

Template letter to your local MP

Dear XXXXX

You may have seen the report published by the Migration Advisory Committee at the conclusion of its inquiry into international students.

We were pleased that it recognised the value, both cultural and economic, of the international students who come to learn in and experience the UK. That includes the 500,000 who come here to learn English, whose decision to come here supports 37,500 jobs and brings £1.4bn to our economy.

But we are disappointed that it does not go far enough to protect our industry, which as you know is important in this and many other constituencies.

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It does acknowledge that the Government and international educators need to work more closely together to grow the industry, and that the migration target may have a negative effect on student numbers. However, it does not recognise the important role ELT plays in international students' journey to our universities, suggest visa-free travel for EU students after Brexit, or acknowledge the damage that is being caused by students remaining within the net migration figure.

As the government's post-Brexit immigration policy takes shape in the coming weeks, we urge you to consider the effect of its proposals on our industry, where 58 per cent of our students come from the EU without any current need for visas – or even passports, for groups of under-18s. Typically, our students stay for an average of 3.7 weeks before going home – but often with a lifetime's affinity to the UK and an intention to return for further education, holidays and business.

Local and national business and jobs depend on our students being able to come here as easily as they do now. Please help to protect and grow our industry, by ensuring visas are not imposed on short-stay language students.

Best wishes,

XXXXX