Strathclyde Students' Union

Candidates Info Pack – Autumn 2026

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Eligibility

Postgraduate Faculty Reps

- Any current University of Strathclyde student enrolled in the relevant faculty, with an expected completion date after 1st May 2027

Eligibility for Honorarium Payments

To be eligible to receive honorarium payments, elected officers must meet the legal requirements to work in the UK. This includes:

- UK or Irish citizens (automatic right to work in the UK).
- EU/EEA/Swiss citizens with settled status or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.
- Visa holders where the visa conditions allow employment

Candidates must provide valid documentation evidencing their right to work in the UK before honorarium payments can be issued.
The Union will conduct right to work checks in line with Home Office guidance.

Students without the right to work, or who would exceed their working hours restriction by taking on additional hours, may opt to carry out the roles on a voluntary basis and will not receive honorarium payments.

Voluntary roles may involve specific responsibilities and attendance at meetings. However, these are undertaken in a representative capacity and are not treated as an employment contract. As such, voluntary role holders are not required to hold a right to work in the UK.

Which positions are available?

Faculty Reps - roles carried out alongside studies

- Faculty Rep - Business PGT
- Faculty Rep - Business PGR
- Faculty Rep - HaSS PGT
- Faculty Rep - HaSS PGR
- Faculty Rep - Science PGT
- Faculty Rep - Science PGT
- Faculty Rep - Engineering PGT
- Faculty Rep – Engineering PGR

If you have any questions about the roles or are unsure about standing in the elections, get in touch with our Democracy Team at strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk

Elections Timetable

Nominations open	14/09/2026	12:00
Nominations close	12/10/2026	12:00
Candidate briefing	12/10/2026	16:00
Campaigning begins	12/10/2026	17:00
Voting opens	20/10/2026	08:00
Voting closes	22/10/2026	16:00
Results	23/10/2026	14:00*

There will also be additional opportunities for workshops and drop-ins with members of staff. Please refer to the website for details.

*The time of the results announcement may be postponed at the discretion of the Deputy Returning Officer.

Nominations

You can submit your nomination online at https://www.strathunion.com/elections/

Candidates will also need to include your manifesto as part of the nomination form and upload this before the nomination deadline. This is limited to a maximum of 250 words and any manifestos submitted after the nominations list is finalised will not be accepted.

You may also include a slogan to appear on the candidates list. This is limited to 12 words.

All nominations need to be submitted by 12noon on Monday 12th October 2026. The online nominations portal will close at this time and no late nominations can be accepted.

Photos

All candidates have the option to submit a photo of yourself along with their nomination form. This should be of decent quality, clearly show your face and be in a .jpg format. This will appear on the Strath Union website, so make sure you are happy with it.

Publicity and Candidate Allowances

Although the elections are online, each candidate is given a budget allowance that can be used on items to promote your campaign. For example, this could be a branded t-shirt or banner to use in promo videos, paying for social media promotions or outsourcing some design work.

It's up to you how to use your budget, however, receipts must be provided in order to receive reimbursement of funds from Strath Union and all items purchased must be for campaign purposes. If you have any questions, particularly on what you plan to buy, please contact strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk

Please be aware social media platforms have their own rules and restrictions around promoted posts and candidates are responsible for ensuring posts follow these rules.

- Faculty Rep roles: £25 or an equal share of £1,300

Allowances will be provided on a 'spend and claim' basis whereby candidates must provide receipts and complete an expense form in order to be refunded for expenses.

If required, you can obtain a maximum of £25 advance from Strath Union; further amounts will only be released on production of receipts for the previous amount. Please contact strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk to request this.

This is the only budget that you are allowed to use for Elections purposes. Candidates may not add any of your own funds for election campaigning. There are also lots of free resources available online such as video and image editing software.

All expenses must be submitted by email to strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk by close of polls at 4pm on Thursday 22nd October 2026.

Free Content Creation and Management

- Canva https://www.canva.com/en_gb/
- Biteable https://biteable.com/
- Wondershare Filmora https://filmora.wondershare.com/
- Soundbible https://soundbible.com/royalty-free-sounds-1.html
- Hootsuite (for managing social media activity) https://www.hootsuite.com/plans/free-signup

Campaigning

One of the most important parts of campaigning is making sure that you're not on your own. You will benefit from a group of friends and supporters to help you run your campaign.

You can organise this in any way you want to, but most candidates will nominate a 'Campaign Manager' to organise the volunteers on your behalf.

