

Strathclyde  
Students'  
Union



## 2023 Spring Elections Pack

### Contents

<b>2023 Spring Elections Pack</b> .....	1
Who can stand? .....	1
Which positions are available? .....	1
Elections Timetable.....	2
Nominations.....	4
Photos .....	4
Publicity and Candidate Allowances .....	4
Campaigning .....	5
Social Media.....	5
Spring 2023 Election Rules.....	6

### 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?

#### **Executive Officers - 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 Officers - roles carried out alongside studies

- Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic Rep
- Democracy Convenor
- Disabled Students' Rep
- Faculty Rep - Business PGR (until November 2023)
- Faculty Rep - Business UG
- Faculty Rep - Engineering PGR (until November 2023)
- Faculty Rep - Engineering UG
- Faculty Rep - HaSS PGR (until November 2023)
- Faculty Rep - HaSS UG
- Faculty Rep – Science PGR (until November 2023)
- Faculty Rep – Science UG
- Interfaith Rep
- International Students' Rep
- LGBT+ Rep
- Mature Students Rep
- Part-Time Students Rep
- Women's Rep

All terms in office except for the PGR Faculty Rep roles will run until the Spring Elections 2024, exact dates are to be confirmed.

Please note that the PGR Faculty Rep roles are for **6 months**. Future PGR Faculty Reps will be elected in Autumn and their terms will run from November to November – this upcoming term will be a transition period until the Autumn Elections in 2023.

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](mailto:strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk) or sign up to a Zoom drop-in session.

## Elections Timetable

<b>Spring Elections - Nominations Open</b>	24/01/2023	12:00
<b>Spring Elections - Nominations Close</b>	21/02/2023	12:00
<b>Spring Elections - Online Campaigning Begins</b>	21/02/2023	12:00
<b>Spring Elections Candidate Briefing</b>	22/02/2023	12:00
<b>Spring Elections - Physical Campaigning Begins</b>	02/03/2023	12:00
<b>Spring Elections - Voting Opens</b>	06/03/2023	12:00

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<b>Spring Elections - Voting Closes</b>	09/03/2023	12:00
<b>Spring Elections - Results</b>	09/03/2023	17:00 (TBC)

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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 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 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](mailto: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:

- Executive Roles: £50 for an equal share of £1200
- Non-Exec roles: £25 or an equal share of £1700

Allowances will be provided on a 'spend and claim' basis whereby candidates must provide receipts and complete an expenses 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](mailto: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](mailto:strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk) by close of polls at 12 noon on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 12:00 noon.**

## Free Content Creation and Management

- Canva [https://www.canva.com/en\\_gb/](https://www.canva.com/en_gb/)
- Desygnr <https://desygnr.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 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](#).

## Spring 2023 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. Nominations for positions without candidates at the original deadline may be reopened with a new deadline prior to the opening of voting.
6. Candidate manifestos or amendments to these will not be accepted after the candidate list for a position has been published.
7. 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.
8. Candidates may only stand for one officer role in the election. This does not include the NUS delegate positions.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Lecture shout outs are permitted but must not disrupt lectures. Please ask permission from any lecturer who is present and respect their decision.
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. 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.
15. 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.
16. Sabbatical officers and Strath Union student staff can only campaign if they have taken approved leave in advance to do so.
17. Strath Union staff who are not students are not permitted to be involved in campaigning.

18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. Candidates are responsible for their own health and safety and should not undertake any activities which endanger the safety of others.

### **The Legal Bit**

The elections are run under the rules and regulations of [Strath Union's 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](mailto: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.