



# Elections Rules

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## Officials

1. According to the Union's Bye-Laws the Returning Officer is an NUS staff member who independently oversees the election process. The Returning Officer is the NUS Charity Director.
2. The Deputy Returning Officer, appointed to strategically oversee the elections process, is the Deputy CEO.
3. The Elections Organiser, appointed to operationally oversee the elections process and who is the candidates' first point of contact.
4. The Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer shall follow the process of elections as set out in the Union's Bye-Laws by being the final interpreters of the Bye-Laws and the rules of the election, including creating additional rules and guidelines.
5. The official website serves as the information point and a channel for nomination and voting ([www.ccsu.co.uk/elections](http://www.ccsu.co.uk/elections)).

## Nomination

6. be a Canterbury Christ Church University student;
7. be full Members of the Union;
8. Must be prepared to act in line with the bye-laws:
  - a. be committed to the purpose, Charitable Objects and values of Christ Church Students' Union;
  - b. be constructive about other officers' and trustees' opinions;
  - c. act reasonably and responsibly when undertaking their duties;
  - d. be fervent in pursuing the stated mandate, where appropriate, and in any additional work or projects they have been mandated to undertake by the Board of Trustees, Union Council or Petition;
  - e. maintain strict confidentiality where appropriate;
  - f. analyse information and, when necessary, challenge constructively;
  - g. make collective decisions and justify and defend them;
  - h. respect boundaries between officers, staff and members;
  - i. be excellent role models who exhibit the highest standards of integrity
  - j. attend all meetings where required, or send apologies;
  - k. be firm supporters of equality of opportunity and committed to promoting diversity; and,
  - l. abide by the Trustee and Elected Representative Code of Conduct at all times.

## Candidates

9. Are expected to treat all students and staff with respect in the interest of a fair election. Debate and disagreement are a fundamental part of the political process and candidates are permitted to respectfully challenge other candidates, but this must not cross the line into bullying or threatening behaviour.
10. All candidates are responsible for the actions of anyone acting on their behalf.

11. Candidates can inform students they will be running in the election at any time. Actual campaigning must not begin until the time communicated on the website by the Student Voice Team.

## **Conduct**

12. Candidates and supporters should show respect and consideration at all times to other candidates, their supporters, all other students and University staff.
13. Candidates are responsible for the actions of their campaign team. Candidates should ensure that their campaign team is fully briefed on the election rules and behave in accordance with them.
14. University staff must remain impartial (unless they are also CCCU students) and should not be asked to support or endorse any candidate.
15. Campaigning is permitted anywhere on campus, including study areas and Augustine House library, but please be respectful of people who are trying to study and do not make excessive noise. You may approach students and speak with them but respect their wishes if they do not want to speak to you.
16. Making votes on behalf of others is not permitted, you are not permitted to stand over voters as they vote. This includes through the use of phones.
17. Campaigning in the Drill Hall Library is not permitted, and you should not leave flyers or posters in this building.

## **Online campaigning**

18. Candidates and their supporters can access CCSU and CCCU Facebook groups or other social media groups that are already established, as long as their opponents are given the same opportunity. In these groups, the moderators must not endorse any specific candidate and must give all candidates the opportunity to post. Team Christ Church and Union Society Executive Committees are considered official CCSU channels and must not favour one candidate over another, although individual members of these groups are free to endorse candidates.
19. Clubs, societies and other groups affiliated with CCSU or CCCU can endorse candidates and do not have to promote all candidates if they choose not to. Candidates may use existing course-based or friendship networks to campaign, and these closed groups do not need to allow all candidates to post in them.

## **Expenses**

20. No candidate may receive financial or other material assistance from any external body, e.g. political organisations, local or national businesses.
21. Candidates are eligible to use £40 election expenses as long as this is accompanied by full receipts. Candidates can also use up to £40 of their own money on election materials, provided they are accompanied by full receipts.

## **Disputes and breaches of regulation**

22. Any member of the Union can submit a complaint regarding the candidates' and campaigners' conduct. These need to be made in writing and emailed to the Deputy Returning Officer ([elections@ccsu.co.uk](mailto:elections@ccsu.co.uk)). You can arrange an initial informal chat in advance if you would like to.
23. The Deputy Returning Officer will seek to resolve complaints if they are upheld after investigation, by levelling the playing field amongst candidates within a reasonable timeframe and in an informal manner as much as possible. The potential sanctions for breaching regulations are:
  - a. A formal warning.
  - b. An action which would attempt to level the playing field amongst candidates in question.
  - c. Disqualification from the election.
24. The Students' Union's Articles, Bye-Laws and regulations (<https://ccsu.co.uk/policies-and-documents>) apply to everyone during any election. Any breaches of these governing documents, of Students' Union or University policies and regulations, or the laws of the UK may carry a disqualification.
25. The deadline for making complaints is one hour after the close of voting.

