

Student Elections 2026

Rules and Regulations



Student Election Rules and Regulations 2026

General

1. The rules will be interpreted and enforced by the Returning Officer, who is responsible for the good conduct and administration of these elections and has the power to govern and interpret all matters relating to the election.
2. The Guild will appoint Deputy Returning Officers and the Returning Officer may delegate any aspect of these regulations to the Deputy Returning Officers.
3. The Election Period refers to the timeframe in which these rules and regulations are in force. This is from 12:00 on 8 December to 17:00 on 16 February.
4. Where rules refer to 'candidates' this includes anyone who is participating in election activity on behalf of a candidate. The candidate is responsible for all action in relation to their election activity.
5. Candidates must maintain the principles of a free and fair election.
6. Candidates must follow all laws, University regulations, Guild policies, and direction of Campus Services, Estates, Estates Patrol, Grounds staff, and Guild staff while campaigning during the Election Period.
7. The Guild and University must remain impartial. Guild resources will be offered equally to all candidates to ensure fairness.
8. Every candidate is required to attend a candidate briefing session and submit relevant documentation.

Campaigning

9. No campaigning may take place before 20/01/2026.
10. Digital Campaigning may begin from 20/01/2026, immediately following the next day of nominations closing.
11. Physical Campaigning may only begin from 10:00 on 09/02/2026, immediately following the open of voting.
 - a. Physical campaigning is defined as distributing print media, use of banners, t-shirts, written materials, door knocking, and face-to-face promotion.
12. Candidates may only engage in campaign activity which other candidates could reasonably do.
13. Candidates may not campaign in areas designated for voting.

Finances

14. Every candidate is required to submit a Campaign Budget Form by 12:00 on 12/02/2026.
15. Candidates may not spend more than £50 on their election campaign, and will be remunerated for this if:
 - a. Campaign expenses are recorded, receipted, and submitted through the Campaign Budget form by 12:00 on 12/02/2026.
 - b. These are reasonable campaign expenses and do not include any purchases of drugs, alcohol, or anything else illegal.
16. Candidates may not combine their finances with any other candidate (e.g. to pool budgets and buy items together).

Voting

17. Voters must be allowed to cast their vote freely:
 - a. Candidates must not communicate with voters once they have started to vote.

- b. Candidates must not interfere with or touch a device being used to vote.
- c. Candidates must not request students to complete a ballot in front of them.
- d. Candidates must not provide students with a device to vote through.

Complaints and Appeals

- 18. Any members may submit a complaint if they feel any rule has been breached.
- 19. All complaints must be submitted via the Elections Complaints Form. This form must be completed in full. The Returning Officer will consider no other form of complaint.
- 20. Complaints must be submitted at the earliest opportunity:
 - a. Complaints related to campaigning must be submitted before the close of voting, by 16:00 on 12/02/2026.
 - b. Complaints related to the vote count must be submitted by 16:00 on 16/02/2026.
- 21. All complaints in relation to campaigning will be resolved before the vote count can begin.
- 22. The Returning Officer shall make rulings on complaints within 1 working day of receipt.
- 23. The Returning Officer may take action without receipt of a complaint if they deem this is necessary.
- 24. Any candidate that breaches the rules will:
 - a. In the first instance, receive a written warning.
 - b. In the second instance, receive a second and final written warning.
 - c. And as a last resort, be disqualified from the election.
- 25. The Returning Officer may consider immediate disqualification where serious misconduct or a substantial breach of the rules has occurred.
- 26. Being unaware of these rules or regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any breach of the rules.
- 27. Any appeal must be received within 1 working day of a decision being communicated.
- 28. An appeal must be sent to the elections inbox (elections@exeterguild.com)
- 29. The ruling of the Returning Officer is final and not be appealed.

Timeline

Election Period: 09/02/2025 12:00 – 16/02/2025 17:00

Nominations will open on: 08/12/2025 12:00

The following paid, full time positions for elections are:

Education & Employability Officer

Student Life & Communities Officer

- Nominations will close on: 19/01/2025 12:00
- Candidate Briefing Sessions: 19/01/2025
- Digital Campaigning is permitted from: 20/01/2026 12:00
- Physical Campaigning is permitted from: 09/02/2026 10:00
- Voting will open: 9/02/2026 10:00
- Voting will close: 12/02/2026 16:00
- Results will be held on the evening of 15/02/2026