

Goldsmiths Students' Union

Election Rules

as of February 2021



Due to the ongoing pandemic all elections will be conducted at all stages ONLINE. At no point will we organise any in person events, training or voting on campus related to the election. This is to ensure student safety during this time.

Eligibility:

- This criteria is tested primarily on the first day of voting and through the validation process when you nominate yourself, however if you fail to meet the eligibility criteria at any point during the process this will affect your eligibility to run in the election.
- In order to stand for any position, you must be a current member of the Students' Union. You must be fully enrolled as a student by the first day of voting in order to run in the election.
- If you are running for a part-time position, you must be continuing your studies at Goldsmiths into the 2020/2021 academic year. For a full time position this is not necessary but you must be an enrolled student on the first day of voting.
- If running for a liberation position (e.g. Trans and non binary Officer) you must self identify into that group.
- To be a candidate you must not have fallen foul of any Students' Union official complaint, disciplinary or investigation.

Principles:

- All candidates must act in the interests of a free and fair election.
- All candidates must adhere to the students' union's rules and policies, as well as the University's rules and the law. This includes the need to ensure your campaign and the campus is free from discrimination (see the Safe Space Policy).
- All candidates must act responsibly and with respect for each other. Personal abuse or bullying won't be tolerated.

Rules:

- Campaigners should only undertake campaign activity that other candidates could reasonably do. Example: If your dad owns a billboard company, you could not use that space to gain free advertising across New Cross. However, you could put posters up across campus as all candidates have the ability to do this.
- For this election we have banned physical campaigning- all campaigning must take place online only. Due to Covid-19 we have decided that for all students safety this must be the case.

- Candidates are responsible for the actions of volunteers in their campaign team. If campaigners are speaking to students on behalf of a candidate, they also must be current Goldsmiths students themselves. Exceptions can be made (with prior notice to the Democracy team) if students have enablers or personal support for their access requirements.
- No campaigning is allowed before the published start of the campaigning period- 11am Wednesday 10th March. You are allowed to organise a campaign team ahead of campaigning starting, but this should be limited to planning campaign actions. If you set up social media pages before this date, they should not launch any content until this date.
- Candidates must allow students to cast their votes freely and without intimidation or pressure (e.g. you should not let a student voter use your own smartphone to vote in the elections).
- Candidates must not undertake any negative campaigning against other candidates. The election should be about ideas and priorities and your focus should be on your own campaign not anyone else's.
- Candidates must not undertake any negative campaigning against individual staff members within the Students' Union. Example: Criticising the Union's current policy, position or stance on something is fair, personal attacks on officers or staff implementing that decision are not.
- Slates are prohibited. This means you aren't allowed to campaign with other candidates on the same platform (e.g. you can't hand out someone else's leaflet or promote each other). You can of course still care for each other on a personal level, just not campaigning wise.

Budget

- Full-Time Officer Candidates can buy additional campaign supplies which the Students' Union will reimburse up to £30 per candidate. We do not expect candidates to purchase anything additional during their campaign especially as the campaigning is online only but this budget is to cover the 'just in case' scenario.
- The items you have purchased should not amount to more than £30. If you have bought anything additional for your campaign you must submit your receipts to the Welcome Desk or through the candidate expenses form by 1pm Wednesday 17th March with the risk of disqualification if you do not present your receipts.
- Candidates will be given the opportunity for their campaign poster to be featured on the SU social media in replacement of the usual printing allocation. The deadline for posters to be submitted is Monday 8th March and must be emailed to democracy@goldsmithssu.org by 5pm.
- Campaigners must include on digital poster materials, the line: "Vote at goldsmithssu.org/elections between 11am on Wednesday 10th March until 11am on Wednesday 17th March 2021."
- Items freely and readily available to all campaigners can be used without itemisation, for example, the use of free social media.

Guidance for sports clubs and societies:

- Candidates may request to join Facebook pages in order to post about the elections. However, it is the discretion of the club or society committee about whether they accept your request.
- Clubs and societies may endorse candidates, as long as this decision was reached in a democratic way (e.g through a committee meeting or a poll of members.)
- Candidates who have access to mailing lists through a position such as society leader or club captain may not use them to communicate with members about the election.

Complaints, appeals, feedback and problems

- We will endeavour to do our best to ensure the elections run smoothly, and all candidates are operating in a collegiate, civil way where everyone is able to campaign to the best of their abilities. Where this isn't the case and the rules above aren't followed, we reserve the right to disqualify candidates from the election.
- If you have a complaint about the election this should be submitted in the first instance to the Deputy Returning Officer via **democracy@goldsmithssu.org**. If you are not happy with the response from the DRO you can request the contact the Returning Officer Christina Kennedy, Deputy Chief Executive at London Arts SU.
- All complaints must be submitted within 2 hours of the voting closing, if not before voting closes.
- If you have feedback about the election we welcome this and are always striving to ensure candidates are happy and content with the support they are receiving around process around elections. We will be sending a survey out post elections results asking you for feedback, and there will be an opportunity to tell us honestly and anonymously how you think we can improve.

