

## **Brits abroad:**

**Get your voice heard!**

**Register to vote now,**

on <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

We British expats often feel neglected by our home country. We're proud to be British, we have strong ties with back home ... but we don't feel our voice is being heard in government about the issues that affect us.

But there is a way: register to vote. You can now register on line, so nothing could be simpler. Do it now, and provided you're outside the scope of the 15-year rule, you'll have a voice in the General Election on 7th May 2015. Young people can register from the age of 16, but to be able to vote you must be aged at least 18 on Election Day.

Regularly keeping your voter registration up to date with <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> means you'll also be ready to vote in any referendum on continuing membership of the EU, if one is called, again as long as you're not prevented from voting by the 15-year rule.

To register, all you need is a computer or mobile device with an internet connection, your passport details (number, issuing authority, date of issue), your National Insurance (NI) number, your last postal address in the UK and your current address abroad. The whole process should take less than five minutes. If you haven't got your NI number to hand, you can ask the site to find it and send it to you, or alternatively identify yourself by other means. All this is clearly explained on the website.

If you've lived outside the UK for more than 15 years, you won't be able to complete your registration, but do try to register anyway, in the hope that the website will log failed registration attempts as well as successful ones.

One UK political party (the Conservatives) has pledged to abolish the 15 year rule after the 2015 election if returned to power in a majority government. You can find out about the other parties' positions on voting rights for Britons overseas by searching on line for their websites.

<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>