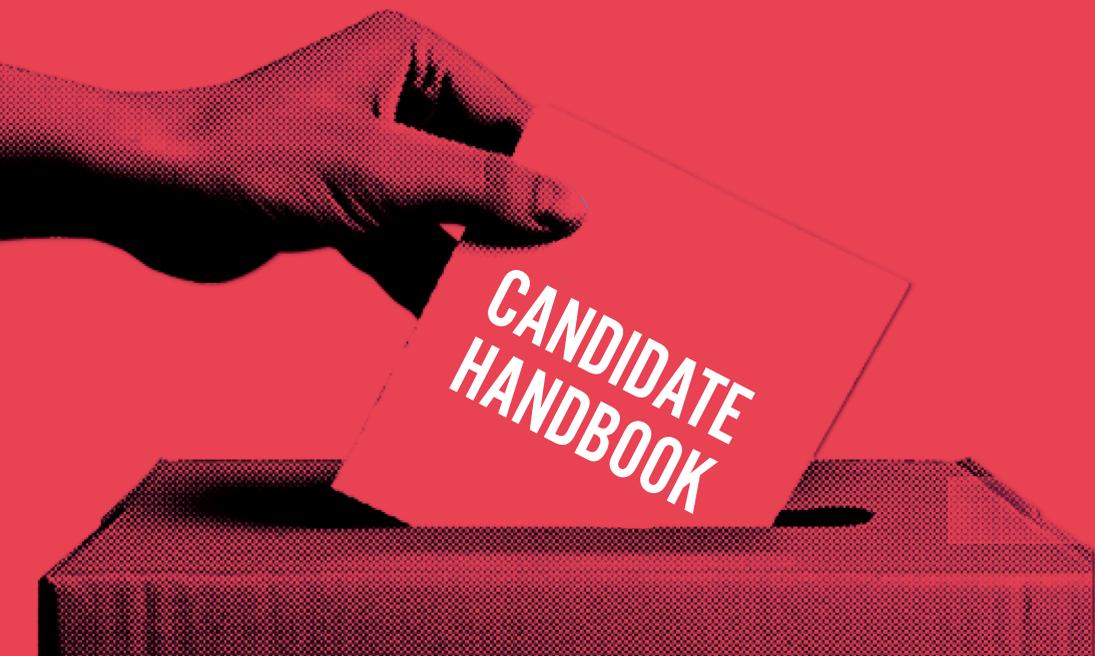


**THE STUDENTS'
UNION**
AT UWE

THE STUDENT ELECTIONS 2026



CONTENTS

Introduction to the Students' Union	1
How do we work?	2
The Elections Team	3
Why run in the Elections?.....	4
Elections timeline	5
Full Time Sabbatical Officers.....	6
Part Time Officers	7
Eligibility.....	8
Manifestos	9
Budget	10
Slates and Collaborative Campaigning	11
Rules and “The Spirit of the Election”.....	12
Preparing and Campaigning	13
Voting and Results	14
Complaints.....	15
Pledge of Fair Play	16
Frequently Asked Questions.....	18
Wellbeing.....	19
Glossary	20
Deadlines.....	21

