



Candidates' Pack – Autumn 2023

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Who can stand?

Any attending Strathclyde Student can run for any of these positions (Ordinary Member, more detail can be found [HERE](#)) You don't need to have held a previous position – the only qualification is that you are a current Strathclyde student.

Which positions are available?

By-election – in office until March 2024

- Mature Students' Rep

Election – in office until October 2024

- Faculty Rep Business Postgraduate Research
- Faculty Rep Business Postgraduate Taught
- Faculty Rep Engineering Postgraduate Research
- Faculty Rep Engineering Postgraduate Taught
- Faculty Rep Humanities and Social Sciences Postgraduate Research
- Faculty Rep Humanities and Social Sciences Postgraduate Taught

- Faculty Rep Science Postgraduate Research
- Faculty Rep Science Postgraduate Taught
- Halls Rep

Conference Delegates – must be available to attend on NUS Conference dates. These positions are gender-balanced, in line with NUS policy.

- NUS Scotland Conference Delegate – 9 roles available, 25th to 28th March 2024
- NUS National Conference Delegate – 8 roles available, 17th and 18th April in Blackpool

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 or sign up to a Zoom drop-in session.

Elections Timetable

Nominations open	02/10/2023	12:00
Nominations close	23/10/2023	12:00
and online campaigning begins		
In-person campaigning begins	23/10/2023	12:00
Candidate briefing	23/10/2023	16:00
Voting opens	31/10/2023	12:00
Voting closes	02/11/2023	12:00
Results	02/11/2023	17:00

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

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 before the nominations 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 23rd October 2023. The online nominations form will close at this time and no late forms 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.

- Candidates for Non-Exec roles will receive an allowance of £25 or an equal share of £750, whichever is lower.
- Candidates for NUS Delegate positions will not receive a budget allowance.

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 12 noon on Thursday 2nd November 2023.

Free Content Creation and Management

- Canva https://www.canva.com/en_gb/
- Desygner <https://desygner.com/>
- Biteable <https://biteable.com/>
- Wondershare Filmora <https://filmora.wondershare.com/>
- YouCut [Android download](#) (google) [iOS download](#) (apple)
- 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 (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 2023 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. Campaigning is defined as any means of public declaration or publicising of a candidacy during the Election period.
5. All candidates must be current students at the University of Strathclyde and members of Strath Union. Candidates for Non-Executive Officer positions must be enrolled for a minimum of six months from the date that nominations close.
6. 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.

Nominations

7. Nominations for positions without candidates at the original deadline may be reopened with a new deadline prior to the opening of voting.
8. Candidate manifestos or amendments to these will not be accepted after the candidate list for a position has been published.
9. Candidates may only stand for one officer role in the election. This does not include the NUS delegate positions.
10. 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.

Campaigning and candidate behaviour

11. No public-facing campaigning is permitted until nominations close at which time online campaigning may commence. Physical or in person campaigning is permitted from one week before the close of voting.
12. Candidates will be held responsible for the actions of their campaign teams. It is up to candidates to ensure their campaign teams are aware of and follow the rules.
13. 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.
14. Lecture shout outs are permitted at the discretion of the relevant lecturer.
15. Candidates can't use any office space or resources such as printers in Strath Union for campaigning purposes and campaigning within the University Library or any designated limited access area is not permitted.

16. Candidates and their supporters must not harass, bully, intimidate, bribe or blackmail students in the pursuit of votes, or to stop someone from voting.
17. 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.
18. Campaigners are prohibited from providing a smart device to students in order for them to vote and may not vote on another student's behalf.
19. Unsolicited e-mails, including any e-mail lists of which you are a member of including Clubs, Societies, Groups and Class lists, may not be used. Posting in MyPlace or social media groups created for academic purposes is also not permitted.

Budgets and Resources

20. The allocated campaign budget is the only money to be spent on campaign activities and the total spent on publicity, including printing and materials, must not exceed this budget. 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.
21. 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 or rewards for campaigners will not be reimbursed.
22. 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.
23. 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

24. Sabbatical officers and Strath Union student staff can only campaign if they have taken approved leave in advance to do so.
25. Strath Union staff who are not students are not permitted to be involved in campaigning.

The Legal Bit

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

How Can I 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 guiding principles 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
- Supporting evidence to back up 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 or without sufficient supporting evidence may not be considered.

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 one hour before voting closes** 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.

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.

If upheld, 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
- In extreme circumstances, the Returning Officer may disqualify a candidate

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 issue** of the original response to the complaint.

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.