

Election Rules and Criteria

Wrexham University Students' Union (WSU) will aim to direct a free, fair, and accessible election to each student.

It is therefore our responsibility to ensure the smooth running of the SU Elections.

This document will outline the rules of the Elections and may be subject to change throughout.

The Deputy Returning Officer will be an Employee of Wrexham Students' Union, and the Returning Officer will be a representative of NUS Wales.

Eligibility

There are certain criteria which members must fulfil to be eligible to run or vote in Wrexham Students' Union Elections:

Nominating

To run for WSU Student Council or a full-time position, candidates must:

- *Be a full member of Wrexham Students' Union at the time of election*
 - *Be a full registered student at the time of the election*
- *Be aware of the duties and responsibilities attached to these roles*
- *Have full student status for the current academic year (Sept-June)*

Voting

To vote for a nominee running for Student Council or a full-time officer position, students must:

- *Have full student status*
- *Be a full member of Wrexham Students' Union (you are automatically a member of WSU through being a Wrexham University student, you just need to ensure you register on our website at wrexhamsu.co.uk to be able to vote)*

Candidate Rules:

- Abide by current Wrexham Students' Union policies and values, Wrexham University's regulations and policies, Wrexham University's Student Code of Conduct and the law.
- Be responsible for the conduct of your campaign and any person who chooses to campaign with you during the Elections process.
- Not undertake campaigns activity through taking advantage of role-privileged information (e.g. Student Groups Mailing List etc). This list is not exhaustive, and any other identified role-privileged information is at the discretion of Wrexham Students' Union.
- If you do not attend Candidate training, please contact ben.sanders@wrexham.ac.uk to arrange a supplementary training session. Failure to attend a training session will result in disqualification.
- Not infringe a students' right to vote confidentially and freely or influence students while they are voting, including at dedicated voting booths set up around campus.
- Students must be able to cast their votes privately: candidates must not touch voters' phones or interfere in any way during the voting process. Every phone will be treated as a ballot box.
- Not remove, alter nor move another candidate's campaign material.
- Candidates must keep to the specified campaign budget and not overspend. Any overspend will contravene our equal and fair opportunities policy and may result in disqualification.

Further Guidance:

- Please remain respectful of others while campaigning. This means not 'spamming' students on social media nor disrespecting other campaigns on social media posts!
- Please use the Wrexham Students' Union logo on campaign materials. Do not use the Wrexham University logo on any campaign material (including social media)
- Candidates must not campaign in lectures/seminars. Campaigning must not cause disruption to teaching activity or physical/online learning spaces

- The Deputy Returning Officer shall set a maximum campaign budget of £50 for each candidate prior to the opening of nominations. Candidates must not exceed the budget limit, even if they do not claim the expenses.
- Candidates must submit a campaign spending return within one hour of the close of voting (16:00 March 12th) to ben.sanders@wrexham.ac.uk detailing all expenditure and providing evidence (receipts). If no spend has occurred, this also needs to be communicated by the same deadline.
- Candidates should use a separate campaigning account on social media and not use their personal or professional accounts.

Our Promises:

- We will offer fair opportunities to all candidates. If we host podcasts, debates, or interviews, these will be offered to all candidates. If you reject participating in these opportunities, they will still go ahead for those who choose to partake, as a fair opportunity to take part has been offered to all.
- Wrexham Students' Union and University staff must remain apolitical/impartial in all WSU Elections.
- Student staff, whilst on shift, wearing staff uniform or using platforms provided to them as part of their role, cannot campaign for themselves or others.

Complaints and Appeals:

Appeals and complaints will be time limited. Any appeals against fairness in opportunity or even more serious accusations must be submitted by **The End Of The Voting Window**.

All appeals will be approached on a fair and impartial basis, ensuring a fair and free election.

Wrexham Students' Union will strive to deal with complaints informally in the first instance. All complaints must be emailed to the Deputy Returning Officer.

Any complaint regarding a candidate's conduct must be submitted to the Deputy Returning Officer. as soon as practicably possible after the alleged incident.

