

ELECTIONS



THE RULES



ELECTIONS

2024 ELECTION RULES

Greenwich Students' Union (GSU) elections aim to be free, fair, and accessible to everyone and therefore it is the responsibility of the Elections Team to ensure the smooth running of elections.

This document aims to outline the rules, guidelines, and processes to make that happen. The election rules are held and owned by the Democracy team at GSU and are created to ensure where the election is as free and fair as possible.

The rules will be available on the GSU website and can be discussed further with the election team by request. GSU reserve the right to add additional rules. The Deputy Returning Officer is Emma Pleasant, and the Returning Officer is NUS.

Candidates must:

- Always abide by all current SU Policy and Values, University Rules, Government Guidance and the Law.
- Be always responsible for the conduct of their campaigners, during the Election process. Not undertake campaigns activity that other candidates could not reasonably do.
- Not infringe a student's right to vote confidentially and freely, or influence students whilst they are voting.
- Not run on a platform with any other candidates.
- Group Campaigning (Slates) are not permitted. Not utilise resources available to them through paid positions at the Union or University unavailable to other candidates from the point of the candidate list being published.
- Not use their own electronic devices to obtain votes from others, this is strictly prohibited. Not exceed the caps on spending. In these elections the spend cap is £0.

Other rules:

Union, and University Staff must remain apolitical in all SU elections. Student staff, while on shift, cannot campaign for themselves or others. As staff members for that time, they are impartial, also an unfair advantage to be paid and be campaigning in our spaces. Due to policy passed in 2020 at the student assembly, the GSU President automatically gets a NUS Delegate position.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

Please be mindful that campaigning in person should be respectful of social distancing where possible and considerate of students' requests for space.

This election will be conducted without physical materials or budget. Candidates must not campaign in lectures/online classes without permission from the Lecturer and must not cause disruption to teaching.

Please email elections@gre.ac.uk if you have any questions. In the event of a draw between candidates once the final round of Single Transferrable Voting has taken place, the previous round will be used to determine who is appointed.

The candidate with the greatest number of votes in the previous round will be elected. In the case of another draw, each round will be backtracked until a candidate is elected.

Ultimately if this cannot be resolved, a coin toss will take place to determine the winner. All roles will have Re-Open Nominations (RON) as an option when voting.

GUIDE TO ENDORSING

Endorsing as an Individual

As a member, you can endorse as many candidates as you like. However, each candidate must be endorsed individually, this means a single post encouraging voters to support more than one candidate is prohibited. However, a succession of promotions is okay if the ordering of preference is not promoted. If in doubt, ask a member of the elections team.

Endorsing as a Student Group

Endorsements are not allowed from Sports or Societies clubs as a body or collective, but members within the group may individually decide to endorse or support candidates.

SU student staff member

You can endorse and campaign for candidates in elections but not while you are on shift, wearing staff uniform or using platforms given to you as a part of your role. This includes GSU Officers and Student Staff.

ELIGIBILITY

There are certain criteria which members must fulfil before being eligible to run or vote in the student leader elections. These are outlined below. If you have any questions around eligibility please contact elections@gre.ac.uk

NOMINATING

Programme Reps:

To run for a Programme Rep, candidates must:

Have full student status for the year 2023/24 Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union Be a student on the respective programme and year of study they are applying for

NUS Delegate:

To run for NUS delegate, candidates must:

Have full student status for the year 2023/24 Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union 50% of elected candidates must self-identify as women, if this is not the case GSU will re-run the election for any positions that do not enable the required quota.

Liberation Chair:

To stand as a Liberation Network Chair, students must self-identify within the Network characteristics they are seeking to represent. Self-identification is identified through personal identity and not stipulated by technical requirements within the Election.

Associate members:

Associate members of GSU cannot run in the student leader elections.

Exceptions

Exceptions to the eligibility may be given by the Deputy Returning Officers. If you have any questions or difficulties nominating or voting please email elections@gre.ac.uk

Candidates can run for multiple positions and students may vote for as many roles as they are eligible to. You can only hold one Programme Representative role.

VOTING

Programme Reps:

To vote for a Programme Rep position, students must:

Have full student status for the year 2023/24 Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union Only students from the programme of the programme representative role and year of study are eligible to vote for the respective role.

NUS Delegate

To vote for NUS delegate, candidates must:

- Have full student status for the year 2023 /24 Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union

Liberation Chair:

To vote for Liberation Chair, candidates must:

- Have full student status for the year 2023/234 Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union

Associate members:

Associate members of GSU cannot vote in the student leader elections.

COMPLAINTS

The Elections Team will strive to deal with complaints informally in the first instance.

Email complaints to elections@gre.ac.uk

All formal complaints about candidates must be reported using the complaints form which is submitted to the Deputy Returning Officer Any complaints about candidate conduct should be submitted within 24 hours of the alleged incident. The complaints deadline is three hours after the elections close. To appeal any complaint, candidates must do so in writing to the Returning Officer via elections@gre.ac.uk. Appeals must be submitted within 24 hours of notification of the complaint, or by the appeals deadline. The appeals deadline is four days after the elections close. The Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer will decide on the penalty (if any) of any candidate complaint. This can range from a verbal warning to disqualification from the Election. The Returning Officer is responsible for the final interpretation of these rules and the final decision. No candidate may challenge the result of the Election once the count has started. The Deputy Returning Officer reserves the right to consider complaints that are made maliciously, or to purposefully disrupt a candidate's campaign. The Deputy Returning Officer may take disciplinary action accordingly.



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greenwichsu.co.uk/elections