



## **Elections are changing for 2026**

The SU will be changing how students vote in the Sabbatical Officer Elections this year.

Previously, students could vote both online and at in-person voting booths across campus. For 2026, voting will primarily take place in dedicated Voting Areas across each campus, rather than mainly online.

This means that for most of the election period, students will only be able to vote in person.

## **Why are we making this change?**

Our feedback has shown that many students didn't always fully understand what Sabbatical Officers do before voting. Elections have often been fast-paced and intense for candidates, with a focus on securing votes as quickly as possible.

We want to create a more thoughtful, informed and fair voting experience for students. This change will ensure that everyone who votes:

- understands the role of Sabbatical Officers
- has time to read and consider all candidates' manifestos
- can make a decision at their own pace
- feels free to choose whether or not to take part in the democratic process

## **How will this work?**

In each Voting Area, the SU will set up different stations, supported by neutral SU staff. These will include:

- a manifesto station, where students can take time to read and compare candidates' ideas
- a voting station, where students will cast their vote in a secret ballot, as in previous years
- Staff will be present to guide students through the process, but will remain completely impartial.

**Are there other changes?**

Yes. Candidates will be allowed to campaign freely for a short period before voting officially opens, so they can encourage students to engage with the election.

There will also be a limited online voting window during the election period for students who are unable to be on campus during voting days. Details of this will be shared with both students and candidates in advance.