Here's a list of tips which may help you run a successful campaign:

- Gather a team of Campaign Volunteers (if possible, nominate a Campaign Manager to help you)
- Distribute tasks according to strengths and interests of your volunteers
- Be pro-active, not reactive
- Have a plan and stick to it
- Engage with students depending on their interests or situations
- Make your campaign relevant to students
- Remember what you want to achieve and be positive about change

Social Media

This can be an effective and powerful tool to support your campaign. You are encouraged to be active online using of social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to promote yourself.

Please remember that the same rules and policies apply online and all social media content should conform to the Strath Union Equal Opportunities Policy.

Autumn 2026 Election Rules

Strath Union is committed to running fair and free elections. All candidates should note:

General

1. At all times during the Election, Candidates and members of their Campaign Teams are subject to and expected to act in accordance with Strath Union's Code of Conduct and with the University's Dignity and Respect Policy.
2. Candidates are responsible for their own health and safety and should not undertake any activities which endanger the safety of others.
3. Failure to comply with the Election Rules may lead to sanctions or disqualification.
4. All candidates must be current students at the University of Strathclyde and members of Strath Union at the point of nomination and at the close of polling and remain eligible to take up office.
5. Postgraduate Faculty Rep candidates must be enrolled in the relevant faculty, with an expected completion date after 1st May 2027.

Nominations

6. Candidate manifestos or amendments to these will not be accepted after the candidate list for a position has been published.
7. Candidates may only stand for one officer role in the election.
8. Two members may stand for election to a Non-Executive Officer position on a role share basis. Their joint nomination will be treated as a single candidacy for the purposes of these election rules and, if elected, they will be jointly and severally responsible for carrying out the obligations of the role.
9. At the discretion of the DRO, nominations for positions without candidates at the original deadline may be reopened with a new deadline prior to the opening of voting.

Campaigning and candidate behaviour

10. No public-facing campaigning is permitted until 5pm on Monday 12th October. Campaigning is defined as any means of public declaration or publicising of a candidacy during the Election period, defined as the period from the opening of nominations to the close of voting.
11. Candidates will be held responsible for the actions of their campaign teams and only currently registered University of Strathclyde students may participate in campaigning. It is up to candidates to ensure their campaign teams are aware of and follow the rules. It is the DRO's decision if a person is considered part of a candidate's campaign team.
12. Candidates are precluded from using club, society, or group spaces on the John Anderson campus in a way that is not available to all other candidates. Strath Union resources such as printers or office space cannot be used for campaigning purposes.
13. Candidates must not display, attach, or place campaign materials at height or in any manner that could pose a safety risk, including but not limited to hanging banners over the edge of elevated terraces, balconies, or similar structures, or in a way that obscures emergency signage or access.
14. Campaign materials must not be placed on top of, attached to, or displayed in a way that obscures or interferes with existing signage or other campaign or informational materials.
15. Lecture shout outs are permitted at the discretion of the relevant lecturer.

16. Campaigning inside the University Library or any designated limited access areas on campus is not permitted. Campaigning in Student Accommodation, including private halls (PBSAs) is restricted to only communal areas.
17. Candidates and their supporters must not harass, bully, intimidate, bribe or blackmail students in the pursuit of votes, or to stop someone from voting.
18. Candidates must not make false statements about the personal character of another candidate or use fake accounts to spread false information relating to the election.
19. Campaigners must not provide students with any device (including, but not limited to, a phone, tablet, or laptop) for the purpose of casting a vote. Campaigners must not log in, vote, or attempt to vote on behalf of another student. Campaigners must not touch, handle, or otherwise interfere with another student's device at any point during the voting process.
20. Unsolicited emails may not be used for campaigning, including emails sent via Clubs, Societies, Groups, or Class mailing lists. Posting in MyPlace or social media groups created for academic purposes is also not permitted.

Budgets and Resources

21. The allocated campaign budget is the only money to be spent on campaign activities. Candidates are not permitted to spend any other money, including personal funds, on campaign activities. Accurate receipts must be provided for all items before close of polling and failure to provide accurate receipts may be treated as a breach of these rules.
22. Items or services purchased must be directly used for the purposes of campaigning. For example, any clothing items must specifically promote the candidate in these elections. Personal items, travel expenses, or rewards for campaigners including refreshments will not be reimbursed.
23. Candidates should only do what others have had the opportunity to do. This means that any 'sponsorship' or 'favours' that have a value but do not involve candidate expenditure must be available to all candidates in the election.
24. Candidates must not offer incentives to students in exchange for votes. This includes but isn't limited to baked goods, vouchers, cash, or discount codes.

Strath Union staff and sabbatical officers

25. Strath Union sabbatical officers and student staff can only campaign during their contracted working hours if they have taken approved leave in advance to do so.
26. Current Strath Union officers must not use their elected role to gain an advantage in the elections including the use of Strath Union communications or role-based email and social media accounts to promote candidacies.
27. Strath Union staff who are not students are not permitted to be involved in campaigning.

