

Dear [MP's name],

I am writing to you as a Bristol student and a constituent of yours to express my serious concerns the anti-migrant sentiments within the current political landscape and its impact on international students, as well as the knock-on effect on the UK economy.

In October 2025, a [Chinese student from University of Bristol was hospitalised after a racist attack](#). As students, we are concerned about racially motivated assaults, especially because of the rising anti-immigrant narrative towards our international students. A narrative that partially stems from recent White Paper recommendations and the budget announcement on visas, international student fees and settlement in the UK. We do not want international students to be scapegoated as the solution to decreasing net migration number, as we know colloquially that this harms the wellbeing of international students significantly.

Some of the core issues that are affecting international students right now include:

- Assumptions about international students' financial situations: The new levy model shows the government views international students' fees as a source of easy income, rather than addressing the wider failures in the higher education system
 - Many international students can't afford to travel home during their studies, leaving them isolated and struggling with homesickness
- Concerns about needing to earn above the national average salary to stay in the UK after graduating are causing significant anxiety and stress
- Students are managing these worries alongside a growing societal narrative that undermines and demonises their presence in the UK

Analysis by Universities UK showed that, since 2019, international students have generated more than £60 billion for the UK economy. Elsewhere, June 2025 [analysis by Public First](#) found that international students raise living standards in every constituency in the country. On average, every UK resident person is £355 a year better off on average, because of international students. International students are statistically more civically engaged in their community than home students too: they volunteer, they vote and they share their culture with Bristol residents in a plethora of ways.

In summary, international students are a core part of the Bristol community – both financially and socially. It is important that together we stand up for them. Therefore, **we would like you to meet with Jessie Yeung, a democratically-elected student leader at the Bristol Students' Union, and students who care about this issue urgently to discuss publishing a joint statement that (a) challenges the anti-migrant narrative, (b) opposes the international students levy, and (c) highlights how welcome international students are in Bristol**. As representative of Bristol, the matters of University of Bristol students lie within your remit.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

University of Bristol