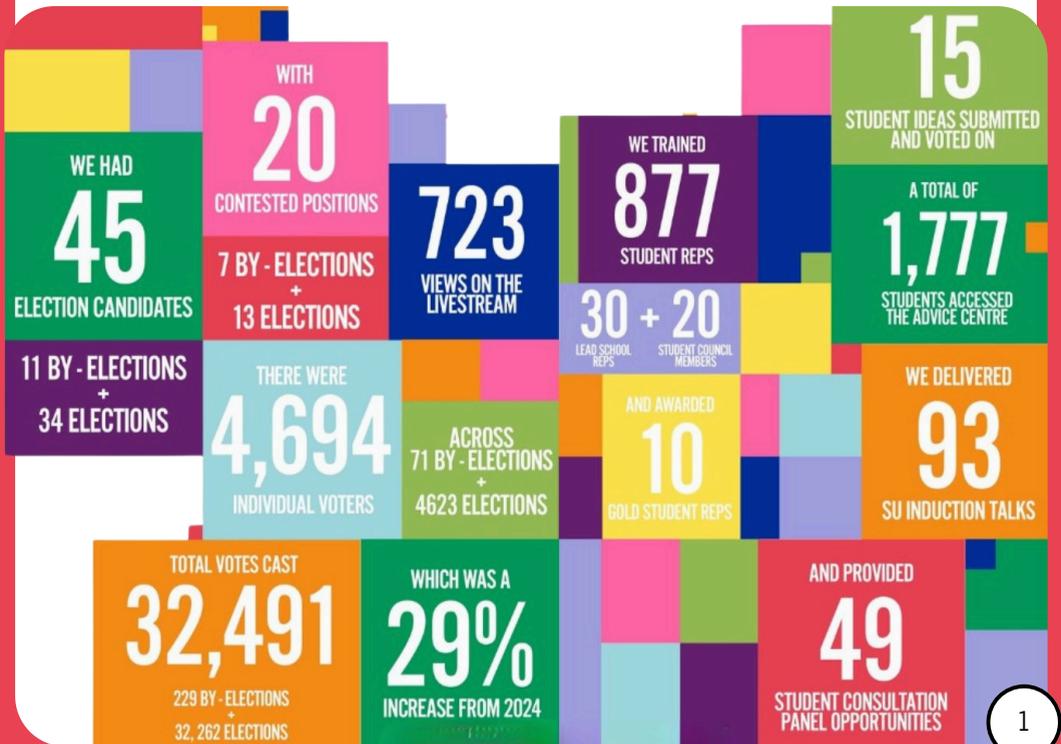
THE STUDENTS' UNION AT UWE

What do we do?

The Students' Union represents your academic interests and student experience while you're at UWE Bristol! We're a registered charity, separate from the university. We work to make a positive impact on every student here, providing representation, advice and opportunities.

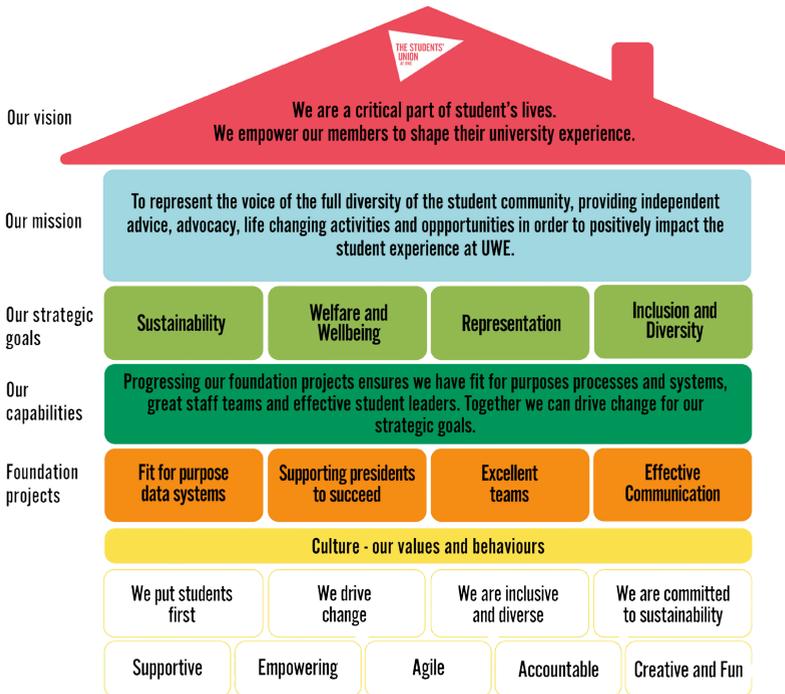
Why do we have Student Leaders?

