

# Who can register to vote?

## Age

In **England, Northern Ireland and Wales** you can register to vote if you are 17 years old (and in some cases if you are 16). However, you can only vote when you become 18.

In **Scotland** you can register to vote if you are 15 years old (and in some cases if you are 14). You can vote in local elections and elections to the Scottish Parliament when you are 16 and elections to the UK and European Parliaments when you are 18.

## Nationality

You qualify to register to vote if you are:

- a British citizen
- an EU citizen resident in the UK
- a qualifying Commonwealth citizen resident in the UK

On page 2-4 is a full list of Commonwealth and European Union countries. If you are a citizen of one of these countries, and resident in the UK, you are eligible to register to vote in UK elections.

To qualify, Commonwealth citizens must be resident in the UK and either have leave to enter or remain in the UK or not require such leave. The definition of a 'Commonwealth citizen' includes citizens of British Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories.

Citizens of the European Union (who are not Commonwealth citizens or Citizens of the Republic of Ireland) can vote in European and local elections in the UK, elections to the Scottish Parliament and Welsh and Northern Ireland Assemblies (if they live in those areas) and some referendums (based on the rules for the particular referendum) but are not able to vote in UK Parliamentary general elections.

## European Union countries

Austria  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Luxemburg  
Malta  
Netherlands  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
United Kingdom

## Commonwealth countries

Antigua and Barbuda  
Australia  
The Bahamas  
Bangladesh  
Barbados  
Belize  
Botswana  
Brunei Darussalam  
Cameroon  
Canada  
Cyprus\*  
Dominica  
Fiji Islands\*\*

The Gambia  
Ghana  
Grenada  
Guyana  
India  
Jamaica  
Kenya  
Kiribati  
Lesotho  
Malawi  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Malta\*  
Mauritius  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Nauru  
New Zealand  
Nigeria  
New Zealand  
Nigeria  
Pakistan  
Papua New Guinea  
Rwanda  
St Kitts & Nevis  
St Lucia  
St Vincent & The Grenadines  
Samoa  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Singapore  
Solomon Islands  
South Africa  
Sri Lanka  
Swaziland  
Tonga  
Trinidad & Tobago  
Tuvalu  
Uganda  
United Kingdom  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Vanuatu  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe\*\*

## British Overseas Territories

Anguilla  
Bermuda  
British Antarctic Territory  
British Indian Ocean Territory  
British Virgin Islands  
Cayman Islands  
Falkland Islands  
Gibraltar  
Montserrat  
Pitcairn Island  
St Helena and dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha)  
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands  
Sovereign base areas on Cyprus  
Turks and Caicos Islands

## British Crown Dependencies

Isle of Man

The Channel Islands (including Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, Herm and the other inhabited Channel Islands).

\*Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK.

\*\*Citizens of Fiji and Zimbabwe retain their voting rights despite the countries having been suspended from the Commonwealth.