



BEING A CANDIDATE AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT



**For students with Student or Tier 4 permission
wanting to stand as a sabbatical officer at
Goldsmiths SU**





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International Students' Guide to Student Union Elections

This information is for you if you have Student or Tier 4 permission and you want to stand for election as a sabbatical officer at Goldsmiths SU

Can international students stand for Elections?


Yes! All current students and new graduates can stand for elections. However, there may be challenges depending on your permissions and circumstances.





What do I need to know and do, as an international student standing for Student Union Elections at Goldsmiths SU?

According to the Home Office rules, if you have immigration permission (Student or Tier 4 permission) this allows you to do the job. If you have a different type of permission you can speak to Goldsmiths Immigration Advice (immigration@gold.ac.uk) for more information. Your current permission may expire, or may not allow you to work. You therefore may need to apply for Student permission in order to get Right to Work.

- Check if your Student permission allows you to work first, Student Visa generally allows 20 hours of part time work during term time, and full time work only as a Sabbatical Officer in a Students' Union.**
 - If your Student permission expires before the end of the Sabbatical Officer contract, and you have not graduated, you will need to apply for an extension. Your application fee and international health surcharge will be paid for.**
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An orange speech bubble with a pink and white striped border, containing the text 'ATTENTION PLEASE!' in bold, black, uppercase letters with a pink outline. The bubble is positioned in the top left corner of the page.

**ATTENTION
PLEASE!**

Three dark blue, teardrop-shaped decorative lines are arranged in a fan-like pattern on the right side of the page.

YOU CAN:

Study
Work as a student union sabbatical officer




YOU CANNOT:

Claim public funds and pensions
Work in certain jobs
Be self-employed
Study at an academy or a local authority-funded school (also known as a maintained school)



Part Time Officer Roles

If you want to stand for a Part Time Officer position, according to Home Office rules, you will not be able to extend your permissions if it ends before the end of the part time officer role, as they are voluntary roles. You will also have to keep to the 20-hour work limit during term time that applies to Student visa permissions. The 20-hour limit is inclusive of any voluntary or part time work you may do during term time.



Are you on a Student or Tier 4 Visa Permission?

Yes

Check your Student permission. The Student Visa generally allows 20 hours of part time work during term time, and full time work only as a Sabbatical Officer in a Student Union.

No

This information assumes you already have Student or Tier 4 permission. Check if your permission allows you to work. Talk to Goldsmiths Immigration Advice if you are studying with a different type of permission. Your current permission may expire, or may not allow you to work. You therefore may need to apply for Student permission in order to get Right to Work. This impacts your ability to do or complete an elected role, if you do not have Right to Work.

Have you completed your course?

Yes

If you are elected and your course has ended, you must do the sabbatical officer role in the academic year after you complete your course. You can start work on your current Student permission if it allows you to work and has not expired yet, but you will need to apply for an extension to complete the role. Goldsmiths SU will pay for your application fee and international health surcharge.

No

If you are elected and your course has not ended, you can take a one year sabbatical leave from your studies and start work as a Sabbatical Officer on your current Student permission. However, if your Student permission expires before the end of the Sabbatical Officer contract, and you have not graduated, you will need to apply for an extension of your student visa so you can work and finish your studies.

Are you on a scholarship?

Yes

No

If you are on a scholarship, your ability to stay in the country and finish the role may depend on the conditions of your scholarship or funding body. For example, some scholarships may require you to return to your home or host country, while others may carry an employment bond beginning immediately after graduation - both of which will affect the success of your visa application/extension, and therefore your right to stay and/or work.

Check with your scholarship or funding body first if you can stay and complete the sabbatical officer role, before you stand for elections.

Contact the Goldsmiths Immigration Advice Service immediately after getting elected to ensure you apply for relevant permissions on time.





What challenges may I anticipate in the Visa application process?

You will need to obtain or extend your immigration permissions if they expire before the end of the role if you were to be elected. You will therefore need to engage in the Visa application process to either obtain or extend your Student permissions.

Some scholarships may require you to return to your home or host country, while others may carry an employment bond beginning immediately after graduation - both of which will affect the success of your visa application/extension, and therefore your right to stay and/or work. Check with your scholarship or funding body first if you can stay and complete the sabbatical officer role, before you stand for elections. Write to them stating your intentions of standing for elections and why, and request for a signed and dated letter confirming you are able to stay and complete the role if elected. The application process may also be made more complex depending on the passport or travel document that you carry.

Please reach out to democracy@goldsmithssu.org if you are aware of, have experienced before or anticipate any difficulty with the Visa process, so we can see how best to support you. Specify that you are enquiring about being a Sabb as an international student, and we will direct you to the right person.



Can I do the Sabbatical Officer role and study at the same time?

Maybe.

The Sabbatical Officer role is a one year contract. You will be onboarded to the SU, College emails and HR system, and be invited to attend meetings and work during office hours.

Student permissions require you to be studying full time.

If you are elected and are about to complete your course - you don't have classes and just have to submit your dissertation, you can do so.

Two of our sabbatical officers have experience completing their dissertations during their roles. You can reach out to them on sabbs@goldsmithssu.org if you'd like. However it should be noted that if at any point you want to defer your dissertation, please be aware that your attendance status in the College may change to 'Assessment Only' after the sabbatical officer role ends. This means there is a possibility you cannot extend your Student permission again (after extending it to fulfil the Sabbatical Officer role) to stay in the country and finish your dissertation, because you do not have classes to attend.



Any
Questions
???



thank you!