The work of the Students' Union is driven by the needs of students. To ensure this, we are led by Officers who represent and engage with students across all courses and campuses. We are led by students because we believe you are the experts on your own experience.



HOW DO WE WORK?

This is our strategy house, it lays out our strategic plan as an organisation. Pay special attention to the foundations of the house, these are our values and behaviours: ways of working that we all strive to embody. Our Full-Time Sabbatical and Part Time Officers should demonstrate these values and behaviours as representatives of the Students' Union at UWE.



The Students' Union at UWE is also governed by its Constitution that is comprised of three parts: the Articles of Association, the Bye Laws and the Policy Book. These documents provide the framework and guidelines for decision and policy making, as well as providing guidelines on how to enact key democratic processes, such as the Elections. You can find more information on the Constitution on the 'About Us' section on our website.

THE ELECTIONS TEAM



Peter Robertson (NUS)
Returning Officer

Elections in The Students' Union are supervised by an external Returning Officer (RO). They delegate their authority to the DRO. The RO's duty is to make sure the elections are fair, successful, transparent and legal. The RO has the final say in election matters and their decisions are final.



Em Harvey
Deputy Returning Officer

The Election is organised, overseen, and run by the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO). They act on behalf of the RO, and deal with matters as they arise. The DRO will inform the RO of any decisions or rulings affecting the election and seek their advice where necessary.

Please note it's not possible to directly contact the Returning Officer, all contact must go through the Deputy Returning Officer



Rebecca Mosley



Finlay Stevenson



Han Morgan



Rosa Mumford-Turner

The Assistant Returning Officers are appointed by the Deputy Returning Officer. They offer advice, guidance and support to the DRO and to candidates. The AROs oversee general election activity and raise any concerns with both the DRO and candidates.

Need to contact us? Email suelections@uwe.ac.uk

WHY RUN IN THE STUDENT ELECTIONS?

Gain skills, knowledge and experience in:

- Leadership and Governance
- Sustainability
- Engaging, Representing and Supporting students
- Inclusion and Access
- Event Support
- Collaboration and Teamwork
- Digital and Administrative responsibility
- Developing and supporting campaigns for change

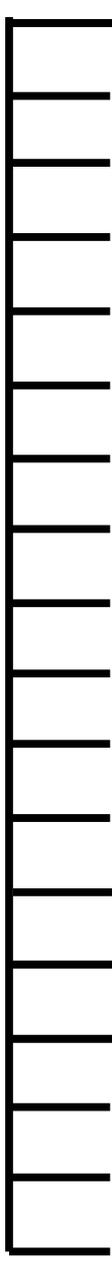
Full Time Sabbatical Officers also enjoy staff benefits

- 27 days Annual Leave, plus Bank Holidays and Closure days- That's over 40 days!
- Payday and wellbeing events
- Cycle to work and Bike Hire schemes
- A Real Living Wage of ~£28,000
- Dedicated Wellbeing Room

Even if you don't win, there's a lot to gain from running

- Running your campaign is project management in disguise!
- Demonstrate your commitment to community, leadership potential and influencing ability- skills employers love.
- Sharing your ideas, your campaign itself can shape priorities and highlight overlooked issues.
- Encourage others to see themselves in the SU, you may inspire future candidates to take a risk and run for office, or use the SU when they haven't before!
- Learn how institutions work, understanding how decisions get made on campus is useful during your time at UWE and beyond.

