Strathclyde Students' Union

Spring 2022 Elections

Candidates Pack

Contents

Who can stand?

Any attending Strathclyde Student can run for any of these positions (Ordinary Member, see Constitution for details - https://www.strathunion.com/about/constitution/). 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?

Executive - sabbatical roles requiring a year out from study

- President
- Vice President Community
- Vice President Education
- Vice President Inclusion
- Vice President Sport
- Vice President Welfare

Non-Executive – roles carried out alongside studies

- BAME Rep
- Democracy Convenor
- Disabled Students' Rep
- Faculty Rep Business Undergraduate
- Faculty Rep Business Postgraduate Research
- Faculty Rep Engineering Undergraduate
- Faculty Rep Engineering Postgraduate Research
- Faculty Rep HaSS Undergraduate
- Faculty Rep HaSS Postgraduate Research
- Faculty Rep HaSS Postgraduate Taught – by-election for half year term
- Faculty Rep Science Undergraduate
- Faculty Rep Science Postgraduate Research
- Faculty Rep Science Postgraduate Taught – by-election for half year term
- Interfaith Rep
- International Students' Rep
- LGBT+ Rep
- Mature Students' Rep
- Part Time Students' Rep
- Women's Rep

If you have any questions about the roles or are unsure about standing in the elections, get in touch with our democracy staff - Adam and Leo, at strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk or sign up to a Zoom drop-in session.

Whether this is your first experience of student elections or you have participated before, we want to make sure you feel supported throughout.

If you have any additional needs you would like to make us aware of please let us know and we will make every effort to make adjustments for you.

Elections Timetable

Monday 31st January	12.00	Nominations open
Monday 21st February	12.00	Nominations close and online campaigning begins
Monday 21st February	17.00	Candidates' briefing
Thursday 3rd March	12.00	Physical campaigning begins
Monday 7th March	12.00	Voting opens
Thursday 10th March	12.00	Voting closes – all expenses must be submitted
Thursday 10th March	18.00	Results announcement

Nominations

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

Candidates also need to include a manifesto as part of the nomination form and before the nomination deadline. This is limited to a maximum of 250 words and any manifestos submitted after the nominations list is published 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 21st February. The online nomination portal will close at this time and no late forms can be accepted.

Photos

All candidates have the option to submit a photo of yourself to be displayed on the Strath Union elections pages. This should be in a .jpg format with a file size smaller than 1MB.

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 used for branded t-shirts or banners to display on campus, paying for social media promotions, or outsourcing some design work.

It's up to you how to use your budget, however, 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 will receive the following allowances, in each case whichever is lower:

- Exec roles (President and Vice-Presidents): £50 or an equal share of £1,000
- Non-Exec roles (Reps and Convenors): £30 or an equal share of £1,600

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

If required, you can obtain a £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 the close of voting.

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

Free Online Courses

- Create a Social Media Marketing Campaign – 4hours
  https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/create-a-social-media-marketing-campaign
- Create a Professional Online Presence – 4hours
  https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/create-a-professional-online-presence
- How to Create Great Online Content – 4hours
  https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/how-to-create-great-online-content

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 candidates often 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](#).

Elections Ethos

Strath Union advocates positive campaigning within our elections meaning that candidates and campaigners should promote themselves, or the candidate they are supporting, without disparaging the other candidates for the role.

We want our elections to be inclusive and enjoyable for everyone involved and we expect people to treat each other with fairness and respect.

Election Rules

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

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. Failure to comply with the Election Rules may lead to sanctions or disqualification.

3. Campaigning is defined as any means of public declaration or publicising of a candidacy during the Election period.

4. 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.

5. All candidates must be current students of 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. Candidates may only stand for one officer role in the election. This does not include the NUS delegate positions.

7. 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.

8. 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.

Covid-19 Specific Rules

9. When campaigning, candidates must follow the University of Strathclyde Covid-19 safety measures detailed at https://www.strath.ac.uk/coronavirus/covidbeyondlevel0/.
   - This includes including the wearing of face coverings in indoor settings, unless you are exempt.
   - On physical distancing, even though the law does not require a specific distance, the Scottish Government continues to advise that people should keep a reasonable distance from other people and avoid places that are crowded.
   - If anyone indicates they do not wish to be spoken to, you must respect this and move away

10. Candidates may display campaign materials such as posters, banners and t-shirts. However, campaigners are not permitted to distribute any materials such as flyers, consumables or other promotional items.

11. Lecture shout outs are not permitted, including online lectures.

General Campaign Rules

12. Campaigning within the University Library and designated limited access areas is not permitted, and candidates can't use any office space or resources such as printers in Strath Union for campaigning purposes.

13. Candidates and their supporters must not harass, bully, intimidate, bribe or blackmail students in the pursuit of votes.

14. 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.

15. Sabbatical officers and Strath Union student staff can only campaign if they have taken approved leave in advance to do so.

16. Strath Union staff who are not students are not permitted to be involved in campaigning.

17. 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.

18. 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.

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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. Candidates are responsible for their own health and safety and should not undertake any activities which endanger the safety of others. This includes following any safety guidance from the Scottish Government and University of Strathclyde regarding Covid-19.

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. You must stipulate which rule you believe has been breached and include evidence relating to your 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.

Review of Election Complaints

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

Where a complainant 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.

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

Voting

Voting is open between 12.00noon on Monday 7th March and 12.00noon on Thursday 10th March 2022. All votes must be cast online through the Strath Union website.

Our elections use the Transferable Voting System to elect the 'least unpopular candidates'.

The Alternative Transferable Voting system (ATV) is used to elect a single candidate for a position (e.g. President) The Single Transferable Voting system (STV) is used to elect multiple candidates for a position (e.g. 8 NUS Delegates).

With the Transferable Voting system, each voter is asked to rank the candidates in order of personal preference. For example, a completed ballot slip might look like this:

Candidate A	1
Candidate B	4
Candidate C	
Candidate D	2
Re-Open Nominations (RON)	3

At the close of voting, all the completed ballot forms are counted and allocated to each candidate according to the first preference indicated.

The Returning Officer for the election then declares the total number of valid votes, and the required quota. The quota is simply the minimum number of votes a candidate must gain to be sure of election. For single posts, the quota is a simple majority; the successful candidate must gain at least 50% of the total number of valid votes, plus one.

When more than two candidates are running for the same position, it is unlikely that a single candidate will achieve this quota. In this case, at the end of the first round of counting, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and each of their votes is re-allocated to the next expressed preference on that ballot slip.

If, at the end of this second round of counting, the required quota has still not been achieved by any of the remaining candidates, then the process is repeated. The candidate with the fewest total votes is eliminated, and their votes are redistributed to the next indicated preference.

This process of elimination and redistribution is repeated until a candidate either achieves the required quota of 50% of the valid number of votes plus one, or until the final round, where only two candidates remain. In this case, the candidate with the highest number of total votes will be elected.

Announcing Results

Results will be announced at 18.00 on Thursday 10th March 2022 at Strath Union and streamed online. The results announcement may be postponed on the instruction of the Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer. Results will be uploaded to the Strath Union website following the announcements.