If the candidate does not agree with the outcome of the complaint investigation, you have the right to Appeal the decision to the Returning Officer, by requesting this via the Complaint Appeal Form.

The complaint deadline for Appeals is one hour After the election vote Closes.

Any complaints must include:

- *The complainant's name*
- *Any affiliation you have to any campaign in the Elections*
- *The name of the candidate against whom the complaint is being made*
 - *The election rule that has been breached*
 - *Evidence relating to the alleged breach*
- *Complaints without evidence will not be considered*
- *What action you believe the Returning Officer should take*

The Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer will decide on the penalty (if any) of any candidate complaint. Penalties can range from a verbal warning to disqualification from the Elections. The Returning Officer is responsible for the final interpretation of these rules and the final decision.

Please Sign off Here that you understand these rules and will abide by them:

Wrexham Students' Union

Election Candidate Conduct

Agreement

Candidate Name: _____

Position Contested: _____

Agreement

I, as a candidate in the Students' Union Elections, agree to uphold the integrity, fairness, and democratic values of the election process. By standing in this election, I commit to the following:

1. Respect and Conduct

I agree to:

- Treat all candidates, students, staff, and stakeholders with respect at all times
- Campaign in a fair, honest, and positive manner
- Avoid any behaviour that could be considered harassment, intimidation, or discrimination
- Refrain from engaging in personal attacks, defamatory comments, or negative campaigning

2. Fair Campaigning

I agree to:

- Follow all election rules, guidance, and instructions provided by the Students' Union
- Not interfere with another candidate's campaign materials or activities
- Not campaign in restricted areas (including polling stations or designated no campaign zones)
- Not disrupt lectures, teaching sessions, or official University activities
- Ensure all campaign activity is conducted in appropriate spaces and in an appropriate manner

3. Voting Integrity

I agree to:

- Not influence or pressure any student while they are voting
- Not look at, request to see, or interfere with another person's vote or device while voting
- Not complete or assist in completing a vote on behalf of another student
- Always respect the secrecy and independence of the voting process

4. Responsible Behaviour

I agree to:

- Follow all instructions from the Returning Officer (RO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)
- Comply with any decisions or sanctions issued during the election period
- Raise concerns or complaints through the appropriate formal channels only

- Avoid retaliatory or vexatious complaints

5. Campaign Environment

I agree to:

- Contribute to a positive and supportive election environment
- Engage in healthy competition without causing conflict or disruption
- Attend any mandatory briefings or meetings required during the election period

6. Breaches and Sanctions

I understand that:

- Any breach of this agreement or election rules may result in sanctions
- Sanctions may include warnings, campaign restrictions, temporary bans, or disqualification
- Decisions made by the RO/DRO are final, subject to the official appeals process

Declaration

I confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to abide by this Candidate Conduct Agreement and all associated election rules.

I understand that failure to comply may result in disciplinary action within the election process.

Candidate Signature: _____

Date: _____

Discipline Process

(Option 1) First Warning

(Option 2) Final Warning

(Option 3) Campaign Ban

(Option 4) Disqualification

For serious offences, such as harassment, bullying, or assault, the complaint will be sent straight to the Returning Officer, and you will move straight to Disqualification.

Any Appeals to the DRO's Decision, must be stated to the DRO and will be sent to the RO for final decision. You must state that you want to appeal the decision made against you.

Please sign the dotted line to let us know that you fully understand:

Candidate Signature: _____

Date: _____

Complaint Form

All complaints need to be evidenced; the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) will not accept a complaint without evidence given to verify the legitimacy.

Any Appeals to the DRO's Decision, must be stated to the DRO and will be sent to the Returning Officer for final decision. You must state that you want to appeal the decision made against you.

Please sign the dotted line to let us know that you fully understand:

Candidate Signature: _____

Date: _____

Complaint:

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Appeal Form

This form will be given to all recipients of disciplinary actions, you must state why you disagree with the ruling of the Deputy Returning Officer and give your evidence that the ruling is unfair.

Please sign the dotted line to let us know that you fully understand:

Candidate Signature: _____

Date: _____

Reason the decision is unfair and evidence:

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