

# OFFICER ELECTIONS



# THE RULES 2026

# THE RULES

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.
- Submit a manifesto, slogan and picture on the Elections website by 11th February at 12pm.
- Take part in a live Candidate Q&A event and Scrutiny panel on 12th February 2-6pm.
- 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)

Failure to abide by any of the above could result in immediate disqualification.

## 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
- Campaigning or campaign materials are not permitted in any of the Libraries at any site.
- 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 4pm on 19th February 2025 to be reimbursed.
- Please email [elections@greenwich.ac.uk](mailto:elections@greenwich.ac.uk) if you have any queries

## **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 2025/26 Academic Year.
- Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union.
- Associate members of GSU cannot vote in GSU Officer Election.

## **Candidates scrutiny panel**

To promote transparency and accountability, all candidates are required to attend a Scrutiny Panel before campaigning begins.

The panel will consist of one member of staff and a group of student leaders. The panel's role is to:

- Review each manifesto to ensure it complies with election rules and contains no inaccurate or inappropriate statements.
- Ask questions to clarify candidates' priorities and understanding of the role.
- Provide developmental feedback to candidates to help them campaign responsibly and effectively.

The panel does not assess the quality or content of a candidate's ideas or prevent eligible students from standing. Candidates will only be disqualified for failing to meet the basic eligibility or compliance requirements set out in the election regulations.

## **To Run**

- You must always abide by all current GSU Policy & Values, University Rules & Regulations, Government Guidance, and the Law.
- You can only apply for one remitted role.
- You cannot run if you have not signed and confirmed you understand the rules.
- You cannot run if you have not uploaded a photo and manifesto.
- We encourage originality and critical thinking, so please avoid using AI tools to influence the core messaging and policy positions presented in this document. We trust the manifestos put forward are created by human authors who are authentic and accountable for its content. Candidates found to be generating AI manifesto points may be required to submit an alternative manifesto by the DRO.

Candidate campaign teams are limited to 4 supporting staff. You may appointment:

- 1 Campaign Manager
- 1 Finance Manager
- 1 Event Manager
- 1 Communication Manager

**You must advise the names, emails and position titles of your team at the point of applying.**

- You cannot run if you have not attended a minimum of 1 mandatory training sessions.
- If you do not submit your manifesto, photo and attend 1 mandatory candidate training session by 9am on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 you will be disqualified.

If you complete the above steps by 9am on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 you will be invited to the mandatory candidate event on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 in Greenwich.

- You cannot run if you do not attend the mandatory candidate event on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

If you fail to complete all steps above by the set deadlines, you will be disqualified.

**Candidates hold ultimate responsibility for their campaign teams and any rule violations that may occur by them.**

## To Campaign

- You must be respectful of others while campaigning.
- You must not campaign before GSU opens campaigning.
- You must not undertake campaign 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.
- 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.
- You must not exceed a total of 5 people including yourself in your campaign team. If you are observed breaking this rule you will face disqualification.
- To campaign on your behalf your campaign team must be verified.
- You must advise the names, emails and position titles of your team at the point of applying. Once received your team will be verified and provided with a Campaigner Badge from GSU.
- If your campaign team breach the rules, you are accountable.
- You must not spend more than £30 on your campaign. Failure to abide by the above could result in immediate disqualification.
- You must submit your campaign expenses before 4:30pm on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026. If you do not submit your campaign expense form even if you spend £0 you will be disqualified.
- If you fail to complete and abide by the above steps you will be disqualified.
- Candidates may not coordinate campaign materials, messaging or expenditure with other candidates.
- Candidates may not share campaign resources, unless specifically authorised by the Returning Officer.
- Breaches may result in campaign sanctions.

## Voting

**Voting will open 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 9am.  
Voting will close 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 4pm.**

Voting stalls will be located daily on all three campuses:

- Dreadnought Building, Greenwich
- The Dome, Avery Hill
- The Hub, Medway

Voting stalls will be manned daily between 10am-3pm.

- Candidates are forbidden from entering the voting perimeter on each campus. Persistent rule breakers will be disqualified.
- A perimeter around each voting stall will be outlined to ensure candidates are aware of the No Campaign Zone.
- A map of Campaigning Safe Zones will be shared with Candidates and their Teams once approval has taken place on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026.
- You must not infringe a students' right to vote confidentially and freely, or influence students while they are voting.
- You must not use your own electronic devices to obtain votes from others, this is strictly prohibited.
- You must not run on a platform with any other candidates. Group Campaigning (slates) are not permitted.
- You must not utilise resources available to you through paid positions at the Union or the University.

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.

## Campaigning Safe Zones

- Election materials are only permitted on designated poster boards around campus. Election materials are not permitted on buildings.
- Campaigning or campaign materials are not permitted in any of the libraries at any site.
- Campaigning or campaign materials are not permitted in any of the accommodation at any site.
- Candidates must not campaign in lectures/online classes without prior permission from the lecturer and it must not cause disruption to teaching activity.

## **GUIDE TO ENDORSING**

### **Endorsing as a society**

Societies may only endorse one candidate overall. Any societies found to be in breach of this rule risk disaffiliation and their chosen candidates risk disqualification.

If multiple candidates from one society are running for multiple roles, the DRO reserves the right to review their candidacy and remove candidates to ensure a fair and representative election if necessary.

### **Endorsing as a staff member**

Academic staff may choose to endorse candidates but are recommended to ensure they use their position fairly.

## **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](mailto:elections@greenwich.ac.uk)

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### **Voting**

To vote for a GSU Officer position, students must:

- Have full student status for the 2024/25 Academic Year
- Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union
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**Unclear on the rules or have any questions? Please email [elections@greenwich.ac.uk](mailto:elections@greenwich.ac.uk)**

## **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](mailto:elections@greenwich.ac.uk)

- All formal complaints about candidates must be reported directly via the Elections MS Complaints Form 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 1 hour after the election vote closes.
- To appeal any complaint, candidates must do so in writing to the Returning Officer via [elections@greenwich.ac.uk](mailto: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.
- The deadline to submit complaints is 4pm on 11th February 2026.



[greenwichsu.co.uk/elections](http://greenwichsu.co.uk/elections)