

# **AUTUMN TERM ELECTION 2025 RULES**



## **CONTENTS**

<b><u>Section 1: Introduction, Glossary &amp; Timeline</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<a href="#">Introduction</a>	3
<a href="#">Glossary</a>	3
<a href="#">Timeline</a>	4
<b><u>Section 2: Campaigning Resources</u></b>	<b>6</b>
<a href="#">Manifestos</a>	6
<a href="#">Videos</a>	6
<a href="#">Campaign Materials</a>	6
<b><u>Section 3: Campaigning Rules</u></b>	<b>7</b>
<a href="#">Campaigning Rules</a>	7
<b><u>Section 4: Digital Campaigning</u></b>	<b>9</b>
<b><u>Section 5: Clubs, Societies &amp; Media Groups</u></b>	<b>10</b>
<b><u>Section 6: Voting</u></b>	<b>11</b>
<a href="#">Voting System</a>	11
<a href="#">How to Vote</a>	11
<b><u>Section 7: Complaints Process</u></b>	<b>12</b>

## Section 1: Introduction, Glossary & Timeline

### Introduction

This document exists to ensure the principles below are upheld throughout the Autumn Term Election period. Candidates and campaigners must make sure they have read and understood these rules before planning their campaign. Following these rules will ensure a free, fair, and rewarding democratic process for all involved. Failure to comply with these rules could lead to sanctions imposed by the Returning Officer, such as campaign bans or even disqualification.

LSESU's elections and referenda are guided by the following principles:

- Accessibility and Inclusivity
- Accountability
- Fairness
- Respect
- Transparency

You can find further information pertaining to elections in the LSESU's [Articles of Association](#) and [Bye Laws](#) documents.

LSESU believes that any and every Union member should be able to participate in the Autumn Term Election. If you require any reasonable adjustments to participate then please contact [su.representation@lse.ac.uk](mailto:su.representation@lse.ac.uk).

Be mindful of your own and others' wellbeing and remember to be nice to your fellow candidates. If you're ever feeling overwhelmed by the election process, please do check in with a member of SU staff: we are here to help.

If you encounter any harassment or bullying during the election it is important that you report it to the Representation Team at LSESU, and to the [LSE's Report It, Stop It service](#).

## Glossary

In line with our commitment to make sure the Autumn Term Election is accessible we have provided this glossary to make our rules comprehensible:

**Campaign-free zones:** Areas where candidates and campaigners are not allowed to campaign. For the purposes of this election, the campaign-free zones are:

- Students' Union events not related to the Autumn Term Election
- All society events
- The Faith Centre
- Inside the Library
- The Peacock Theatre
- Within 2 metres of a Polling Station

**Campaign Team/Campaigners:** Anyone campaigning for any election candidate is deemed a campaigner/a part of their campaign team.

**Democracy Committee:** A body of students who are elected each year to oversee the Union's democratic processes and activity, and to ensure we act in accordance with the LSESU Byelaws and Articles of Associations (sometimes referred to as just 'The Articles').

**Student and Deputy Returning Officers:** The Returning Officer is responsible for ensuring a free and fair election. They make decisions on rule violations and sanctions. As per previous years, a member of the Democracy Committee will act as the Student Returning Officer with the support of the Student Voice Coordinator (Democracy and Governance) who will act as the Deputy Returning Officer.

**Representation Team:** The staff team at LSESU that oversees and coordinates the Autumn Term Election process (among other things).

**Student Voice Coordinator (Democracy and Governance):** The member of staff within the Representation Team who coordinates the Autumn Term Elections and supports the Democracy Committee.

**Election Count:** The process by which votes are counted in order to determine the Autumn Term Election's outcome.

**Byelaws and Articles of Association:** The documents that govern the Students' Union and set the standards as to how we should operate.

**ARC:** The Activities Resource Centre, a meeting room on the first floor of the Saw Swee Hock Building.

## Timeline

The Autumn Term Election period refers to the following timeline:

Nominations Period: **Monday 15th September 12am – Wednesday 8th October 12pm**

Physical Campaigning Period begins: **Monday 13th October 10am**

Voting Period: **Wednesday 15th October 9am – Thursday 16th October 5pm**

Results night: **Friday 17th October 3-4pm**

**This timeline exists to ensure that every candidate is treated fairly.**

The LSESU staff team is committed to delivering the Autumn Term Election in line with the principles set out in section 1 and will provide equitable support to all candidates.

Please be mindful that LSESU staff members have no right of reply, and no ability to challenge any of the outcomes of the Autumn Term Election outside of these rules. Please therefore

ensure that you **do not reference staff members in any manifestos, speeches or other campaign materials.**

## Section 2: Campaigning Resources

### Manifestos

A manifesto is your chance to share your message with each LSE student. It will be displayed on the LSESU website and shared with students via our social media channels. To ensure every candidate is treated fairly there is a word limit of 200 words for each role.

### Campaign Materials

Candidates are allowed to spend their own money to provide campaign materials. Spending limits are set to ensure that no candidate can gain an unfair advantage due to financial privilege.

The spending limit is **£20 per person/candidate for Part Time Officers, £10 per person/candidate for Democracy Committee/Academic Sub-Committee Members, not per nomination**, i.e. regardless of the number of roles you have put yourself forward for, your spending limit will always be up to £20.