THE STUDENT ELECTIONS TIMELINE 2026



11 March 12:00	<i>Nominations close</i>
12 March 17:00	<i>Mandatory briefing</i>
13 March & 16 March	<i>Media Days</i>
13 March 15:00	<i>Manifesto deadline</i>
13 March 15:00	<i>Slate submission deadline</i>
13 March 16:00	<i>Candidate announcement</i>
13 March 17:00	<i>Digital campaigning begins</i>
20 March 08:00	<i>In-person campaigning opens</i>
23 March 08:00	<i>Voting opens</i>
25 March 12:00	<i>Budget form deadline</i>
25 March 12:00	<i>Resource creation deadline</i>
26 March 18:00	<i>Voting and campaigning closes</i>
26 March 18:00	<i>Complaints close</i>
27 March 20:00	<i>Results announced</i>
13 May 13:00	<i>Academic Board (new FTOs)</i>
May TBC	<i>Part Time Officer training day</i>
22 June	<i>FTO employment start date</i>
1 July	<i>PTO start date</i>

FULL TIME SABBATICAL OFFICERS

The Full Time Officers are elected to represent the student community and work to improve the student experience at UWE Bristol.

STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT

This high-profile role can have a great deal of influence. Engaging with students from all campuses, understanding their priorities, and making positive change at UWE by working closely with University partners, The Students' Union and other key stakeholders.

SOCIETIES & COMMUNICATION

The Vice President Societies and Communication champions our 100+ student societies and encourages students to follow their passions alongside their academic work. Enthusiasm, communication and inspiration are all key in this exciting and varied role.

SPORTS & HEALTH

From Sports Conference to BUCS Wednesdays to Varsity and other sporting events and campaigns, the VP Sports and Health encompasses all that is 'Team UWE'. The role has a great deal of influence in all decisions that involve sport and physical activity at UWE, they are even eligible to compete in BUCS for the year.

EDUCATION

The role of Vice President Education ensure students are represented in their academic experience at UWE Bristol to shape the University's Learning and Teaching strategies. They'll make improvements that matter to students, understanding the different experiences of students in different courses, schools and colleges.

COMMUNITY & WELFARE

The Vice President Community and Welfare works to build strong, healthy and inclusive student communities at UWE Bristol, and champions student causes with local and national partners. This is a really rewarding role which can have a huge impact on students' lives.

FULL ROLE DESCRIPTIONS



PART TIME OFFICERS & DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURE OFFICERS

Part Time Officers are students who have been elected by the membership to work on a voluntary basis to represent their community. All PTOs, apart from the Democratic Procedures Officers, sit on the Executive Committee who work in partnership with the Full Time Officers to work on projects that improve the student experience at UWE Bristol.

The Democratic Procedures Officers make sure that democracy at The Students' Union is fun, engaging and inclusive. Ultimately, the DPOs ensures Student Ideas and Student Council Meetings take place, and are transparent, and adhere to the bye-laws.

Below are the different part time officer positions:

Liberation PTOs

- Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Officer
- Disabled Students' Officer
- LGBT+ Officer

Campus Officers

- City Campus Officer (Bower, Arnolfini & Spike)
- Glenside Campus Officer

Democratic Procedure Officers (x4)

FULL ROLE DESCRIPTIONS



Student Experience PTOs

- International Students' Officer
- Postgraduate Officer
- Sustainability Officer

Welfare PTOs

- Men's Welfare Officer
- Trans Welfare Officer
- Women's Welfare Officer

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For all roles (Full-Time and Part-Time)

- Be a current UWE Bristol student during Elections timeline
- You must not have completed your course by March 2026
- You must not be a student at a partner organisation (e.g. Kaplan International College, Weston College, SGS)

For Full Time Sabbatical Officer Roles

- Have the relevant right to work documents for full-time employment in the UK, for the whole of your term
- Either complete your studies before June 2026, or defer. You must not be studying during your sabbatical year.
- You will also be a trustee of the SU, so you must be eligible to be a charity trustee. These criteria are:
 - Over 18
 - No unspent convictions relating to dishonesty, terrorism, money laundering or misconduct in public officer
 - Not previously disqualified from being a trustee
 - Not currently declared bankrupt
 - Not on the Sex Offenders register
 - Available to attend regular Board of Trustees meetings
- If you're elected and require a Student Visa, you can be sponsored by UWE Bristol for your elected term, you will also have the opportunity to apply for a graduate visa if you meet the eligibility criteria for doing so.

