



Cardiff Students' Union
Undeb Myfyrwyr Caerdydd

CUSU Election Regulations

Please note: Candidates are officially bound by these regulations from the moment the notice of poll confirming the list of candidates is made live on the Students' Union website. For Candidates nominations to be approved they must ensure their nomination complies with the guidance set out in these regulations. When these regulations refer to 'candidates' it is also referring to campaigners/campaign teams.

Nominations

Nominations must be submitted using the nominations type form available on the Notice of Elections and prior to the nominations deadline confirmed in the Notice of Elections. Any students experiencing issues with the nominations process must report this prior to the nominations deadline by emailing the elections team at elections@cardiff.ac.uk. No nominations can be accepted after the deadline where no issue has been reported prior.

Name on Ballot & Notice of Election

Candidates must provide a name to appear on the ballot and notice of election when submitting their nomination. This name should be either their registered name on the University's database or a name in which they commonly use or are referred to as. This is to ensure students are fully aware of the candidates they are voting for and who may be elected as their representatives.

Names which do not fit this definition and/or include phrases, names, or words more commonly associated with phrases or brands will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure they submit a nomination within the guidance provided, and risk their nomination not being accepted if they fail to comply with the election teams instructions. The deadline for providing an appropriate name to appear on the ballot and notice of poll is the same time and date as the deadline for nomination submission.

Photo

Candidates have the option to provide a photo to appear on the online ballot alongside their nominations. Candidates do not have to provide a photo, but any photo which is provided must follow the guidance.

The photo should be a true likeness of the candidate and include the candidates face. No other people should appear within the focus of the photo. It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure they submit a photo within the guidance provided, and risk their photo not being accepted if they fail to comply with the election teams instructions.



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Candidate Questions

For this election all candidates are asked to answer four questions. These questions are aimed at helping students understand the type of student representative a candidate would be if elected and the priorities they would have. Candidates are not required to submit an answer at the time of completing their nomination. Candidates may opt to submit their answers following the closing of nominations via email to elections@cardiff.ac.uk or not at all. Candidates have a maximum of 600 characters (approximately 100 words) for each question. The questions are as follows:

- Q1. What experience or skills do you have which you believe will make you a good representative?
- Q2. How do you plan to ensure students are heard and their views reflected on important issues that impact their university experience?
- Q3. What would be your top 3 priorities if elected?
- Q4. What makes you stand out from other potential candidates?

Your answers to these questions will appear on the ballot when students vote and will be used throughout the Union's promotion of the election. These answers replace what were formally known as manifestos. If you experience any problems with submitting your answers below please email a copy to elections@cardiff.ac.uk.

Candidate Resources

The Students' Union will use the answers candidates provide to the candidate questions to produce promotional materials that will be shared online and placed around the Students' Union building.

Candidates are then able to produce their own posters which will be printed by the Students' Union. Posters must be emailed to the Students' Union prior to the given deadline to ensure they are returned to candidates before the start of the voting period. Candidates are not able to print any other promotional material not provided by the Students' Union. The number of printed materials/copies of posters provided by the Students' Union will be confirmed during the candidate briefing.

Key deadlines can be found below:

	Deadline	Submission Process
Nomination Submission	Friday 28 th February, 6pm	Submitted via the nominations typeform.
Photo Submission	Wednesday 5 th March, 6pm	Submitted via the nominations typeform or via email to elections@cardiff.ac.uk
Responses to Candidate Questions	Wednesday 5 th March, 6pm	Submitted via the nominations typeform or via email to elections@cardiff.ac.uk
Video Manifesto (30 Seconds) <i>Sabbatical Officer candidates may</i>	Friday 7 th March, 6pm	Submitted via email to elections@cardiff.ac.uk .



<i>submit a video manifesto to be shared on the Union's social media. This video must be no longer than 30 seconds and filmed in one continuous take.</i>		Submission should be provided in either .MOV or MP4 format and filmed in portrait.
Additional Words for Translation <i>Alongside their candidate questions can also request up to 100 additional words for translation to submit their election.</i>	Wednesday 12 th February, 6pm	Additional words for translation should be submitted via Email to elections@cardiff.ac.uk
Poster / Printed Materials Deadline	Wednesday 12 th February, 6pm	Submitted via Email as a PDF to elections@cardiff.ac.uk . Submission is required in both English and Welsh.

