

2019 election letter template to candidates

Dear [NAME],

Supporting the English language teaching industry in [CONSTITUENCY]

I am the [TITLE] of [CENTRE NAME], an accredited English language teaching centre in [CONSTITUENCY NAME], and I want to make you aware of our economic contribution to the region and the UK as a whole as you campaign for election.

We employ at least [XX] staff and indirectly support other jobs through teaching around [XX] students each year, most of whom stay in local homes and boost the incomes of those families.

We and our trade association, English UK, are concerned that our industry will suffer serious harm if post-Brexit immigration arrangements do not take its needs into account and I would like to discuss this with you.

The UK's English language teaching (ELT) industry is one of the world's biggest, bringing around 550,000 students here each year, 60% of whom are from the EU.

The most recent analysis by Capital Economics for English UK showed that in 2017 our industry supported 37,500 jobs, adding around £1.4bn to the economy. That's a higher value to the UK than our fishing industry.

[INSERT RELEVANT REGIONAL PARAGRAPH – see pages 7-8 of the toolkit]

The benefits from ELT are more than financial. Students go home with a strong affinity to the UK which will contribute and support our global relationships outside the EU. A very high percentage return for higher-level study at one of our world-class universities, for work, or for a holiday. Many succeed in their own countries, with the potential to influence partnerships with the UK at the highest levels.

Our challenge is that ELT is a maturing market. The UK faces increasing competition from the USA, Australia, Canada, Ireland and Malta, which have simple, friendly visa policies. All these financial, employment and other benefits may be at risk if we don't get our immigration regulations right.

What we need from a new government

- A supportive immigration regime for ELT, including visa-free study travel for students from EU/EEA countries as well as ID card travel or group travel document for under-18s, flexible study visa of up to one year, and in-country applications for further study visas for all students
- Accreditation of all English language providers and recognition of Accreditation UK on all visa routes, including Tier 4
- Immigration rules which allow EEA nationals needed during summer peak periods are not prevented from returning annually by visa rules or salary thresholds
- Restoration of work rights of up to 10 hours a week for 18+ students on ELT courses with all accredited providers.
- Maintenance of the Erasmus+ relationships and funding, including for short-term teacher training.

We would like to have more of a conversation about where you and your party stand on this. I would like to welcome you to our centre where you could meet our staff and students but would be happy to attend a meeting elsewhere.

I enclose English UK's election manifesto and our facts and figures infographic.

Yours sincerely, [NAME]