For Part Time Officer Roles

- You must be a registered student at UWE from July 2026 - June 2027
- You must fulfil the criteria of the role you are running for (e.g. for City Campus Officer you must be a City Campus student)
- Available to attend monthly meetings and engage with the Students' Union in our projects.

MANIFESTOS

Writing your manifesto can be one of the most challenging parts of running in the Elections, so we've got some guidance which will support you through the process. Remember, the Elections team are happy to provide feedback, email us at suelections@uwe.ac.uk.

- You can have a campaign slogan if you like, but it's not a requirement. If you do, try to make it snappy!
- You only have a year in post so we recommend no more than 5 key points, make sure they are realistic as you would be held accountable to them.
- Your manifesto is not the only thing you'll be working on as an Officer of the Students' Union, make sure you've thoroughly read the role description for the post you're interested in, and consider the responsibilities and expectations that are already in place.
- Your manifesto is about you, not anyone else. If you slander another candidate we will ask you to reword your manifesto, and you will risk not being included in Election materials.

Your manifesto should include the answer to these two questions:

- **What experiences make you the best candidate?**
- **What are your key priorities and targets if you are elected?**

TOP TIPS VIDEO



FULL MANIFESTO GUIDE



YOUR CAMPAIGN BUDGET

You have a budget of £50, which you can use for your campaign. How you spend your budget is largely up to you, but you will need to prove that your claim is an election expense. Previous candidates have used their budget to:

- Print posters
- Pay for sponsored social media posts
- Buy personalised merch (if not using the supplied candidate t-shirts)
- Pay for travel between campuses for campaigning

If you are in an officially recognised slate, you are able to pool your budget but all spending will be equally applied to all candidates. Only the person who spent the money will need to submit as part of the budget.

Wed 25 March, 12:00

Claim back your budget with the Elections Budget Form. Don't forget the deadline!



If you want help in submission on the day, head to the Frenchay SU from 10:00 to get support.

“Free” printing with UWE

You might have free printing on your UWE account, you are able to use this, but you must price it up and declare it as if it were not free. “Free” printing still counts towards your £50 budget, so make sure you budget for this!

- 5p per A3/A4 (or 2 x A5) black & white page
- 15p per A3/A4 (or 2 x A5) single sided colour page
- 30p per A3/A4 (or 2 x A5) double sided colour page
- Large scale: A2 (£2), A1 (£4), A0 (£8)

SLATES AND COLLABORATIVE CAMPAIGNING

For the Student Elections 2026, we're allowing slates: when a group of candidates run on a "common platform". The common platform may be that you have the same or similar strategies, policies or values. We allow and encourage collaborative campaigning, which differs from a slate in some key ways.

Slates

- You can pool resources like budget, but any spending must be split equally between the candidates (e.g. you use your combined budget on posters which advertise all of the candidates in the slate, then evenly split the cost)
- Candidates in a slate may be sanctioned for the behaviour or conduct of another member of the slate (e.g. your slate partner breaks a rule, you are both subject to the sanction)
- Slate candidates can have their own Campaign Manager but share their 10 campaign team members with other slate members
- Slate members must still gain their own endorsements from sports clubs and societies

Collaborative Campaigning

- Non-slate collaborators cannot produce campaign materials that feature other candidates
- Non-slate collaborators cannot pool resources (e.g. budget)
- Collaborative campaigners can still encourage voters to vote for candidates in other positions
- Collaborative campaigners benefit from their own campaign team of 10 people

Remember!

You cannot form a slate until you have attended the mandatory briefing. Once the slate deadline has passed (Friday 13 March at 15:00), you cannot form an official slate

ELECTION RULES

Our Election Rules are available in full on the SU website. When you nominated yourself as a candidate, you ticked a box that confirmed that you have read and understood all of the rules.