Campaigning & Conduct

Cardiff University Students' Union elections are governed by 4 core principles which regulate campaigning and candidate conduct through all of elections. We want you as candidates to be free to campaign in clever and creative ways without worrying about remembering long lists of rules. Instead, the 4 principles should guide candidates' decisions making about their campaign.

That said, should candidates act contrary to spirit of the principles they are subject to sanctions from the elections team. These can vary from restricting different kinds of publicity to in extreme cases removal from the election.

The Principles

- 1) Students must be free to cast their vote without undue influence or pressure.
- 2) Candidates must obey the law, union and university policies
- 3) Candidates should focus on their own campaign and thus avoid interfering with the campaigning of other candidates.
- 4) Items produced or primarily used for a candidate's campaign must be accounted for within the given allowance in line with the unions' financial election regulations.

How it works:

To give you an idea of how this works there are some examples of how the principles are applied below:

- 1) Students must be free to cast their vote without undue influence or pressure.

Candidates may not stand and watch students when they vote as the student would be under



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pressure to vote for that particular candidate. Candidates should be mindful to step away from a student once they have begun the voting process. Whilst it would be permitted to hand out a flyer and a sweet to make students remember you and listen to you, you would not be allowed to offer to give students a reward (a sweet or something else) that they get after they have voted for you, as this would be deemed as undue influence.

- 2) Candidates must obey the law, union and university policies.

This means that you as a candidate and your campaign team, as always, must adhere to the law, University regulation (such as their behavioural code, health and safety regulations, equal opportunities procedure, harassment code, damage to university property, and use of email etc.) and Union policy (such as our Zero Tolerance policy, Elections Regulations etc). Breach of these policies can lead to a disciplinary which could in turn affect your student status and your Union membership, as well as impacting your status as an election candidate.

- 3) Candidates should focus on their own campaign and thus avoid interfering with the campaigning of other

This means candidates are expected to focus on their own campaign and not do anything which would interfere with the campaigning of other candidates. For example: defacing other candidates' publicity and heckling other candidates are among the actions that would be considered a breach of this principle. However, candidates are still free to discuss the merits of another candidate's manifesto or standing and such discussion would not be considered a breach of this principle. Campaign within the allowance provided.

- 4) Items produced or primarily used for candidates campaign must be accounted for within the given allowance in line with the unions financial election regulations (see below).

Financial Election Regulations

Money should not be a barrier to any student wishing to run in elections. This is why the union provides campaign allowances to all candidates and also restricts candidate expenditure to the set amount.

Candidates standing in this election have an allowance of £20

- 1) This allowance is to spend on costs associated with your campaign. You cannot spend more than this amount on your campaign activity and resources.
- 2) To promote sustainable methods of campaigning candidates **may not** print their own printed materials including posters, flyers, leaflets, and business cards. The Students'



Union will provide each candidate with a specified number of printed copies of their posters of varying sizes. These will be scaled up and down from an A4 version (portrait) that candidates will provide as their poster manifesto. The exact details of amounts and sizes will be made available to candidates following the closing of nominations.

- 3) All candidates are required to produce receipts for all of their expenditure on the campaign prior to the final candidates meeting along with an expenses form.
- 4) Where obtaining a receipt for an item is not possible, candidates must agree a market value with the elections team prior to its use. This amount will then be counted towards their total elections expenditure.
- 5) Campaign expenditure shall be defined as 'any expenditure that is carried out with the purpose of promoting a candidate's election campaign'. The only exceptions are costumes/clothing and consumables (See guide on the next page).
- 6) If unsure whether an item should or should not be counted as expenditure it is the responsibility of the candidate to gain clarity from the elections team prior to the use of any materials. Clarity should be obtained in writing via email.
- 7) Candidates cannot split the costs of the production and use of assets in their campaign. Wherever an item has been used by to support a candidates campaign, the individual candidate will be liable to deduct the full amount from their expenditure regardless of the total number of candidates benefiting. IE a group of candidates campaigning together and promoting each other are individually required to account for the full value of any resources used in their campaign.

The list below is not exhaustive.

Consumables & non campaign specific items (must not be accounted for.)

Rationale: These are all items we can reasonably expect candidates to own prior to their decision to stand in union elections. This means their primary function is not to promote campaigning and therefore they do not have to be accounted for.

Paint, pens, and craft materials



Old cardboard, sheets, fabric or similar materials
Sellotape, pins, blue tac, glue, string or other fixing materials
Pets
Musical Instruments
Car and transport costs
Costumes
Clothing (excluding clothing which is professionally produced for the primarily purpose of promoting your election).

