

## UMSU Student Election 2012 Regulations

These election rules shall apply for the Student Elections 2012:

Students can stand for election between the 1<sup>st</sup> February and 12 noon on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012  
Students can vote in the election between 9<sup>th</sup> March and 6pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Elections will usually take place:

- Volunteer Officers and NUS Delegates – Semester 1
- Union Executive Sabbatical Officers – Semester 2

### Rights of registered students

All University of Manchester students are eligible to stand and vote for any position that is relevant to them, e.g. Only students in the faculty of Humanities can stand and vote for Humanities positions.

Information about standing and voting will be available from the Students' Union.

Elections will usually be conducted online.

### Returning Officer

There shall be an impartial Returning Officer. The Returning Officer for Student Elections 2012 is Al Powell, an NUS staff member, who will be responsible for the good conduct and administration of the elections and shall have the sole interpretation of the election rules.

### Standing

To stand as a candidate in the UMSU elections students will need to complete the relevant application before 12 noon on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2012. This year all applications are online and can be found at [www.studentelections.co.uk](http://www.studentelections.co.uk).

We can only accept forms *fully completed and submitted before the deadline*.

### Candidate Training

UMSU will arrange relevant training for candidates. There will be a compulsory briefing for all candidates following the close of nominations for Executive elections

This will take place at 5pm on Thursday 1 March, in Room 1 (Council Chamber), Steve Biko Building.

### Manifestos

Students will be encouraged to submit up to one side of A4 for Non-Executive roles and up to two sides of A4 for Executive roles to encourage students to vote for them. For the Student Elections 2012 these should be emailed to [trish.lee@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:trish.lee@manchester.ac.uk) before the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2012. If candidates do not submit this then the Students' Union will use your 50 words provided on the application form to stand.

### Campaigning & Publicity

The Students' Union will allow candidates free printing or photocopying in the Students' Union offices to produce campaign materials.

There will be a spending limit for how much a candidate can spend on their campaign, which will be announced at the compulsory briefing meeting. The Students' Union will reimburse candidates for their campaign spending on request, if supported by valid receipts (arrangements can be made for this to be paid in advance where necessary). No candidate may spend more than the spending limit even if they do not reclaim their expenditure from the Students' Union.

Candidates may accept donations of goods but not cash to support their campaigns, but these donations may not have any conditions attached to them and candidates cannot make any offers or promises in securing donations. The Returning Officer may prohibit the use of large donations, at their discretion, if they feel these would make the election unfair.

Candidates must be able to provide a full breakdown of campaign resources used and how they were procured if requested to do so by the Returning Officer.

All candidates are encouraged to be fair and should refrain from making negative comments or campaigning negatively about other candidates as individuals.

Banners on University property may be put up in compliance with the following times:

1. No earlier than 6am on 1<sup>st</sup> March and removed by 10pm on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
2. 6am 8<sup>th</sup> March – 10pm 12<sup>th</sup> March
3. 6am 13<sup>th</sup> March – close of voting Campus

This is to allow all candidates a fair opportunity to access prime banner locations.

Candidates and supporters of candidates who have an official role or position inside or outside the Union may continue to act in this capacity, but they must not abuse their position for any purpose directly related to the election.

Newspaper articles discussing individual candidates need to be approved by the Returning Officer before publication.

Any complaints about candidate conduct should be raised with the Returning Officer in a timely manner and no later than the close of the voting period.

## **Meet the Candidates**

The Returning Officer shall ensure that there is an appropriate opportunity for students to question candidates.

## **Voting**

Voting for Students' Union elections will be online. The Returning Officer shall ensure that there are appropriate opportunities for students to be able to vote for as few or as many of the available candidates as they wish.

Online ballots shall bear the name of each candidate and the office being contested and where possible the order of candidates will be randomised. They may include other information at the discretion of the returning officer. There will be a facility for voting for "Re-Open Nominations" and for abstaining for each election.

## **The Count**

Votes will be counted following the close of Voting when the Returning Officer is satisfied that all complaints relating to the conduct and administration of the election have been resolved. Complaints after the count has commenced may only relate to the conduct of the count.

The count will be conducted according to the rules laid down by the Electoral Reform Society for running elections by the Single Transferable Vote.

## **Results**

Election Results shall be declared by the Returning Officer or their nominee when the count has been successfully completed.

A list of successful candidates will be posted online within 1 working day of the declaration of results.