apply for a proxy vote (you must already be registered to vote)
* Wednesday 24 April: apply for free Voter ID (you must already be registered to vote)

There is a page for students on our website with all the relevant info and links <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/yourvoice/registertovote/>

Messages for student channels – drip feed from 26 Feb through March.

DEVON

**Are you ready to be heard? Register to vote.**

Elections for [Exeter City Council](https://exeter.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections-and-voting/electoral-services/information-for-students/), the [Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner](https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/) and some other local authorities will be taking place on Thursday 2 May 2024. The next UK General Election will be happening some time before the end of January 2025. To vote, you have to be on the electoral register.

Registering to vote takes just 5 minutes, then you’re all set to have your say on the issues that matter to you. To vote in May’s local elections, you must [register to vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) by the deadline on Tuesday 16 April.

**Who can vote?**

In England you can vote in [local government elections](https://www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk/local-government) and [Police and Crime Commissioner elections](https://www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk/police-and-crime-commissioner) if you are registered to vote, are 18 years or over, a British, Irish, Commonwealth or European Union Member State citizen and resident at an address in the local council / Police and Crime Commissioner area, including halls of residence.

If your home and University addresses are in two different council / Police and Crime Commissioner areas, you may be able to vote in both areas as these are classed as separate elections. You must [register in both areas](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/students).

If you’ve moved home since you registered to vote, you’ll need to register at your new address.

You may also be able to arrange for a [postal vote](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post) or [proxy vote](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-proxy) so you can still vote if you can’t get to the polling station in person on 2 May.

Find out more and register to vote on [The Electoral Commission website](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/)

**Why should I register to vote?**

If you’re not registered, you can’t vote in elections and have your say on who makes the decisions that affect you.

Credit reference agencies also use the electoral register for credit checks – so if you’re not registered you may have difficulty when applying for things like bank accounts or mobile phone contracts.

**Voter ID**

To vote in person at elections in England you need to show photo ID. Only certain photo ID will be accepted, including some passports, driving licences and Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) cards. Your student ID card is **not** an accepted form of photo ID.

If you don’t have an accepted form of photo ID, or you’re not sure that it still looks like you, you can apply for free voter ID – known as a Voter Authority Certificate. To get one you’ll need to be registered to vote, and apply by 5pm Wednesday 24 April.

[Find out what is accepted and apply for free voter ID if you need to](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id?utm_source=partner_social&utm_medium=social_media&utm_campaign=voter_id&utm_content=voter_id_home).

**Check your facts**

Your vote matters, so do your research into the candidates and parties before you vote.

To help decide who to vote for, you should research your area’s candidates and pay extra attention to the information available to you so you can make an informed decision about your vote.

While political campaigning should be transparent, there can be a lot of information around elections which can be misleading or untrue. These stories are often on social media. If you see a headline, a list of facts or an article on social media, remember to check that it is true before taking it on board or sharing it with your friends. Ask for a source or check whether a reliable news site backs up the information.

Like any research, check you’re using reliable sources. Newspapers may publicly support one particular party, whereas TV and radio journalists, such as the BBC, must generally give an independent view. There are also impartial and trusted fact checking services online that you can use.

[Get more information and advice on election campaigning, on the Electoral Commission website](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/resources/welcome-your-vote/campaigning).

Cornwall

**Are you ready to be heard? Register to vote in the local elections**

Elections for the [Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner](https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/) and some local authorities will take place on 2 May 2024. The next UK General Election will be happening some time before the end of January 2025. To vote, you have to be on the electoral register.

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