

ST ANDREWS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS RULES 2022

Updated 4 March 2022



IMPORTANT DATES

- **Nominations:** 16th Feb to 3rd March
- **Candidate Meeting:** 3rd March 6:30pm
- **Campaigning Begins:** 3rd March 11:59pm
- **SRC Question Time:** 7th March 8pm (livestreamed and in-person)
- **Sabb Debate:** 8th March 7pm (livestreamed and in-person)
- **Voting:** 10th and 11th March
- **NUS Referendum Vote:** 1st April, 2022

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

You can email the Elections Team at saelect@st-andrews.ac.uk and engage with us on Twitter via @standrewsunion and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/saelectofficial>. #saelect is the designated elections hashtag. The official Instagram for elections will be @st-andrewsunion.

A note on COVID-19 Guidance: All candidates will be expected to adhere to current UK government, Scottish government, and University of St Andrews guidelines surrounding coronavirus. The elections team will give guidance on how this applies to the campaign rules.

The Students' Association Elections are governed by the Association Laws. In the case of a discrepancy between anything in this document and the Laws, the Laws will be followed. The relevant chapter of the Laws can be found at:

<https://www.yourunion.net/pageassets/representation/elections/rules/Elections-Laws-Updated-Jan-2022.pdf>

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The rules and regulations for the Students' Associations elections are intended to provide our members with guidance on how to stand as a candidate and get involved in elections. These rules are developed under the following basic principles.

- Elections should be open to all our members on an equal basis.
- Elections should be fair. No candidate should gain or attempt to gain a significant advantage unfairly (through their own actions or those of others).
- Information available to voters should be full, transparent, and accurate.
- Voting should be free from interference.
- Election activity and campaigning should be conducted with respect towards other students, staff, and the local community and should not cause a nuisance to any of these groups.
- Campaigning should also show respect to other candidates and their campaign teams.
- Election activity and campaigning should be conducted in line with the Association's Constitution and Laws, other relevant University or Association policies, and the law.

The Elections Team will make use of these principles in the way that they conduct the election and interpret the rules that follow.

The Elections Team reserves the right to make changes to the rules but will ensure that all candidates are informed of any alterations by email. Changes to rules will come into effect immediately, unless otherwise stated.

SECTION 1. NOMINATIONS

1.1 Eligibility

Anyone can run in the elections, as long as they:

- Are a matriculated student at the University of St Andrews. This means you're currently enrolled in classes. (Current sabbatical officers of the Students' Association or Athletic Union also meet this condition.)
- Are an ordinary member of the Students' Association. This means you're a matriculated student and have not told the Association you don't want to be a member (we call this 'opting out').
- Are of good standing with the Association, the Athletic Union (AU) and the University. This means you have no debts to any of those bodies and no disciplinary measures currently in force from them (e.g., bans from the Union building).
- (For SRC positions and SAB Student Trustee positions) you are entering a further year of study in academic year 2022-23.
- (For Postgraduate Academic Convenor, Postgraduate Development Officer, and Postgraduate Society President only) you are a postgraduate student (whether taught or research).
- (For School Presidents only) are entering into an Honours year of study within the relevant School as a Single Honours or Joint Honours student.
- (For Language Convenors only) are entering into an Honours year of study within the relevant Department in the School of Modern Languages as a Single Honours or Joint Honours student.
- (For Faculty Presidents only) are an undergraduate student enrolled in one of the relevant constituent Faculties.
- (For AU President only) have been a committee member for at least one year of an AU-affiliated club or have served as an officer of the Athletic Union for at least one year.

1.2 True Candidacy

The Elections Team reserve the right to reject any candidacy that is or appears to be made by a person other than the candidate, or that is or appears to be intended to mislead voters (e.g. impersonating another candidate).

1.3 Voter Information

Nominations must include the following to be shown on the voting portal.

- Statement (up to 350 words for sabbatical positions: 250 words for other positions) explaining why people should vote for you.
- Photograph of your likeness. This is optional, but you can't submit a photo of someone or something else instead – only yourself.
- A list of any relevant positions previously held or student group memberships (not displayed to voters)
- Mobile phone number and University email address (not displayed to voters)
- Some optional additional information (including name and email address of your campaign manager) that may be required as part of the Elections Team's voter information services. This information will be made clear to you at the close of nominations for sabbatical candidates.

SECTION 2. ELECTED POSITIONS

We have created role descriptions for all positions elected in the Students' Association Elections 2022. You can find them online on www.yourunion.net/elections or by emailing the Elections Committee on saelect@st-andrews.ac.uk.

2.1 Sabbaticals

Note that you may not stand for ANY other position if you stand to be a sabbatical officer. You may not stand for a sabbatical position if you have already served two years in ANY sabbatical position.

