

# ELECTION RULES

Contravening the election rules may result in an informal warning, a formal warning, a campaign ban or disqualification. The Democracy Committee shall strictly enforce penalties, and all candidates are strongly advised to consult the Committee if they are unsure of any aspect of the rules.

## ELIGIBILITY

The Democracy Committee shall determine the eligibility of each candidate in SU elections.

All candidates must be Student Members of Cambridge SU.

In addition:

1. Candidates for the positions of President (PG) or Access, Education and Participation Officer (PG) must be postgraduate members of the SU.
2. Candidates for the positions of President (UG) or Access, Education and Participation Officer (UG) must be undergraduate members of the SU.
3. Candidates for BME Officer should self-identify as Black or as another ethnic minority.
4. Candidates for Disabled Students' Officer must self-identify as disabled or as having themselves experienced disability.
5. Candidates for Women's Officer should self-identify as a woman, including (if they wish) those with gender identities which include 'woman', and those who feel they experience misogynist oppression.
6. Candidates for Families Officer must be a student with the responsibilities of parent or guardian of a child.
7. Candidates for Mature Students' Officer must have been over 21 years old when starting their current course if it is an undergraduate course, or over 25 years old if it is a postgraduate course.
8. Candidates for Part-Time Students' Officer must be a part-time student under the University's definition of the term
9. Candidates for Double Time Officer must be a student who has been granted "Extension to Period of Study" as an Adjusted Mode of Assessment by the University.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The following principles underpin how we believe the elections should be contested, and will be used by the Democracy Committee in determining how to interpret these rules and any sanctions:

- Do only what other candidates have an equal opportunity to do
- Treat all students, candidates and staff members with respect
- If in doubt, ask the Democracy Committee first

Elections candidates and their campaigner are bound throughout the elections period by other rules and regulations, which include:

- The law

- Cambridge SU's member code of conduct
- University and/or College regulations on student conduct

This includes where the above includes provisions relating to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Democracy Committee may impose elections penalties for breaches of any of the above, in addition to having the right to refer breaches or alleged breaches to the appropriate authority where they consider it appropriate.

## 1. CAMPAIGNING

1.1 Campaigning is any action that is used for the purpose of promoting your candidacy in a Cambridge SU election.

1.2 This includes: flyers, posters, badges, campaign clothing, props, banners, face to face communication, events (e.g. hustings), use of social media, websites etc.

## 2. WHO CAN CAMPAIGN?

2.1 Full-time Elected Officers of the SU may not campaign for any candidate, except themselves.

2.2 Full time elected Officers who wish to stand for election cannot campaign on paid time and must take annual leave if campaigning during work hours.

2.3 Students should not seek or promote endorsements from anyone not a member of Cambridge SU.

2.4 Candidates' campaigners do not have to be registered with Cambridge SU. However, anyone who the Democracy Committee believes to be campaigning to the advantage of a candidate will be held to these election rules, and candidates are responsible for the behaviour of those campaigning on their behalf. Candidates should make all reasonable efforts before and during the campaign to ensure that their campaigners understand and follow the election rules.

2.5 Clubs and Societies may endorse a candidate if they democratically decide to do so in accordance with their own constitutional requirements. Evidence of the way in which the decision was taken must be made available to the Democracy Committee on request. JCRs, MCRs and SU Standing Bodies (including Campaigns) may not endorse candidates. Selective moderation of posts to email lists, groups or social media pages resulting in any candidate(s) being favoured shall be considered an endorsement.

## 3. HOW CAN I CAMPAIGN?

3.1 Fly-posting, graffiti and other forms of defacement are all illegal in Cambridge and cannot be used. In addition, the defacing or removal of other candidate's materials is prohibited.

3.2 Use of email lists is not permitted. The only exception to this rule is if a Society has decided to endorse a candidate; they may then use their own mailing lists etc. to announce this.

3.3 Slates (groups of candidates supporting one another) are not permitted. Candidates cannot campaign for candidates in a different election, cannot share resources with other candidates and cannot endorse any other candidates. Campaign team members can support multiple candidates, but they cannot campaign for multiple candidates at the same time.

3.4 Candidates and campaigners may not make reference to another candidate's personal attributes. They may make reference to their political beliefs, manifesto commitments and record in office providing references are not slanderous.

3.5 No candidate or member of their campaign team, or any other person attempting to influence a voter may approach within three metres of an individual when they are casting their ballot, unless inadvertently doing so.

**3.6 Hate speech, including any language or action which is deemed by the Democracy Committee to be racist, sexist, ableist, homophobic or transphobic, is banned in all contexts.**

## 4. WHEN CAN I CAMPAIGN?

4.1 Candidates may campaign only during the published campaigning period.

4.2 Candidates **may not** publicly announce their candidacy until the campaigning period opens.

## 5. CAMPAIGN SPENDING

5.1 All candidates in a Cambridge SU election will have access to a campaigns budget provided by Cambridge SU. The amount will depend on the position you are standing for. To ensure that no student is disadvantaged due to financial circumstances, Cambridge SU can order materials on your behalf, reimburse you throughout the election or reimburse students at the end of the election period. Students are also encouraged to use the Cambridge SU Print Service where the cost of printing will be deducted from your spending cost.

5.2 Campaign spending for a candidate shall not exceed the limits in the table below. In elections for all other positions no spending is allowed.

Position	Money you can spend
Sabbatical Officer positions	£100
Executive Portfolio Officer positions <sup>1</sup>	£40
University Councillor	£40

5.3 If using materials or resources you already own or have access to, and which it is not reasonable to assume all candidates would have access to, you must declare these to the Democracy Committee, who will attribute a cost to be taken out of your campaigning budget. When using free resources, these must all be readily available to all candidates.

5.4 Campaign expenditure must be such that other candidates would or could have had access to the same opportunity. In the case of a favourable rate or discount received by a candidate which it is not reasonable to believe would have been available to another candidate, the full cost before the discount will be subtracted from the candidates' spending limit.

5.5 Cambridge SU must receive receipts or other declarations and evidence of spending or campaign materials used no later than noon on the day that voting closes.

## 6. QUERIES, CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

6.1 If at any point a candidate, campaigner or student has concerns about the election or its process, the Democracy Committee should be contacted immediately via [elections@cambridgesu.co.uk](mailto:elections@cambridgesu.co.uk)

6.2 The Democracy Committee may be approached informally at any time for guidance, clarification of the rules or a ruling, without submitting an official complaint.

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<sup>1</sup> i.e. Part-Time Students' Officer, Mature Students' Officer, Families Officer and Double Time Officer

6.3 Complaints must be received by the Democracy Committee within 24 hours of observing, or becoming aware of, the incident in question *and* not later than 24 hours after the closing of polls.

6.4 The Democracy Committee will acknowledge all complaints within 24 hours of receipt.