

Election Rules – Big Student Elections 2026

If you are in any doubt about the meaning of any of the rules listed in this document then you should contact the Deputy Returning Officer, Megan McClellan, at Megan.McClellan1@CityOfGlasgowCollege.ac.uk

Candidates who fail to abide by these rules may be disqualified from the election.

Election rules are an extension of our Constitution and Schedule 3 document, which can be found on [our website here](#). These rules are checked by that National Union of Students (NUS) who offer support and guidance to Students' Unions and election best practices.

Eligibility

1. To be eligible to run in elections for a Vice President role (part time position) individuals must have a planned full-time course for the following academic year.
2. To be eligible to hold a Vice President role an individual must maintain their student status at the college. If student status changes during an elected staff members term this will impact their employment status.
3. Individuals with current disciplinary sanctions under any of the College's disciplinary procedures will not be eligible for election to any Students' Association post.
 - For any students with a pending disciplinary action a conversation with relevant staff will occur prior to election nomination approval.
4. All successful candidates will be expected to work most of their hours on campus (14hours for VP and 35hours for President) during standard college opening hours (9-5).
5. All successful candidates for paid positions (including President and Vice President) will be required to complete a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) submission and supply two suitable references. The college may refuse the appointment of any individual who does not have a satisfactory PVG record and/or references.

Nominations

1. All candidates must submit their nomination form and personal statement by the deadline for nominations, as stated on the CitySA website.
2. Photographs submitted as part of nominations should be a portrait shot of the candidate on a neutral background.
3. Photographs should be an accurate representation of the candidate.
4. All candidate profiles are reviewed by the elections committee prior to approval.

Candidate Briefing

1. All candidates must attend the Candidate Briefing, failure to engage with this session will see candidates disqualified from the running.

Conduct

1. Paid Students' Association officers who wish to campaign, either for themselves or for someone else, must take holidays, TOIL or unpaid leave to do so.
2. Paid SA Officers and voluntary Executive Officers who are campaigning:
 - Cannot use any Students' Association offices or office equipment for the purposes of their or someone else's election campaign – this includes storing or displaying all types of publicity materials.
 - Cannot use existing platforms that other students do not have access to, to promote candidates. This includes all SA social medias.
3. All candidates must abide by the college's relevant college policies including Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Social Media Policy. A full policy list is available from the [college website](#).
4. Bribes may not be offered in any form to any person associated with the elections. This includes any kind of gift to potential voters such as sweets, stickers or badges.
5. No candidate may use Students' Association offices, meeting rooms, computers or any other SA resources for the purposes of their campaign.
6. Tampering with other candidates' promotional materials is strictly forbidden.
7. No sponsorship is allowed. This includes the use of commercial premises for publicity.

8. Candidates and their representatives must conduct themselves appropriately at all times (in line with the college [Student Code of Conduct](#)), and must treat other candidates and their representatives, and all staff with respect and dignity, including within online spaces.

Campaigning

1. On site campaigning will commence on Monday the 23rd of March. All campaigning will end when the polls close at 4pm on Thursday the 26th of March.
2. Candidates will be held responsible for the conduct of their campaign teams and ensuring their teams follow these rules.
3. City of Glasgow College staff members are encouraged to support engagement with Big Student Elections but are prohibited from endorsing candidates as this may jeopardise a candidate's position.
4. Candidates must not use or make reference to the branding of the college or Students' Association in any campaign (eg logo, stock photos).
5. Any campaigning not in the positive spirit of the elections will be dealt with at the discretion of the Deputy Returning Officer.
6. No campaigning may take place where there are communal computers or other areas set-up specifically for student voting.
7. Campaigners must not intimidate, harass or bully voters, especially at the point of actually voting. This includes attempts to influence a student's vote whilst they are voting on a personal computer, mobile device or laptop.

Promotional Methods

1. Candidates can utilise as many social media platforms as they wish but these cannot be made public until they are approved as a candidate.
2. All Social Media Posts should be in line with the college's Social Media Policy as well as the Election Rules.
3. Candidates should seek permission from group admins when sharing in closed online spaces e.g. teams channels.
4. Paid for ads on social media are permitted but only up to the total elections budget value.

5. Candidates must remove all publicity (i.e. **flyers** and social media posts) within one day of the polls closing.
6. The only name that candidate's publicity may mention is that of the candidate, unless approved by the Elections Committee.

Campaign Materials

1. All candidates will be eligible to a campaign budget, the minimum of which will be £20 per candidate. The full amount available will be determined by the Deputy Returning Officer and will depend on the total number of candidates across all positions.
2. This amount cannot be "topped up" by the candidate or anyone else.
3. This money can be reclaimed from the Students' Association at the end of the voting period. For instances in which budget is being used for flyers printed by the college, the Students' Association will remove this from the budget allocation rather than reimbursing the cost of printing.
4. Receipts must be produced for all materials used in your campaign. This is to ensure that they can be processed for reimbursement.
5. Candidates have up to 30 days from the start of the campaigning period to reclaim any expenses from their budget.
6. Where you have obtained something for free or at a reduced cost, the full value of the item will count against your spending limit.

Complaints

1. In line with NUS recommendations, we will strive to resolve election concerns informally in the first instance (e.g. by speaking to relevant parties involved).
2. In instances where a formal complaint is warranted, this should be made to the Deputy Returning Officer by email – using the standard complaints form available on request from the Deputy Returning Officer.
3. Any complaint should detail what election rule has been broken and evidence of rule breaking included with the complaint.
4. The deadline for submitting complaints is one hour after the close of polls.

5. Complaints will be dealt with at the discretion of the Returning Officer. If candidates are in any doubt about the interpretation of these rules, they should ask the Deputy Returning Officer for clarification or another Students' Association staff member acting on their behalf.