2.2 SRC Positions

You may stand for only ONE of these positions. However, you may also stand to be a Student Trustee in addition to standing for one of these positions.

You cannot stand for any of these positions if you have already held that position for two years. You must also be continuing (or expecting to continue) your studies in academic year 2022-23.

2.3 Students' Association Board (SAB) Student Trustees

There are two vacancies for these roles. You may stand for these positions and also to be a School President, or for an SRC position, but not to be a Sabbatical Officer.

2.4 School Presidents and Departmental Conveners

You may stand for only one of these roles, but you can stand for one of these roles and also to be a Student Trustee.

SECTION 3: EVENTS

3.1 CANDIDATES' MEETING

All candidates are expected to attend the mandatory Candidates' Meeting, which takes place on Thursday the 3rd of March 2022 at 18:30 (on Teams). ALL candidates must attend this meeting. If you cannot attend, you must notify the staff Elections Committee as early as possible (email saelect@). If you do not attend, and have not made independent arrangements with the Elections Committee *prior to the candidate meeting*, you may face penalties at the discretion of the Election Committee.

3.2 HUSTINGS

All SRC Candidates (and Student Trustee Candidates) must attend the SRC Hustings, scheduled for Monday 7th March 2022 beginning at 7pm. Candidates must arrive half an hour before their scheduled time, and are encouraged to attend to listen to the other officers' statements.

The SRC Hustings will be hosted in the Stage of the Union Building. For those who cannot attend in-person, alternative arrangements can be made on an individual basis. Please email saelect@ prior to the event if you are unable to attend the Hustings in person. If you do not attend, and have not made independent arrangements with the Elections Committee *prior to the SRC Hustings*, you may face penalties at the discretion of the Election Committee.

3.3 SABBATICAL DEBATE

All Sabbatical Candidates must attend the Sabbatical Debate, scheduled for Tuesday 8th March 2022 beginning at 7pm. Candidates must arrive half an hour before the event start time. The Sabb Debate will be hosted in the Stage of the Union Building. For those who cannot attend in-person, alternative arrangements can be made on an individual basis. Please email saelect@ prior to the event if you are unable to attend the Debate in person.

If you do not attend and have not made independent arrangements with the Elections Committee *prior to the Sabb Debate*, you may face penalties at the discretion of the Election Committee.

SECTION 4. BUDGET

If you cannot afford the budget to run a campaign, we will help with the costs. Candidates in this position are encouraged to contact the Elections Team for a confidential discussion about their eligibility. Evidence of financial hardship will be required.

4.1. Allocation

All purchases related to publicity material need to be recorded and counted towards each candidate's budget. Sabbatical candidates may spend no more than £100. All other candidates may spend no more than £35.

Budgets may only be spent on that candidate's campaign.

4.2. Authorisation

The authority to allow any purchase against the campaign budget lies with the Elections Team, ultimately with the Returning Officer.

Candidates should provide a receipt to the Election Team for reimbursement and authorisation. Candidates will be penalised for unauthorised spending.

If you cannot afford the budget to run a campaign, we will help with the costs. Candidates in this position are encouraged to contact the Elections Team for a confidential discussion about their eligibility. Evidence of financial hardship will be required.

4.3. Reimbursement, Sabbatical Candidates

All sabbatical candidates are entitled to 100% reimbursement of the amount spent. Any sabbatical candidate who attends all required events (or provides prior notice with a good reason for absence) will be reimbursed their full authorised campaign expenditure, regardless of votes won.

4.4. Reimbursement, All Other Candidates

All other candidates will have 50% of their authorized expenditure reimbursed, if they have attended all required events or given prior notice with a good reason for absence.

4.5. Reimbursement, Time Limit

Budgets will be repaid for up to two calendar months after the election results are announced. Budgets (even those with no expenditures) must be submitted no later than one week following the close of voting.

SECTION 5. CAMPAIGNING

5.1 Definition

Campaigning is understood as any activity by a candidate or an individual on their team which is aimed at persuading someone to vote one way or another. The decision of what is campaigning activity lies with the Elections Team. Candidates will also be held responsible for rule violations committed by a member of their campaign team.

5.2 Time Period

Campaigning starts at on 3 March 2022 at 23:59 and ends when polls close at 18:00 on 11 March 2022. Campaigning outside of this time period is not allowed and may result in a penalty applied to the candidate at the discretion of the Elections Team. While campaigning isn't allowed outside of this period, you can start to prepare your campaign policies and materials and assemble a campaign team of a reasonable size in advance if you want.

5.3. Campaign Team, Eligibility

Only ordinary members of the Students' Association are allowed to campaign. (All matriculated students are automatically ordinary members unless they have opted out.) Staff at the University of St Andrews and Union staff are not allowed to campaign. Students who also work for the University or the Union can campaign only when off duty. Non-students (including alumni) may give perspective or information to a candidate, but must not campaign on the candidate's behalf.