If you have any questions about the rules, or if you don't know whether something you're planning might be in breach of the rules, please come and discuss it with the Elections team, it may help you to avoid a sanction. There is also a comprehensive FAQs section on the website where it is likely your question will be answered.

The rules explain in detail:

- Manifestos
- Campaigning
- Voting
- Slates
- Staff Members
- Budget and Spending
- Endorsements
- Conduct and complaints

Pay attention to Our Principles when you're reading the Election Rules, this is the "Spirit of the Election". As well as following specific rules, you should abide by these principles.

Demonstrating the values and behaviours listed here will mean you are behaving "in the spirit" of a free, fair and compliant election.

ELECTION RULES



ELECTION FAQs



PREPARATION AND CAMPAIGNING

Key reminders

- Don't worry about what others are doing, every campaign is unique
- Use in-person and online techniques
- Don't forget we have 3 campuses!
- Don't skip lectures! If you need to take time off to campaign, or you have issues with deadlines, speak to your module leader

Digital vs Physical campaigning

- You can begin digital campaigning (e.g. posting on social media) if you have attended a candidate briefing from Friday 13 March at 17:00. However, physical campaigning (e.g. putting up posters) will not be allowed until the official campaigning period has begun.
- Your campaign must not use logos, iconography or text which implies you are endorsed by any student group unless and until that endorsement is officially confirmed by the Elections team.
- You cannot use logos, iconography or text which implies you are endorsed by the Students' Union at UWE or UWE itself.
- Campaigning cannot take place in any UWE Bristol library or in close proximity of a polling station.

Running a sustainable campaign

Sustainability is a strategic goal of the Students' Union, it's also one of the values and behaviours that Officers of the Students' Union are expected to exemplify. We highly recommend that you consider sustainability when planning your campaign. Students vote for candidates based on

- WHAT they want to change
- HOW they seek to change it
- WHO they are, and their motivations

Students vote for the person, not the poster!

VOTING AND RESULTS

For our Elections, we use the Single Transferable Voting system (STV)

In an STV election, voters rank candidates in order of preference using numbers. STV voting provides results that are more proportional than other voting systems. In STV, the most preferable candidate wins as students can rank the candidates in their preferred order.

Want to learn more about Single Transferable Voting? You can watch a simple explanation here



Your behaviour during voting

You must not interfere with free and fair ballot casting. That includes:

- Influencing or observing someone who is voting
- Casting a vote for someone else, even if they give you permission
- Offering a bribe of any kind
- Handling a device that is used for voting, or providing someone a device to use for voting.

This year, every phone is a polling station, and any candidate who handles another person's device during the voting period may be subject to a sanction.

The SU incentivises voting, so you can encourage students to come to a polling station, where they'll receive a reward when they cast their vote! This is also where staff are available to help any voters, if someone needs support then allow SU staff to handle it, don't take this on yourself.

Voting is open Monday 23 March 08:00 - Thursday 26 March 18:00

You might want to include this information on your campaign materials

CONDUCT AND COMPLAINTS

Candidates are accountable for the actions of anyone campaigning on your behalf, this means you may receive a sanction if someone on your campaign team or slate breaks the rules.

If you believe a campaign is in breach of the Election rules, you may submit a complaint.

- Complaints can only be submitted using the official Elections Complaints Form.
- Complaints must only be submitted by the person who have been affected by the rule breach.
- Complaints must be submitted within 24 hours of the incident, unless there is a good reason. Complaints close on Thursday 26 March at 18:00.
- You must not make any false, unsubstantiated or hostile complaints, you may receive a sanction for making complaints such as these.
- All complaints will be considered by the DRO in consultation with the AROs.
- If you're unhappy with the outcome of a complaint, you have the right to appeal: this is only if there is significant evidence which wasn't considered, or if you feel the correct procedure was not followed.
- Appeals must be submitted within 4 working hours of receiving the outcome of your complaint, appeals close at 12:00, Friday 27 March (working hours are Monday - Friday, 09:00 - 17:00)
- The Returning Officer considers all appeals, and their decision is final.