Accessibility and Adjustments

Strath Union will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that candidates and voters are not disadvantaged in the election process due to disability or other protected characteristics. Requests for adjustments should be made to the Democracy Team as early as possible.

Disruption to Elections

In the event of significant disruption to the election process, including technical failure, building closures, or other unforeseen circumstances, the Deputy Returning Officer may pause, extend, or reschedule the election as necessary to ensure fairness.

The Count

The count shall be undertaken using the Single Transferable Voting system. The counting software will be activated in the presence of the Deputy Returning Officer and a University of Strathclyde staff observer.

In the event of a tie at the exhaustion of all transferable votes the candidate with the highest number of first preferences shall be deemed the winner. If these are tied a coin toss shall decide the Election outcome.

The Legal Bit

The elections are run under the rules and regulations of Strath Union's Constitution (accessible at https://www.strathunion.com/union/governance/policy/) as agreed by University Court. Nothing in this document can in any way supersede the Constitution.

Interpretation of Rules

The interpretation of these Election Rules shall rest with the Deputy Returning Officer. Where the application or interpretation of these rules is unclear, the DRO may issue guidance or make a determination in the interests of fairness and the proper conduct of the election.

How to Make a Complaint

Any student who wishes to complain about an issue relating to the Elections (including the conduct of Candidates) must do so via e-mail to strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk using the template form provided. All complaints should include the following:

- Which of the rules the candidate is alleged to have breached.
- Information about the nature of the complaint, including where relevant, dates times and locations.
- An idea of what the complainant wants to happen as a result of the complaint.
- Evidence to support the complaint.

Complaints will be handled confidentially where possible. However, effective investigation may not be possible without sharing details of the complaint, including the complainant's identity, with other relevant individuals.

Complaints made anonymously, by a third party, or without sufficient supporting evidence will be considered at the discretion of the Deputy Returning Officer. Where such complaints are upheld, the actions available to the DRO may be limited.

To be considered as an Election Complaint, a complaint must be submitted **within 24 hours of the alleged incident having occurred**, or come to light, **and no later than the close of polling** in the relevant election period.

Complaints received after this time may be considered under Strath Union's normal Complaints Procedure but will have no bearing on the outcome of the election.

Election complaints regarding behaviour which breaches the Code of Conduct may also be referred to Strath Union's Disciplinary Procedures at the decision of the Deputy Returning Officer.

Handling of Election Complaints

On receipt of a valid Election Complaint, the Deputy Returning Officer (or their nominee) will undertake an investigation, as appropriate.

The Deputy Returning Officer will consider the complaint and any evidence presented and reach a decision on how to proceed in accordance with the Schedules. Those alleged to have breached the regulations have the right to a hearing.

Where necessary to protect the integrity of the election, the Deputy Returning Officer may impose interim measures while an investigation is ongoing, including temporary suspension of campaigning activity, pending a final decision. Unless interim measures are imposed, candidates may continue to campaign while a complaint is under investigation.

Decisions on Election Complaints will be made on the balance of probabilities, considering the seriousness of the alleged breach, any mitigating or aggravating factors, and whether the breach was intentional or repeated. Breaches may also be referred to the Union's Disciplinary Procedure.

Where a complaint is upheld, sanctions may include actions that affect the outcome of the election. Possible courses of action can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A public warning.
- Directing candidates to remove election materials/delete social media posts.
- Suspending a candidate's campaigning activities for a given period of time.
- Disqualification of a candidate or the invalidation of votes cast for that candidate.

The Deputy Returning Officer may also determine that an election or part of an election be rerun where they believe the integrity of the process has been materially compromised.

Review of Election Complaints

Any complaint about the Deputy Returning Officer shall be addressed by the Returning Officer as will any appeals.

Where a student/candidate remains dissatisfied with the response they have received, they may request a review of the handling of the complaint by the Returning Officer. Any such request must be made in writing **within 6 hours** of the decision being issued to the parties concerned.

A request for an appeal/review should be on the following grounds, including but not confined to:

- A review of the procedures followed when considering the original complaint.
- A consideration of whether the outcome was reasonable in all the circumstances.
- New material evidence which the student was unable, for valid reasons, to provide earlier in the process.

The appeal stage will not usually consider the issues afresh or involve a further investigation.

Complainants can't use the appeal function to review the original outcome of the complaint – this is for those complained about to appeal sanctions.

The Returning Officer may confirm, vary, or overturn the original decision of the Deputy Returning Officer. The Returning Officer's decision shall be final.