

UWLSU Elections – Sabb Elections

Keeping elections fair is our top priority - these rules are designed to ensure that no candidates gain an unfair advantage and voters have an equal opportunity to elect their representatives. We've done our best to make sure there's no reason for anybody to feel discouraged from participating in the elections.

Breaking a rule is very serious – if any of these rules are broken, the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer can disqualify candidates or stop the election. We don't want this to happen of course – so please read through thoroughly!

This list of rules is not exhaustive, the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer will use their own discretion if they feel candidates or campaign teams have broken rules.

We wish you luck and all the best in campaigning!

Rachel Mundy, Deputy Returning Officer
Jamal El-kalawy, Representation and Advocacy Manager

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Rules

Time and locations

- Only campaigning between Tuesday 15th March (12pm) and Friday 18th March (12pm)
- No campaigning in the library or in Villiers House.
- You can campaign using your own online platforms and social media

Campaigning Behaviour

- Be respectful of voters - let them decide for themselves
- You are unable to vote on behalf of others
- Let students vote in peace and decide for themselves
- You cannot campaign in a class that you are not scheduled to have
- You cannot interrupt your class with campaigning - You can ask your teacher if you can speak for 2 minutes at the beginning of classes. If the teacher says no, you must not campaign

Other Candidates

- Respect and don't interfere with their campaign materials.
- Bullying & Harassment are unacceptable.
- Remember, you are all going through the same journey, be kind to each other.

Budget (£15)

- Keep your receipts - you'll need to hand them in Friday 18th March (12pm)
- You cannot spend more than the allocated budget or use personal funds, this is to ensure equitable opportunities in campaigning.

Access and Promotion

Connections

You may use your connections through student groups to support your campaign, but you and your campaign team members cannot use any committee positions or other positions of power to pressure students into voting for you.

For example, you can message a Facebook group with a campaigning message. However, if you are the President, a committee member or otherwise have a position of power within the student group, you can't command other students in the group to campaign for you, vote for you or threaten them with negative treatment if they don't vote for you.

Clubs and Societies

Any student who is a member of a student group (such as a sports team or society) must have fair and open access to the student group's resources to use for campaigning, including WhatsApp and Facebook groups.

- You can also request that your campaign materials are posted on other groups' social media.
- Individual members of clubs or societies should have the freedom to vote for who they want.

Campaign Teams and Slates

A list must be provided stating the names of all campaign members that will be taking part in the elections - If anybody on your campaign team breaks a rule, the candidate will also be deemed to have broken a rule.

Only UWLSU members (UWL students and current elected sabbatical officers) are allowed to participate in the elections as candidates or campaigners. Candidates may decide to support each other's campaigns and run as a 'slate' (a team). You may not have non-members (anybody who is not a current UWL student or sabbatical officer) on your campaign team.

You are responsible for making sure your campaign team understand and follow the rules. Campaign teams should attend training along with the candidates. Training will be run by the Student Voice Manager and Deputy Returning Officer - if you need further support with this then you should ask for help at the earliest opportunity.

UWLSU and UWL

The Students' Union, UWL and any associated departments will under no circumstances, endorse any candidate or promote campaign materials. The Students' Union and University departments can encourage students to vote in the election only.

Promotional Materials

We want you to be able to spread the word about your campaign to the best of your ability. We feel no candidate will have trouble accessing any of the items in reasonable quantities, so we won't need you to submit receipts and these will not count towards your budget.

Allowed Items

- Cardboard, Paper
- Paint, Paintbrushes, Pens
- Sheets (e.g. bed sheets)
- String
- Sticky tape (not to be used on the walls!)
- Cable ties
- Glue (not to be used on walls!)
- Blu Tack
- Scissors
- **Four** T-shirts for your campaign team
- Any other reasonable craft materials (if in doubt, ask!)

Restricted items and placements

- Balloons are not allowed under any circumstances
- Posters and stickers are not allowed on the walls or floors. You can campaign there, but you need to keep the space new and fresh
- Posters can be placed on the SU display boards
- Do not put campaign material on fire exits, fire extinguishers or anything that puts students' safety at risk.
- Nothing permanent can be used. For example you cannot glue posters to the wall, or put anything up that leaves a mark.
- Do not print excessive campaign materials. The SU will print your materials for you.

Regulations and Voting

University regulations

Your campaign must abide by university's rules and regulations and with UK national law. All UWL policies can be found at www.uwl.ac.uk/policies

- The University regulations state that you cannot send bulk emails or communications to students. You will have to be creative in the way you contact and communicate to students.
- Be aware that the university do not want any posters or helium balloons in the Heartspace on campus. (Posters may be put up on pin up boards supplied by the SU)

Voting

Voting will be by single transferrable vote - this means voters will number their candidates by order of preference, and candidates will need to meet the quota to win.

For more information, please visit <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/voting-systems/types-of-voting-system/single-transferable-vote/>

Complaints

If you are worried that a rule has been broken by another candidate, email su.elections@uwl.ac.uk with the details of your complaint and you will receive a reply within 24 hours.

For complaints about the election, **the deadline is Friday 18th March (12pm)**. Any requests for a re-count must be submitted within 24 hours of the verbal announcement.

Questions

If in doubt, ask! Please contact Rachel or Jamal in the Students' Union team should you have any questions. Alternatively, you can email su.elections@uwl.ac.uk

Returning Officer

Peter Robertson from the National Union of Students is the Returning Officer in charge of making sure the election is fair, so their say will be final. Rachel Mundy is our Head of Membership and Deputy Returning Officer, so will be acting on NUS' behalf in the first instance.