**The Students' Union at UWE
2026 Elections
Complaint Form**



PLEDGE OF FAIR PLAY

At your mandatory candidate briefing, you were asked to sign the Pledge of Fair Play. This Pledge sets out the standard of behaviour we expect from candidates and campaign teams throughout elections. This is your copy of that pledge.

Specifically, signing the pledge indicates that you:

- Have read all Election rules, documents and resources and are confident that you are fully informed on the expectations on you as a candidate in the Student Elections.
- Pledge not to bully, harass or intimidate any candidate, campaign team member, student, staff member or any other person as part of your election activity.
- Promise to campaign positively, truthfully and cooperatively; allowing other candidates and campaign teams the space and opportunity to engage students and campaign on their own views and issues.
- Will not 'instruct' any student to vote for any particular candidate by doing it for them or touch a device that could be used to cast a vote e.g. mobile phone.
- Will not seek to influence a voter by offering a cash bribe or goods in return for votes for yourself or others associated with you.
- Will only campaign and put up posters during the times permitted, in the places permitted and using the resources and methods permitted.
- Will not spend over the £50 budget and will provide all expenses receipts, including printing records, to the Elections team within the agreed timeframe.
- Will attend any meetings, training sessions or briefings at which you are required to be present.
- Will not use The Students' Union's or UWE's logos on promotional materials or wear them while campaigning.

- Will not use The Students' Union's resources unless specified otherwise. This includes society email lists should you be on a committee, or staff computers should you be a staff member.
- Will be visible as a candidate of the Elections by wearing the provided Election t-shirt or use your budget to create resources that make you recognisable as a candidate.
- If you are a candidate, accept that it is your responsibility to ensure that your campaign team is aware of the election rules, and that any breach by the campaign team will be considered a breach by the candidate. Accept that your conduct throughout elections is subject to the University Code of Conduct and The Students' Union at UWE's bye laws, and any breach of these may result in disciplinary action.
- Accept the authority of the Elections team (including the Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officers) and will abide by their decisions in relation to the interpretation of elections rules.

By signing this pledge, you agree to abide by The Students' Union values and the behaviour code set out above. You are also subject to the rule of law and the rules of UWE Bristol and any other rules regarding the Elections which are set out in the Candidate Pack or adopted by The Students' Union at any time before or during Elections. Any breach will be subject to investigation, potential disciplinary action by The Students' Union or the University, and, where appropriate, removal from the Election.

All campaign team members must also sign their version of the Pledge of Fair Play, they cannot collect their lanyard and campaign on your behalf until the Election team has received this. Students found to be campaigning without following the correct process will lead to sanctions to that candidate.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to declare my UWE printing that didn't cost me anything?

YES! All resources created have a cost, check the election rules

Can I knock on doors in halls?

Yes, but respect the wishes of people who don't want to talk!

How do I know who has won?

Results will be announced in Union 2 at 20:00, the day after voting closes. We will also email you with the results if you're a candidate.

Can I run for more than one position?

No, you can only run for one, so choose wisely!

Where can I get support with technical issues?

Email SUElections@uwe.ac.uk with your name, Student ID number and a screenshot of your issue, we'll get back to you as soon as we can

Can alumni be on my campaign team?

No, as they are not current UWE Bristol students.

Can I put up posters/stickers in non-UWE locations?

Yes, as long as they're budgeted for, and you have permission.

Flyposting – putting up posters/stickers without consent – is illegal. You may receive a fine from the council, and a sanction from the elections team.

Can my club/society endorse me?

Yes, as long as our team receives evidence that a democratic majority vote has happened, and the committee has considered all candidates fairly.

What does being a trustee mean?

