

ELECTIONS



THE RULES



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Greenwich Students' Union (GSU) elections aim to be free, fair, and accessible to everyone. It is the responsibility of Greenwich Students' Union to ensure the smooth running of the elections. This document outlines the rules, guidelines, and processes to make that happen.

The Election Rules are held and owned by the Greenwich Students' Union Team at GSU and may be reviewed in reflection of changing circumstances throughout the Election. The rules will be explained to every candidate at mandatory elections training and can be discussed further with the Greenwich Students' Union Team on individual request.

The Deputy Returning Officer is Emma Pleasant, and the Returning Officer is the National Union of Students (NUS).

CANDIDATES MUST

- Always abide by all currently GSU Policy & Values, University Rules & Regulations, Government Guidance, and the Law
- Be responsible for the conduct of their campaigners during the Election process
- Attend the Mandatory Elections Training prior to voting opening. Those who have not completed this training will be removed from the elections.
- Not undertake campaigns activity using role privileged information (e.g., Student Group Mailing Lists, Student Representative Mailing Lists etc) This list is not exhaustive, and any other identified role privileged information is at the discretion of Greenwich Students' Union.
- Not infringe a students' right to vote confidentially and freely, or influence students while 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 the University
- Not use their own electronic devices to obtain votes from others, this is strictly prohibited
- Not exceed the caps on spending (£30 for GSU Officers)

ADDITIONAL RULES

- Greenwich Students' Union and University Staff must remain apolitical in all SU elections
- Student Staff, whilst 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
- 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.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

- Please be respectful of others while campaigning, individuals may still abide by social distancing rules or have invisible/visible disabilities that prefer for distancing to take place
- Election materials are permitted on poster boards around campus however not permitted on buildings
- Candidates must not campaign in lectures/online classes without prior permission from the lecturer and it must not cause disruption to teaching activity
- All expenses must be sent to the Elections inbox by 6pm on Thursday 7th March 2024 to be reimbursed.
- Please email elections@greenwich.ac.uk if you have any queries

GUIDE TO ENDORSING

Endorsing as an Individual

Endorsing as an individual: As a member of Greenwich Students' Union, you can endorse as many candidates as you like. However, each candidate must be endorsed individually, this means a single post encouraging votes to support more than one candidate is prohibited. However, a succession of promotions is okay if the ordering of preferences is not promoted. If in doubt, ask a member of the Greenwich Students' Union team.

Endorsing as a Student Group

Club & Societies are able to endorse 1 candidate per club/society in line with the set out guidance for Club & Society Candidate Endorsement.

SU student staff member

Student Staff Members are able to endorse and campaign for candidates throughout the election period, however, not whilst on shift, wearing staff uniform or using platforms given to you as part of your role. This includes GSU Officers and Student Staff.

ELIGIBILITY

There are certain criteria which members must fulfill before being eligible to run or vote in Greenwich Students' Union Officer Elections. These are outlined below, if you have any questions around eligibility, please contact elections@greenwich.ac.uk

Nominating

To run for a GSU Officer Position, candidates must:

- Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union at the time of election
- Have been a full registered student at the University of Greenwich for a continuous period of at least 4 months immediately before their election

Voting

To vote for a GSU Officer position, students must:

- Have full student status for the 2023/24 Academic Year
- Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union
- Associate members of GSU cannot vote in GSU Officer Election

COMPLAINTS

Greenwich Students' Union will strive to deal with complaints informally in the first instance. All complaints must be emailed to elections@greenwich.ac.uk

- All formal complaints about candidates must be reported directly to the elections inbox which is submitted to the Deputy Returning Officer
- Any complaints about candidate conduct should be submitted via email within 24 hours of the alleged incident. The complaint deadline is 3 hours after the election vote closes.
- To appeal any complaint, candidates must do so in writing to the Returning Officer via elections@greenwich.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 vote closes.
- 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 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 candidates' campaign. The Deputy Returning Officer may take disciplinary action accordingly.



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greenwichsu.co.uk/elections