A GUIDE TO STUDENTS’ UNION ELECTIONS: HOW YOU CAN HELP?

LSE STUDENTS’ UNION - ELECTIONS HANDBOOK FOR STAFF

LSESU ELECTIONS
NOMINATIONS: 17TH-24TH FEBRUARY
VOTING: 4TH - 6TH MARCH
LSESU.COM/ELECTIONS
LSE Students’ Union is the voice of students on campus and beyond. We represent all 10,000 students and support them to get involved in campaigns, take part in sports and societies and develop new skills.

In week 8 of Lent term, students will vote to elect four full-time Sabbatical officers, eight part-time officers and other students to various boards and committees.

Positions up for election this term are:

- GENERAL SECRETARY
- EDUCATION OFFICER
- COMMUNITY & WELFARE OFFICER
- ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
- ANTI-RACISM OFFICER
- DISABLED STUDENTS’ OFFICER
- ETHICS & ENVIRONMENT OFFICER
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ OFFICER
- LGBT STUDENTS’ OFFICER
- WOMEN’S OFFICER
- AU PRESIDENT/ AU EXEC
- RAG PRESIDENT
- DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE MEMBERS X 5
- STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE TRUSTEE BOARD X 5

STAFF HANDBOOK
HOW YOU CAN HELP

Before nominations close:

1. ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO STAND FOR ELECTIONS.

We aim to increase the number and diversity of students standing for the different positions. This is really important, as it keeps the Union democratic and ensures that we are relevant to all students. We really want to attract more Postgraduate students, more female students, more mature and part-time students and more international students to stand for positions. So if you know a female international student who you think would be fantastic as a member of the Trustee Board, or as the next General Secretary let her know about the elections, and that training and support are available from the SU. Don’t forget to mention that the Sabbatical Officer positions are paid!

2. PASS ON NAMES OF SUITABLE STUDENTS.

Let us know if there’s anyone who you think would be great, and we’ll get in touch with them to ask them to run. The main reason that students give for not standing for a position is because no-one encouraged them. Contact Engagement Coordinator L.A.Burley@lse.ac.uk if you think you’ve found the perfect International Students’ Officer.

3. TALK TO STUDENTS ABOUT YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES OF STUDENT POLITICS.

If you were a Sabbatical, or Part-time Officer, or sat on a student committee, why not take 5 minutes at the beginning of a lecture to tell students about your experiences, and how it helped you to get where you are today. Tell them about the skills they will develop, the people they’ll meet, and how the roles can be challenging but enjoyable! Even if you weren’t an elected representative, you can still talk about how important it is to develop their employability skills and take part in the democratic process.

AFTER NOMINATIONS CLOSE:

1. Support all students in your class who are running. Let them know where to go for help with their campaign. Remind them that their academic work is still their top priority!

2. Be fair to all students.

If you let one candidate do a lecture shout-out, or put information up on a departmental notice board, let others do the same if they ask.

3. Encourage students to vote.

Tell them why it’s so important to vote. Remind them that their Union will not be representative of all students’ views unless all students vote. Tell them again why they should vote!
POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

FULL-TIME SABBATICAL OFFICER POSITIONS

GENERAL SECRETARY

Negotiates and sets the agenda between the School and the SU. Deals with press enquiries and media requests and represents the Union when liaising with external organisations. Chairs the Board of Trustees, which plans for the strategic future of the SU.

Sits on School decision-making bodies including the Court of Governors, Council, Finance Committee, Equality and Diversity Committee and Estates Committee.

EDUCATION OFFICER

Leads change in teaching and learning within LSE. Raises awareness of academic issues, liaising with students, course representatives, academics and the directorate to ensure that they have a voice and representation within the SU and the University. Also leads on national education policy and issues. Sits on School decision-making bodies including the Academic Board.

COMMUNITY & WELFARE OFFICER

Responsible for creating and sustaining the LSE community and being an active voice on student welfare issues at LSE. Negotiates with the School to improve issues such as Halls of Residences and increased off-campus housing support, catering, equality and diversity issues and access to higher education. Works hard to maintain good campus relations, for example with the faith and national and cultural communities on campus through the Interfaith Forum and leads on Community Festival alongside the Activities & Development Officer.

ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Responsible for leading the development of sports clubs, societies, student media, volunteering programmes and student events and exhibitions. Champions extra-curricular activity, liaising with students involved in activities ensuring that they have a voice and representation within the SU and the University. Works on events such as Freshers’ Fair, Varsity, Welcome Ball and Tour. Chairs the Activities Committee.

PART-TIME OFFICER POSITIONS

LIBERATION OFFICERS

Disabled Students’ Officer, LGBT Officer and Women’s Officer are all liberation officer positions. The officers campaign on issues of equality for these groups of students and aim to prevent discrimination within the SU and more widely.
GET IN TOUCH

ANTI-RACISM OFFICER

Campaigns and holds debates and events on all issues to do with preventing racism in the SU and more widely.

ETHICS & ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

Develops sustainability initiatives at the LSE, and runs campaigns on issues of ecology, social justice, peace and solidarity.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ OFFICER

This officer ensures that the concerns of international students are heard.

AU PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE

Run the Athletics Union and ensures that different sports and clubs are fairly represented.

RAG PRESIDENT

Leads the Raising and Giving society, the fundraising arm of the SU.

TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees has the ultimate legal and financial responsibility for everything the SU does. It oversees the strategy and governance of the SU.

DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE

These 5 students ensure that democratic processes and procedures are free and fair and open to all students.