



register to vote overseas

Am I eligible to vote?

If you are a British citizen living abroad, you can apply to be an overseas voter. As long as you have been registered to vote in the UK within the last 15 years, you are able to vote overseas. If you were too young to register when you left the UK, your parent or guardian must have been registered.

You are eligible to vote in elections for the UK and European parliaments, but you **cannot** vote in UK local and devolved assembly elections. Referendums require special laws to be passed to determine who is eligible to vote.

If you are living in a member state of the European Union, you can vote in their own local and European Parliamentary elections. You **cannot**, however, vote in European elections in more than one country.

How do I register to vote?

- 1 Fill in the electoral registration form.
- 2 Make sure **you** sign the declaration and get another person to sign the witness declaration.
- 3 Return your completed form to the electoral registration office for the address where you were last registered to vote in the UK.
- 4 Register as soon as you can.

Who has my personal details?

There are two versions of the electoral register – the **full** version and the **edited** version. Your details will appear on the full version of the register, but you can **choose** whether or not your details appear on the edited register.

The full register is used for elections and referendums, preventing and detecting crime, and checking applications for credit. The edited register is available for general sale and can be used for commercial activities such as marketing.

How do I vote?

You can vote in one of **three** ways.

- **By post** if you want your ballot paper sent to you. You should be aware that it will be sent to you about a week before the election. So, you need to consider whether there is enough time to receive your ballot paper, mark your vote and return it **before** 10pm on election day. Ballot papers that arrive after this time will **not** be counted.
- **By proxy** if you want someone else to vote on your behalf. Your proxy must be aged 18 or over, a British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen and be living in the UK. Your proxy can either vote at the polling station for the area where you are registered, or by post.
- **In person** if you are in the UK on election day. You can only vote at the polling station where you are registered to vote in the UK. You are **not** able to vote at your local embassy or consulate. You cannot vote in person if you, or your proxy, have applied to vote by post. If you have appointed a proxy, you can still vote in person, provided your proxy has not already voted.

If you want to vote by post or by proxy, you need to fill in an application form. You can download a postal-vote form at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk, but you need to contact your electoral registration office for a proxy vote form.

More information

Contact the electoral registration office for the address where you were last registered to vote in the UK.

You can find out the contact details for your electoral registration office at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk



Electoral registration form for a British citizen living overseas



Only one person for each form. Please read the notes carefully before filling in this form. Write in black ink and use BLOCK LETTERS.

1 About you

First name(s) (in full)

Surname

Current address (outside the UK)
This address will be used for correspondence.

Postcode

Tick here if you **do not** want your name to be included on the **edited** register, which is available for general sale.
Read the accompanying notes for more information.

Daytime telephone or mobile number (including country codes)

Email

You do not have to give this information, but it will help us to contact you if there is a query about your form.

2 Your last UK registration details

Please give the **full** address where you were last registered to vote in the UK.

Postcode

If you have changed your name since you were last registered to vote in the UK, please give your previous name.

First name(s) (in full)

Surname

Please tick the **one** statement that applies to you.

I was last registered as an overseas voter on

DAY MONTH YEAR Now go to section 5

I was last registered as a UK resident or service voter until

DAY MONTH YEAR Now go to section 4

I was too young to have registered before I left the UK.
Please give your date of birth.

DAY MONTH YEAR Now go to section 3

3 Your parent or guardian

Fill in this section if you were too young to have registered when you left the UK. You must enclose a photocopy of your birth certificate.

The person named below is/was my (tick one box)

parent or guardian

First name(s) (in full)

Surname

If your parent or guardian's name is different from the name that appears on your birth certificate or has changed since your parent or guardian was last registered to vote, please give their previous name.

First name(s) (in full)

Surname

I have enclosed a photocopy of my birth certificate.

4 Citizenship

Please tick the **one** statement that applies to you.

I hold a British passport stating that I am a British citizen.

British passport number

Place of issue

Date of issue

DAY MONTH YEAR

I do not hold a British passport stating that I am a British citizen, but I was born in the UK before 1 January 1983.

I am a British citizen, but my passport does not state that I am a British citizen.

Date you became a British citizen

DAY MONTH YEAR

Please explain how you became a British citizen (for example, naturalisation or marriage).

5 Declaration

You must sign the declaration yourself. If the form is not signed, it will be sent back to you. This declaration cancels any previous declaration you may have made. It is an offence to make a false statement on this form.

- I am a British citizen.
- I am not living in the UK.
- I have lived in the UK within the last 15 years and was registered to vote during that time.

Please tick the **one** statement that applies to you.

I ceased to live in the UK on

DAY MONTH YEAR

I ceased to be a crown servant, an employee of the British Council, or a member of Her Majesty's forces on

DAY MONTH YEAR

As far as I know, the details on this form are true and correct.

Signature

Date

6 Witness declaration

If this is the first time you have registered as an overseas voter, you need to get **another person** to fill in this section.

- I am aged 18 or over.
- I hold a British passport stating that I am a British citizen.
- I am not living in the UK.
- I know the applicant but am not his/her husband, wife, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild.
- To the best of my knowledge, the applicant is a British citizen and is not living in the UK at the time of his/her declaration.

Witness signature

Date

Witness name (in full)

Witness address

You need to give the following information (for reference purposes only).

