

ELECTIONS ***THE RULES***



ELECTIONS

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 2021 Spring Elections will be slightly different to usual as we must take precautionary measures to ensure the safety of candidates, voters and the wider University Community including SU Staff. We have enriched our training offer; our candidate support and maintained our high-level of due diligence when it comes to preparing for the election. These changes will affect aspects of this election; however, we still anticipate hotly contested, free, fair and engaging online election this year.

In this regard we have set out a clear set of rules to familiarise yourself with; this is important as breaches of the principal rules of GSU Elections may result in disqualification to be determined solely between the Deputy Returning Officer and the Returning Officer.

You can ask a member of the Elections Team or the Deputy Returning Officer for clarification of any rule by e-mailing elections@gre.ac.uk or using the WhatsApp Elections Contact.

KEY STAFF

Returning Officer: National Union of Students Representative

According to SU Bye-Laws, the Returning Officer is an NUS staff member who independently oversees the Election process. They work in consultation with the Deputy Returning Officer and can act as an outside independent party should this be required.

Deputy Returning Officer: Sayed Alkadiri

The Deputy Returning Officer is appointed to internally oversee and run the Elections process as set out in the Bye-Laws. They have the power to adjust rules and guidance at any point should they require to and notify candidates.

Democracy and Engagement Manager: Henry Setter

Academic Representation Manager: Sam Mujunga

Candidate Welfare Support: Esther Olorunsomo

These SU staff members you will interact with throughout the election and are here to supply guidance support and answer any questions along the way.

ELECTION RULES AND GUIDANCE

- You must always abide by all current SU Policy and Values, University Rules, Government Guidance and the Law.
- 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.
- Group Campaigning (Slates) and endorsement from current Sabbatical Officers is not permitted.
- All candidates should attend a mandatory candidate briefing.
- Candidates may not utilise resources available to them through paid positions at the Union or University unavailable to other candidates.
- You may not campaign while working for GSU.
- Due to Covid-19, no campaigning may take place in-person which includes all on-campus spaces, halls of residence and other locations other than online.
- You must not influence a student casting their vote during the process of them voting.
- Candidates using their own electronic devices to obtain votes from others is strictly prohibited.
- You must not exceed the caps on spending (£40 for GSU Officers, £20 for NUS Delegates)

FURTHER GUIDANCE

- Candidates are responsible for the conduct of their campaigners at all times, during the Election process.
- Candidates must not campaign in lectures/online classes without permission from the Lecturer, and must not cause disruption to teaching.
- Publicity materials may only be displayed through the SU staff team – Should you wish the SU to promote your materials in our spaces, please ensure these have been received by the SU before the 22nd February at Middy.
- Campaign spending should be reported to the SU no later than 5pm on the 4th March in a format specified through the online form.

COMPLAINTS

The Elections Team will strive to deal with complaints informally in the first instance. If you are concerned about a contravention of the rules, you should first raise this with a member of Elections Support Staff, who can be accessed by e-mailing elections@gre.ac.uk.

Complaints form: bit.ly/3i4aOuy

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 Thursday 4th March 3pm.

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 Thursday 4th March 5pm.

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.

ELECTION PROCESS

VOTING

- Voting will take place online via greenwichsu.co.uk/vote.
- Voting will open at 9am on Monday 1st March and close at 3pm on Thursday 4th March.
- Count
- The count will take place after the close of voting at an appropriate time determined by the Deputy Returning Officer.
- The count will take place via an electronic voting system. This will be facilitated by the Deputy Returning Officer, in the presence of an independent person(s).
- The Deputy Returning Officer reserves the right to delay the count and results until all deliberations are completed as appropriate.

RESULTS

- Election Results shall be declared by the Deputy Returning Officer when the count has been successfully completed. The results will be announced at "The Online Results Night" and uploaded to the GSU Website electronically.
- The Deputy Returning Officer reserves the right to delay the announcement of any results.

NUS DELEGATE ELECTIONS

- Please note that due to a motion passed at Student Assembly last year, the President of GSU automatically takes one of the delegate positions, however only one other GSU officer can attend. This additional delegate will need to gain enough votes through the NUS Delegate election to be selected.
- NUS policy requires SUs to have a quota of at least half of the delegates sent to conference from a SU to identify as a woman. For GSU this is a minimum of 2 delegates.
- This will be calculated after the votes have been counted and verified.



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greenwichsu.co.uk/elections