

Officer Elections FAQ's

Who is responsible for the Elections?

Elections at the Guild of Students are administered by the Guild's Elections Team, and are overseen by your President. The Elections Team is part of the Student Voice & Representation Team and is a team of full-time core staff. The Returning Officer is responsible for the overall fair conduct of the elections.

Are there any rules?

The Guild of Students' Election Regulations, Byelaws, and Zero Tolerance Policy, and all applicable University Regulations (e.g. Harassment & Bullying Policy) apply to this Election. [Copies of all of these regulations and policies can be found on the Elections webpage on the Guild of Students website.](#)



Do I have to submit a written statement (manifesto) and candidate photo?

You must ideally submit a written statement (manifesto) and candidate photo.

In previous years, positions available in Autumn Elections have been highly contested, with as many as 20 candidates applying for 1 position – so having a photo, and written statement (manifesto) which clearly states why you want to apply, what your policies are and why you believe you are the best candidate for the role, will really help students to decide whether they should vote for you.

Students have also previously fed back that they are more likely to vote for candidates who have submitted a written statement and photo.

If you don't prefer to upload a photo of yourself, you can upload an avatar, drawing, meme, or something similar instead. [Further guidance for candidate photos and writing written statements, in addition to useful information for your written statement, can be found on the Elections webpage.](#)



How do I submit my written statement (manifesto) and candidate photo?

You can upload your written statement (manifesto) and photo when you submit your application. [There is a guide for how to submit your written statement on the Elections webpage.](#)

Help! How do I campaign? I've never campaigned before!

[Lots of useful information about how to deliver a successful campaign can be found on the Elections webpage.](#) This information is suitable for all candidates, including those who are completely new to campaigning. Your friends, classmates and fellow students can also help you with your campaign, as long as they are also fully registered UoB students.

Can I support my friend who is applying for another role?

Of course! Candidates applying for different positions can help (endorse) each other.

What if I change my mind and no longer want to apply?

You are free to withdraw at any time before, during or after the Election. If you want to withdraw, you should email elections@guild.bham.ac.uk. You don't need to provide a reason for withdrawing.

The website says I am not eligible to apply for a role, why is this?

If you are a fully registered student, then you should be able to apply for a role that you want. Some roles require you to self-define. [Guidance on how to self-define can be found on the Elections webpage.](#) If you are still struggling, please let us know by emailing elections@guild.bham.ac.uk as soon as possible.

Can I apply for more than one role?

You can apply for more than one role, as long as they are not from the same committee. For example, you cannot apply to be a Sports Representative AND Student Groups Representative on the Activities Committee, but you could apply to be a Sports Representative on the Activities Committee and a School Rep.

You can also apply for a role on more than one committee. For example, you could apply to be a Sports Representative on the Activities Committee and Student Member (Open Place) on the Welfare & Liberation Committee. If you are elected for both positions though, you will only be able to do one position.

Where can I go to for more information, advice or support?

This depends on the information being sought – please find a directory below:

Elections Webpage

[For all of the information about the election that candidates need to know, please visit the Elections webpage on the Guild of Students website: www.guildofstudents.com/autumnelections](http://www.guildofstudents.com/autumnelections)

Elections Team

Your Elections Team is there to support candidates with election issues and technical queries, such as having problems applying for roles or understanding the election rules. You can contact the Elections Team on elections@guild.bham.ac.uk.

Your Guild President – Syed Saddath

Your Guild President oversees the running of elections as part of their responsibilities, and will be happy to answer any questions about elections. You can contact them on president@guild.bham.ac.uk.

[You can also contact other Guild Officers, including Liberation Officers – you can find their contact details here.](#)

Guild Advice

Guild Advice is a free, impartial and confidential service that can advise you on problems related to wellbeing, finance, housing, academic issues, and international. You can contact them on guildadvice@guild.bham.ac.uk and/or [find out more here](#).

UoB Chaplaincy Service

For welfare-related concerns, you can also talk to the University's Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Service. You don't have to be religious to access this service. [You can find out more about the service \(including contact details\) here.](#)

Disabled Students' Policy

We have a process to ensure that elections at the Guild are accessible for disabled students. This involves practical support from a student-staff member to help with elections activities. [Please see the document “Disabled Students Policy” on the Elections webpage for more information.](#)

For other further information, please email: elections@guild.bham.ac.uk