British passport number

Place of issue

Date of issue

DAY MONTH YEAR

Return your completed form to the electoral registration office for the address where you were last registered to vote in the UK.

You can find out the contact details for your electoral registration office at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Polling district:

Date received:

Elector number:

Date added:



vote

by post

Voting by post

You can apply to vote by post for a particular election, for a set period of time or for all future elections. But you must be registered to vote first. Postal votes can be sent out to addresses in the UK and abroad.

How do I apply to vote by post?

- 1** Fill in the postal vote application form.
- 2** Make sure **you** sign the form.
- 3** Return it to your local electoral registration office at least six working days before the election.

What happens after I've returned this form?

- Your ballot paper will be sent to you about one week before the election. It may be issued as late as four working days before election day.
- If it does not arrive, contact your local electoral registration office (in Scotland contact the returning officer at your local council) for a replacement ballot paper. You must do this by 5pm on the day before the election at the latest.
- When you have received your ballot paper, mark your vote, sign the declaration of identity and get someone to witness your signature. Return both documents in the prepaid envelope. If you're sending it from abroad, you'll need to pay the postage.

- Make sure you send back your postal vote so that it arrives by election day. If it arrives after the election poll closes, it will not be counted. If it is too late to post it back, you can hand it in at your local polling station or to the returning officer at your local council on election day.
- Your postal vote will be mixed with all the others before counting begins, so your vote will be kept secret.

More information

If you live in England and Wales, contact the electoral registration office at your local council.

If you live in Scotland, contact your local electoral registration office.

You can find contact details in your phone book or at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

This form does not apply in Northern Ireland. Visit the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland at www.electoralofficeni.gov.uk for more information.

Other formats

You can get this information on audiotape, in Braille, in large print and in various languages.

Visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk



Application to vote by post



Only one person for each form. Please read the notes carefully before filling in this form. When you have completed every section and signed the form personally, send it to your local electoral registration office. Please write in black ink and use **BLOCK LETTERS**.

1 About you

Surname

First names (in full)

Your address (where you are registered to vote)

Postcode

Email (optional)

Daytime telephone or mobile (optional)

2 How long do you want a postal vote for?

I want to vote by post (tick one box)

for the elections held on _D _M _Y

for the period from _D _M _Y
to _D _M _Y

until further notice (permanent postal vote)

3 At which elections do you want a postal vote?

Please tick the appropriate box.

Parliamentary or Assembly elections

Local elections

All elections

4 Address for ballot paper

Please send my ballot paper to (tick one box)

my address where I am registered to vote (see part 1)

the following address

Address

Postcode

5 Your signature

Each person has to sign their own form. The form will be returned if it is not signed. You can be fined for making a false statement on this form.

Signature

Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Polling district:

Date received:

Elector number:

Date added:



vote

by proxy

Voting by proxy

You can apply to vote by proxy for a particular election, for a set period of time or for all future elections. This form allows you to apply to vote by proxy for as long as you remain registered as an overseas elector.

How do I apply to vote by proxy?

- 1 Fill in the proxy vote application form.
- 2 You must ask your proxy if they are willing to vote on your behalf.
- 3 Your proxy must be eligible to vote in UK and European parliamentary elections.
- 4 Make sure **you** sign the form. Your proxy can also sign the form, but they do not have to.
- 5 Your electoral registration office must receive your form at least six working days before the election.

What happens after I've returned this form?

- Your proxy must go to your local polling station to vote. If your proxy cannot get to the polling station, they can apply to vote for you by post. Your electoral registration office can give you more details about this.
- Your proxy will be sent a proxy poll card before the election, telling them which polling station they have to go to.
- You must let your proxy know how you want them to vote on your behalf, for example, which candidate or which party.
- If you are able to go to the polling station on election day, you can vote provided your proxy has not already done so or has not applied to vote by post.

More information

Contact the electoral registration office for the address where you are registered to vote in the UK.

You can find the contact details in The Phone Book or at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

This form does not apply in Northern Ireland. Visit the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland at www.electorlofficeni.gov.uk for more information.



Application form for an overseas elector to vote by proxy



Only one person for each form. Please read the notes carefully before filling in this form. Write in black ink and use BLOCK LETTERS.

1 About you

First name(s) (in full)

Surname

Current address (outside the UK)
This address will be used for correspondence.

Postcode

Daytime telephone or mobile number (including country codes)

Email

You do not have to give this information, but it will help us to contact you if there is a query about your form.

2 UK registration address

Please give the full address where you are registered as an overseas elector in the UK.

Postcode

3 For how long do you want a proxy vote?

I want to vote by proxy (tick one box)

at the elections held on DAY MONTH YEAR

for the period from DAY MONTH YEAR
to DAY MONTH YEAR

for all future elections (while I am registered as an overseas elector)

4 About your proxy

First name

Relationship to you (if any)

Full address

Postcode

5 Your signature

You must sign the form yourself. If the form is not signed, it will be sent back to you. This declaration cancels any previous proxy appointment you may have made.

I confirm that the person I have asked to be appointed as my proxy is able and willing to vote on my behalf.

Signature

Date

6 Proxy's signature (if your proxy is also signing the form)

I confirm that I am able and willing to be appointed as the applicant's proxy.

Signature

Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Polling district: _____ Date received: _____

Elector number: _____ Date added: _____