## Key Contacts

For 2026 your key contacts are:

Deputy Returning Officer	Hannah Alcock, Deputy CEO at CCSU	<a href="mailto:hannah.alcock@ccsu.co.uk">hannah.alcock@ccsu.co.uk</a>
Returning Officer	Peter Robertson, NUS Charity Director	Contact via Deputy CEO
Elections Organiser	Imogen Atkinson	<a href="mailto:imogen.atkinson@ccsu.co.uk">imogen.atkinson@ccsu.co.uk</a>

## Key dates;

Nominations Open: Tuesday 3rd February 2026, 10am

Nominations Close: Tuesday 3rd March 2026, 5pm

Candidate Briefing: Tuesday 3rd March 2026, 5pm

Voting Opens: Monday 23rd March 2026, 10am

Voting Closes: Thursday 26th March 2016, 5pm

## Guidance for All Candidates

## Candidate Wellbeing

Running for election is challenging: you're putting yourself 'out there' and asking students to vote for you, and you will probably find that not everybody agrees with you. Campaigning can often involve long hours and a lot of talking to people you don't know, which can be tiring, and of course you still have lectures and coursework and maybe placements to think about. We recognise this and strive to create a supportive and positive environment for students to run for election to represent their peers.

We offer the following advice to candidates:

- Check in with your support networks during the campaign. This could be other students in your campaign team, your family, or someone completely distant from the elections and the University if you prefer. Make sure to make time to talk about how you're feeling with people who care about you.
- Don't feel you have to be campaigning 24/7. You don't have to sacrifice every aspect of your life to run in a students' union election. Try and ensure you have a healthy balance between campaigning, uni work, paid work, socialising, and relaxing.
- Be kind. You're probably running against other people and you want to win, but be respectful to your opponents and it will make campaigning a much more pleasant experience. Focus on your manifesto, ambitions, and aspirations for yourself and others, rather than negatively about somebody else.
- If you're feeling overwhelmed, talk to someone. You can see [Student Wellbeing Services](#) or go along to Choseday Chill (5-7pm Tues, Mary Seacole Building, CCSU). You can also access [SpectrumLife](#) if you'd prefer to type and seek peer support.

## Getting Elected

### Candidate manifesto and campaigning tips

#### *The basics*

Ensure your manifesto is truthful, well-informed and sincere. You are a student at Christ Church and nobody is more suited for this role than you. You are unique and your experiences matter. Take care to ensure all basic grammar and spelling is covered, and that your manifesto is straight to the point, aim to make it one A4 page long to keep people's interest. Remember our voting is online, and the first thing a voter will see is your photo - students want to put a face to a name so ensure you upload a clear photo of yourself.

#### *What should I include?*

Think about your own views and experiences - what is driving you to run for this role? Be sure to speak to friends and colleagues and find out what they want from their next officer. Research your points, remember the CCSU website is full of officer reports, blogs and useful pages you can utilise to back up your points. Be sure to state your vision for the role and what you hope to achieve.

#### *What should I avoid?*

It is not a winning strategy to campaign negatively or slander a current officer or another candidate running in the election, focus on your own campaign and use positive language! Do not make promises you cannot keep - for example, promising 50p pints in The Lounge is highly unlikely to become a reality. It is also important to remember to base your manifesto around the role you are running for, remember to check the role description and ensure you are running for the right role.

## Campaigning

### *Raising awareness*

It's simple, the candidate with the most votes will win. So you want to raise awareness of your profile online. Remember to speak to all your friends and colleagues, as every vote counts. If you are a member of a society and you feel they are already supporting another candidate, asking to be their secondary choice can really make a difference in the preferential voting system.

### *Social media*

Use of social media is really popular during elections. Tell your contacts why you would be a great candidate; get people to change their profile picture to a message to encourage their contacts to vote for you, upload pictures, start a group or a page etc. See if you can get your name trending on Twitter, create your own webpage, use QR codes, whatever you think will reach out to your fellow students.

### *Make a film*

It's increasingly common for candidates to create a quick movie showing themselves talking about why they would be the best to put on Facebook, YouTube or other handy places. Some candidates have sung along to favourite songs or copied famous movie scenes.

### *Branding*

Create a 'brand' unique to you, whether it's a slogan, a colour, or a design that is easily recognisable will keep you in peers' minds when it comes to voting. Remember the key point from manifesto writing is to be clear and concise - keep this in mind when speaking to people and sharing online - make it easy for people to decipher what you are about. Bullet points work better than a 5 page dissertation!

### *Timing*

Use your time wisely: spending thirty minutes with one student who has already told you they are backing their friend isn't going to change their mind. Keep your interactions polite and quick and most importantly EXPECT RESPECT. Respect your peers' boundaries and campaign fairly without hassling people - this won't gain you any votes! It could be useful to create your own campaign team to reach more groups of people. Remember to stay positive and confident, not every encounter will be positive but keep going! Focus on the positive encounters you do have.