Check out the candidate resources page to watch a video on what being a trustee of a charity means.

**FULL FAQs FOR
ELECTIONS 2026**



WELLBEING AND SUPPORT

Elections can be a stressful time for candidates, their campaign team, voters, and even staff! It's a competitive environment, but participating in Elections should be a positive experience.

If you need help, there is always someone you can talk to.

**In the event of an emergency on campus, call +44 117 328 9999
In the event of an emergency off campus call 999**

**24/7 CRISIS
TEXTLINE**



**WELLBEING
SERVICE**



WISDOM APP



**STUDENT
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMME**



**EMERGENCY
WELLBEING & CRISIS
INFORMATION**



**EXTERNAL
WELLBEING
RESOURCES**



GLOSSARY

We know for some candidates this is the first time they are engaging in a democratic process, here is a comprehensive guide to some key terms in the Elections:

Assistant Returning Officers- They form the Elections team with the DRO

Ballot- A confidential voting system, we do ours electronically

By-Election- An additional election, it happens when posts aren't filled

Bye-Laws- Rules that govern the Student's Union at UWE as a charity

Campaign- The actions you take to persuade voters to vote for you

Candidate- Someone who runs in the election for a role

Canvassing- To contact people so you can gather support in the election

Complaint- A formal statement, made when something is unsatisfactory

Deputy Returning Officer- Responsible for managing the election

Election- A democratic process of choosing student leaders for the year

Elections Team- The staff running the election: RO, DRO, and AROs

Eligibility- conditions you must meet to take part in the elections

Employment Contract- a legal agreement between employer and employee

Endorsement- A statement of approval or support for a candidate

Manifesto- a declaration of your policies, aims and targets as a candidate

Nomination- the formal suggestion of someone as a candidate for a role.

Polling Station- A place where you can cast your vote.

Proposer/Nominator- Someone who suggests someone else as a candidate.

Returning Officer- An external expert who ensures elections are fair.

Sabbatical Officer- A full-time elected officer of the Students' Union

Secunder- Someone who formally backs the nomination of a candidate

Slate- A group of candidates who run together on a "common platform"

Slogan- A catchy memorable phrase, which attracts voters

Student Democracy- Students participating in decision-making

The Students' Union- A charity led by, and representing UWE Students

Term- The period of time you hold a role you're elected for. Usually 1 year

Transparency- Done in an open way, without secrets.

Trustee- people who make decisions on behalf of a charity

Voting Period-The period of time where voters are able to cast their vote.

KEY DEADLINES

Don't miss any deadlines! Keep an eye on the key dates and deadlines below so you don't lose track:

Event	Deadline	Process
Manifesto Submission	Fri 13 March 15:00	Submit your manifesto and photo via the nomination link you submitted through
Slate Registration	Fri 13 March 15:00	Email SUElections@uwe.ac.uk confirming the names of your slate members, copying them into the email
Candidate Announcement	Fri 13 March 16:00	All candidates and their confirmed manifestos will be announced online and on social media
Digital Campaigning Starts	Fri 13 March 17:00	You must have attended a candidate briefing before starting your digital campaign
Physical Campaigning Starts	Fri 20 March 08:00	Candidates who have not attended a briefing by this point will be removed from the Elections. All candidates must be visible when campaigning.
Budget Submission	Wed 25 March 12:00	Submit your budget expenses (with receipts and printing evidence) via the Budget Submission form
Resource Creation	Wed 25 March 12:00	Any candidates found to be producing more resources (including printing posters) may be liable to sanctions
Complaints	Thu 26 March 18:00	All complaints must be submitted via the Complaints Form, complaints submitted after the deadline will not be considered
Voting	Thu 26 March 18:00	Voting is open online via the website and at polling stations between 08:00 - 18:00

You can find links and guidance for these deadlines on the Candidate Resource page





**THE STUDENTS'
UNION**
AT UWE