If you are concerned that these elections will place financial pressure upon you, please contact [su.representation@lse.ac.uk](mailto:su.representation@lse.ac.uk) as we have a small budget to support candidates who face this barrier to participation.

**All printing costs should be recorded by the candidate and all receipts kept as proof of spending. SU staff may ask for proof of spending during or after your campaign.**

## Section 3: Campaigning Rules

All candidates and campaigners are expected to act in line with the Autumn Term Elections guiding principles:

- Be inclusive & accessible
- Be accountable
- Be fair
- Be respectful
- Be transparent

Any misuse of power to gain an advantage over other candidates is in contradiction to these principles and will result in sanctions being imposed by the Returning Officer. Any breach of the campaigning rules may also result in sanctions being imposed by the Returning Officer.

## Campaigning Rules

- 1. All candidates and campaigns must adhere to LSE rules and regulations. Candidates should read LSE's [Ethics Code](#) and seek to uphold the Code's principles of integrity, responsibility and equality of respect and opportunity.**
- 2. Candidates are accountable for all their actions and campaigners' actions whilst campaigning.**
  - a. You are responsible for making sure your campaign team understands and follows the rules.
  - b. If anybody on your campaign team breaks a rule, the candidate will also be deemed to have broken a rule.

- 3. Candidates and campaigners must not begin physical campaigning until the official start of the campaigning period**

**In practice, this means that before the 13<sup>th</sup> October:**

2. You can't: Put up posters or hand out leaflets on campus.
3. You can't: Canvas your programme or classes.
4. You can: Tell your friends you are running and ask them to be part of your campaign team.
5. You can: Set up a campaign Instagram page or other social media.
6. You can: Ask societies to endorse your campaign.
4. Candidates and campaigners cannot force nor provide students with the means to vote (e.g. giving someone your phone or laptop to vote on, or taking hold of their device while they are voting)
  - a. If they are struggling to vote, do not touch their device. Ask them to email the Representation Team for help at [su.representation@lse.ac.uk](mailto:su.representation@lse.ac.uk)
- 5. Candidates and campaigners must maintain a reasonable distance (around 2 metres) from anyone who is casting their vote**
  - b. You cannot, under any circumstances, stand over a student or talk to them while they are voting – even if they ask you for help.
  - c. If they are struggling to vote, ask them to email the Representation Team for help at [su.representation@lse.ac.uk](mailto:su.representation@lse.ac.uk)
- 6. Candidates and campaigners should ensure they are acting in a respectful manner to all staff, students and the campus environment**
  - d. Think about the words you use.

- e. Clean up your posters, leaflets and banners after the Election.

**7. Candidates and campaigners should maintain a transparent campaign**

- f. If asked, please provide Representation Team staff and the Returning Officer with all relevant information on your campaigning activity, including any evidence asked for within a complaint's investigation

## **Section 4: Clubs, Societies & Media Groups**

LSESU expects all clubs and societies to adhere to the principles and rules outlined in this document. Club and society committees are responsible for ensuring their society is following the procedures put in place to support candidates, students and staff at LSESU. If you are a member of a club or society and you're running for a position in the Autumn Term Election, please ensure you are following the rules and principles of the Autumn Term Election in regard to fairness and transparency.

We expect all clubs and societies to treat candidates fairly and equitably, and to offer the same opportunities to all candidates.

Clubs, societies, and media groups are forbidden from holding their own election hustings/Question Time/debate events unless explicitly granted permission by LSESU.

Media groups must remember that LSESU staff members have no right of reply to any coverage and must therefore not be named in coverage of the Winter Term Election.

### **Endorsements**

Clubs and societies can choose to endorse candidates and promote them to their members.

Decisions to endorse a candidate by a club or society must be made democratically within that club or society.

If a committee member is running in the election, they cannot take part in the discussions when an endorsement is being decided.



## Section 5: Voting

### Voting System

LSESU uses the Alternative Vote system for elections. This means that voters can vote for as many of the nominated candidates as they like for each role, ranked in order of preference. It is a secret ballot, which means that a member has a right to privacy in how they voted.

You can see a [short video here](#) describing the process by which votes are counted in the Alternative Vote system.

### How to Vote

Voting is conducted [via the elections page on the LSESU website](#). You must sign in to the website before you can vote. Students can vote between 9am on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October until 5pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

## Section 6: Complaints Process

LSESU's election complaints process exists to ensure the guiding principles are upheld and that every student ensures that the Autumn Term Election is **fair, inclusive, accessible** and **respectful**.

Complaints can be made via [this form](#). Include specific details: date, time, individuals involved, and a summary of which election rules have been broken. You must submit evidence of how these rules or principles have not been upheld in this email.

The Deputy Returning Officer will reply within one working day. This does not include weekends. Any complaints submitted without evidence will mean a delay in a ruling being made.

### Deadlines

The deadline for submitting complaints is **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 7pm**, 2 hours after the close of voting.



**If SU staff believe that a complaint is frivolous or has been submitted to undermine a candidate, this may be considered a breaking of election rules and disregard for the guiding principles of the election.**

### **Questions**

If in doubt, ask! Please contact a member of staff in the Representation Team should you have any questions at [su.representation@lse.ac.uk](mailto:su.representation@lse.ac.uk)