

# ***ELECTIONS*** ***THE RULES***



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## GREENWICH STUDENTS' UNION 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 explained to every candidate at mandatory rules training and can be discussed further with the election team by request.

The Deputy Returning officer is Sophie Harrison.

- You must always abide by all current SU Policy and Values, University Rules, Government Guidance and the Law.
- Candidates are responsible for the conduct of their campaigners at all times, during the Election process.
- You must not undertake campaigns activity that other candidates could not reasonably do.
- You may not infringe a student's right to vote confidentially and freely, or influence students whilst they are voting.
- Group Campaigning (Slates) are not permitted.
- All candidates must attend mandatory candidate training.
- Candidates may 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.
- 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.
- Union, and University Staff must remain apolitical in all SU elections.
- Candidates using their own electronic devices to obtain votes from others is strictly prohibited.
- You must not exceed the caps on spending (£10 for NUS Delegates & Liberation Chair)
- Due to policy passed in 2020 at the student assembly, the GSU President automatically gets a NUS Delegate position and an additional 2 GSU Officers.

## FURTHER GUIDANCE

- Please be mindful that campaigning in person should be respectful of social distancing where possible and considerate of students' requests for space.
- Posters must only be put on poster boards and not on walls.
- Candidates must not campaign in lectures/online classes without permission from the Lecturer and must not cause disruption to teaching.
- Campaign spending should be reported to the SU no later than 2pm on the 13th October in a format specified through the online form.

## 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 from Sports or Societies clubs must be made at the consensus of the groups' executive team. If a candidate is president of a club, they must get agreement from the wider executive team before promoting themselves. Student groups can endorse as many candidates as they like. 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.

### • 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.

**COMPLAINTS**

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

**Complaints form:**  
**[forms.office.com/r/exc09uKPBV](https://forms.office.com/r/exc09uKPBV)**

- 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 Wednesday 13th October 2pm.
- To appeal any complaint, candidates must do so in writing to the Returning Officer via [elections@gre.ac.uk](mailto: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 Wednesday 13th October 3pm.
- 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](https://greenwichsu.co.uk/elections)**