

Rep Election Rules

The following rules have been put in place to ensure a free and fair election. All candidates should act within the spirit of the election – if candidates are in any doubt about the interpretation of these rules, please contact the Representation Coordinator: reps@soas.ac.uk. Breaches of these rules may result in sanctions including disqualification.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that they take reasonable steps to understand the election rules before the election commences. Any reference to candidates equally applies to their supporters.

1. Guiding Principles

- 1.1. There are 6 guiding principles to ensure fairness, equal opportunities and transparency for everyone involved.
 - 1.1.1. Candidates must treat other candidates, students and members of the public with respect. This includes engaging in healthy debate and not to campaign negatively.
 - 1.1.2. Candidates' campaigns should be fully transparent and accountable to the union.
 - 1.1.3. Candidates must not do anything to gain an unfair advantage.
 - 1.1.4. Candidates must not undermine the fair and democratic running of elections.
 - 1.1.5. Candidates shall be reasonable for the actions of their campaign teams, if they choose to have one.
 - 1.1.6. Candidates must not break any general union and University/College rules and regulations. This also includes the Law.

2. Nominations

- 2.1. Only Student Members of the SU are eligible to stand as a candidate in the elections.
- 2.2. Nominations must be submitted by the deadline. Nominations may include a short manifesto or introduction and a photo of the candidate.
- 2.3. Nominations will not be accepted after the deadline, unless a second round of nominations are opened if no candidates were nominated in the first round.
- 2.4. Candidates shall only be able to nominate themselves for the programme groups and departments they belong to. If a candidate has the option of nominating themselves for a programme or department that is not their own, as soon as possible they must contact reps@soas.ac.uk to rectify the issue.
- 2.5. If, at the close of nominations there are posts which have no candidates standing, a second or third round of nominations may be opened for these roles only.
- 2.6. Candidates may withdraw their nomination up until two hours before polling begins by contacting reps@soas.ac.uk.

3. Conduct

- 3.1. Candidates must not use Union resources for the purpose of campaigning. This includes campaigning whilst undertaking paid work for the SU or campaigning on social media accounts affiliated with the Union.
- 3.2. Candidates must not use university or Union emailing lists.
- 3.3. Candidates must not interfere with other candidate's campaigns.
- 3.4. Candidates must only undertake activity that other candidates may reasonably do.

- 3.5. Clubs and Societies may endorse and campaign on behalf of candidates. This decision must be reached fairly either by the Committee or a majority vote of members.
- 3.6. Candidates must not harass or intimidate voters.
- 3.7. Candidates must not supply electronic devices (such as mobile phones) or handle a voter's device whilst they are in the process of voting.
- 3.8. If they wish to create posters, Candidates may only place these in the JCR, SU Bar and PCR.
- 3.9. Candidates must not use bribes as part of their campaign.
- 3.10. Supporters of Candidates may only be current SOAS SU student members.