5.4 UNFAIR ADVANTAGES

Candidates may only campaign using methods and resources which are reasonably accessible to all candidates. No candidate should gain an unfair advantage through personal connections. This would include but not be limited to discounts on campaign costs, privileged access to facilities or services, access to commercially or personally confidential information (such as price data or mailing lists), or media coverage.

5.5 ENDORSEMENTS

No candidate can be endorsed by the Students' Association, or any Association subcommittee or affiliated society. No candidate may endorsed by the Athletic Union or any sports club. Office holders in these bodies may endorse or campaign for a candidate in a personal capacity but they must not make reference to use their official title(s).

5.6 GOOD CONDUCT

Candidates should show respect and not cause nuisance to the Elections Team, other candidates and their campaign teams, the University community and the local community. Examples of causing nuisance might include, but are not limited to:

- Posting publicity where you don't have permission
- Going door to door in halls
- Marking or damaging other people's property
- Campaigning in libraries, lecture theatres or study areas, or anywhere else you don't have permission

Candidates can criticise other candidates' policies but can't make personal attacks against a candidate's character or person.

5.8 ALCOHOL AND OTHER GIVEAWAYS

No candidate may supply discounted or free alcohol as a way of promoting their campaign. Candidates may give away other items (baked goods, etc.) to voters as part of campaign activity provided this is approved by the Elections Team in advance. Giving away cash, vouchers, or items valued by the Elections Team at more than £1 in total to any individual voter is not allowed, nor is any giveaway involving elements of chance (raffles, draws, etc.)

Candidates may not sell or resell items as a part of campaigning.

5.9 JOINT CAMPAIGNING

Candidates are not permitted to engage in collaboratively campaigning under a single banner/ joint campaign in our elections. Whilst candidates may agree on policies, their campaigning should only discuss the policy and not the fact it is a joint policy with anyone in particular.

Specifically, **candidates may not:** Refer to other candidates who share their policies in publicity; Host campaigning events showcasing multiple candidates

(eg. Pub Meetup with candidates X + Y) unless approved by the Elections Committee in advance.

Candidates may: Share policies, and share the wording of those policies

SECTION 6: PUBLICITY

6.1 Authorised Publicity

All publicity should be authorised by the Elections Team before it goes up. Unauthorised publicity will be subject to penalty. Any publicity for which receipts are not available, or for which the elections committee find the provided receipt unacceptable for any reason, may be charged against the candidate's budget at an amount determined by the Elections Team.

No publicity should contain anything offensive. The Elections Team retains the right to define what qualifies as offensive.

6.2 Posters

Each printed poster must contain the date of the vote and an encouragement to recycle. Posters for AU President candidates must also contain the Saints Sport logo.

6.3 Banners

Banners must be properly secured when put up, and no candidate may use any hanging weights (e.g., water bottles) as they pose a safety risk. The Elections Team reserves the right to ask candidates to move or take down any banners.

6.4 Flyers, Leaflets and other printed materials

Candidates must not hand out flyers, leaflets, or other printed material (e.g. business cards or stickers) before or during campaigning. (Candidates are instead encouraged to run creative and environmentally friendly campaigns.)

SECTION 7: RULE BREAKING

We aim for a positive and creative approach to campaigning and encourage candidates to focus on winning voters over to their cause. However, we recognise that sometimes, the actions of candidates or their teams can cause concern. If you want to make a complaint, please see section 8 (Complaints and Discipline) on the following link:

<https://www.yourunion.net/pageassets/representation/elections/rules/Elections-Laws-Updated-Jan-2022.pdf>

SECTION 8. VOTING & RESULTS

8.1. Voting Method

Voting will be conducted online. Each matriculated student shall have a single transferable vote for every election with the exception of the following races:

- Arts/Divinity Faculty President, Science/Medicine Faculty President: Only matriculated undergraduate students in the respective faculties shall have a single transferable vote in the race for the respective Faculty President.
- Postgraduate Academic Convenor, Postgraduate Development Officer, Postgraduate Society President: Only matriculated postgraduate students shall have a single transferable vote in the race for these postgraduate positions.
- School Presidents: Only matriculated students taking credits in the respective School/Department shall have a single transferable vote in the race for the respective School President.
- Departmental Convenors: Only matriculated students taking credits in the respective programme shall have a single transferable vote in the race for the respective Departmental Convenor.

8.2. Results Verification

Results are subject to verification by the Returning Officer and a nominee of the University Court that the process was fair. Candidates may challenge the results if they believe they were unfair by submitting an appeal according to the process detailed in sections 7.6 and 7.7.