Breach of Conduct

Upon report of a breach of conduct candidates will be reported to the elections team who will conduct an investigation and will apply sanctions if the candidate is found to be in breach. The Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer have the right to sanction and even remove a candidate from the election process if they feel it appropriate.

Additional Guidance

From time-to-time the elections team, including the Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer, may issue further election guidance. This guidance can cover any elements of election conduct and are to be as enforceable as these regulations. Any such guidance will be communicated to candidates via email.

How to Make a Complaint

All complaints must be received within 24 hours of the incident occurring and must reach the democracy team in writing by the close of voting.

Complaints are made by emailing elections@cardiff.ac.uk and must include the following information;

- Details of the incident (when and where it took place and whether there were any witnesses)

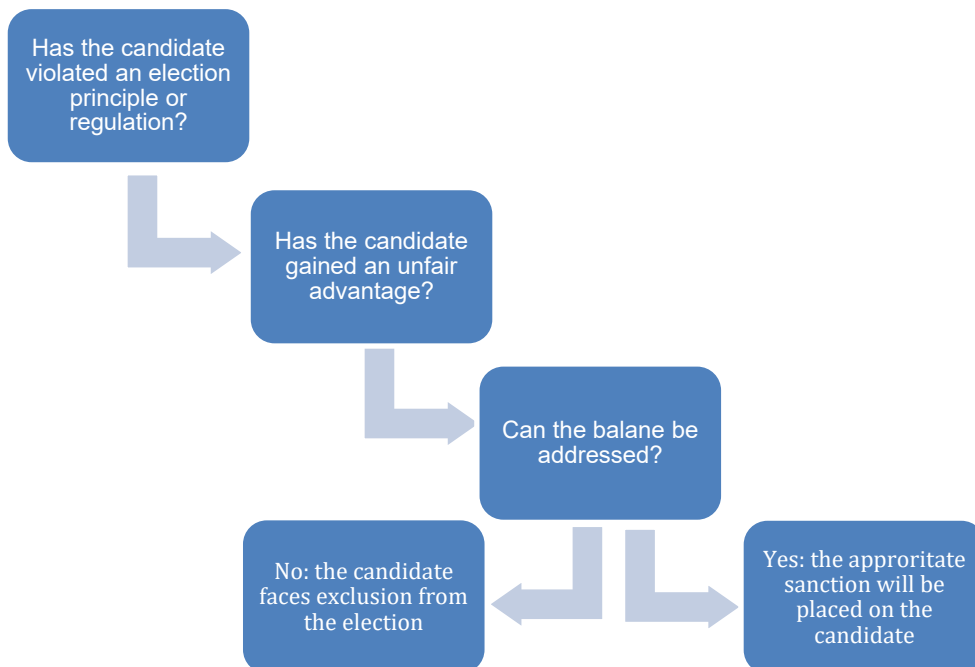


- Evidence
- Which Regulation has been broken
- What you are asking us to do about it

The Elections Returning Officer will be reviewing and ruling on all complaints prior to the commencement of the Count.

Assessing Complaints

The elections team assesses all complaints on an individual basis against a somewhat standardised formula. By posing a series of questions the elections team ensures to treat all candidates equally.



Accessibility

The elections team aim to make the elections process as accessible as possible. If there are any accessibility needs which you wish to make the elections team aware of, or would require the granting of exemptions for, please email the elections team at elections@cardiff.ac.uk at the earliest opportunity.



The Count

In the event that a successfully elected candidate is unable to take up their post and declares so prior to the start of their term of office (1st July) the election count may be re-run with the withdrawn candidate removed. The successful candidate in the re-run count will then be provided with the opportunity to take up the role. This may only happen once per elected position.

Key Dates

Key Event	Date
Nominations Open	Friday 31 st January, 10am
Nominations Close	Friday 28 th February, 6pm
Candidate Questions and Photo Deadline	Wednesday 5 th March, 6pm
Video Manifesto Deadline	Friday 7 th March, 6pm
Additional Words for Translation Deadline	Wednesday 12 th March, 6pm
Printed Materials Submission Deadline	Wednesday 12 th March, 6pm
Printed Materials Collection	Wednesday 19 th – Friday 21 st March, 10am-4pm
Voting Opens	Monday 24 th March, 10am
Voting Closes	Thursday 27 th March, 4pm
Results Expected	Friday 28 th March

