

# **NUS National Conference Elections 2019**

**For 2019/20 Elected  
Positions**

**Electronic Voting  
Addendum to Rules**

## Introduction from the Chief Returning Officer

After careful consideration I have decided to move to digital democracy for elections to voluntary positions at this year's NUS National Conference. In doing this, my intention is to open up access for elections, making them simpler and fairer for candidates.

This is not the first time we have elected online at NUS, indeed this is now the norm for Zone Committees and Zone NEC positions. I'm keen to expand this further and believe it's the direction we should be going in.

The positions which will be elected online will be NEC Student positions (Block of 15), Student Directors and Democratic Procedures Committee. I also reserve the right to run online elections for National President and Vice Presidents although the intention is very much to hold paper ballots for these as normal.

Best wishes,  
Jules Mason, NUS UK Chief Returning Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jules Mason'.

## Positions to be balloted electronically

The following positions will be balloted electronically:

- NEC Block of 15
- Democratic Procedures Committee x 5
- NUS UK Board Student Directors x 3

In addition the Chief Returning Officer reserves the right to conduct the following elections online following these rules should it become impracticable to run a paper ballot at conference:

- National President
- Vice President Further Education
- Vice President Higher Education
- Vice President Union Development
- Vice President Welfare

## Application of Rules

These rules serve as an addendum to the [NUS UK Election Schedule and Rules 2018-19](#) and all provisions contained therein apply to these elections.

It should be noted that these rules are the property of the Chief Returning Officer and their designates and they alone will be the interpreter of them.

## Platform and Publication

All voting will take place using the Unioncloud platform. Voting will be conducted on the NUS National Conference hub [conference.unioncloud.org](https://conference.unioncloud.org)

All positions will be conducted by Alternative Vote or Single Transferable vote as per the Election Schedule and Rules and the NUS UK Articles and Rules.

## The Ballot

Each delegate **registered to attend by the stated deadline** shall have one vote.

The voting link will be issued by email to the email address specified at the point of registration. It is the responsibility of delegates to ensure their email address is correctly provided.

Any delegates registered as without delegate details (e.g. as AN Other) must be updated with confirmed details and email address for voting links by the final registration deadline for conference unless expressly agreed by the Returning Officer

Any technical issues with voting links must be reported to [democracy@nus.org.uk](mailto:democracy@nus.org.uk) in advance of close of polling. Whilst every effort will be made to rectify issues we may not have time to do this. It is strongly advised that delegates check voting links in advance of the conference.

Voting links will only be issued to registered delegates of the conference who have attended the conference. For the avoidance of doubt, 'attended the conference' means a delegate has registered at the onsite registration date and provided their proof of student status to staff. In order to participate in voting you must have registered onsite by the opening of polling.

Polling will open at National Conference (9 – 11 April 2019) after election speeches and close at 12 noon on Wednesday 17 April 2019

In the instance of online elections for the Vice President Further Education and Vice President Higher Education, only relevant registered delegates will be able to vote in those elections. i.e. only registered FE delegates will be able to vote in the online Vice President Further Education election, and only registered HE delegates will be able to vote in the online Vice President Higher Education election.

## Conduct

Campaigners must allow voters to cast their ballot freely and must not communicate with voters in any way once they have begun to complete their ballot.

During polling every electronic device will be deemed a ballot box.

## Election complaints

Elections complaints should be submitted to the Chief Returning Officer (or their nominated Deputy) via email to [democracy@nus.org.uk](mailto:democracy@nus.org.uk)

**For a complaint to be considered it must be submitted before the close of polling.** Complaints should contain specific information in order to aid the Chief Returning Officer in making a complaint. Information should be provided on the nature of the complaint and supported by evidence. If the complaint is about a candidate or campaign this should be stated in the complaint. Consider whether your complaint is regarding Elections or the NUS Code of Conduct. Code of Conduct complaints should be submitted via the process outlined below.

## Code of Conduct

Candidates are reminded that as members of NUS they are subject to the NUS Code of Conduct which is available online on NUS Connect: <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/governance/nus-code-of-conduct>

The code of conduct sets out the protocol to be followed given any breach of discipline. A breach of discipline can include (but is not limited to):

- Threatening or harassing any other person, whether physically or verbally;
  - Assaulting any other person;
  - Damaging any property, whether deliberately or negligently;
  - Acting in contravention of the NUS Equal Opportunities Policies;
  - Acting without due regard for the safety of others;
  - Acting with dishonesty or with intent to defraud;
  - Infringement of equal opportunities, safe space, safeguarding, no platform or staff protocol policy
- The Chief Returning Officer has the right, at any point, to suspend a candidate to be investigated under the Code of Conduct which may cause them to be withdrawn from the election. Complaints under the Code of Conduct should be submitted via the online form available on NUS Connect at <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/governance/nus-code-of-conduct>

## The Count

As per the NUS UK Election Rules and Schedule:

“Candidates may send one observer to the count for their election but cannot attend the election count themselves. Candidates must inform the Returning Officer of their nominated Observer in advance of the Count by emailing [democracy@nus.org.uk](mailto:democracy@nus.org.uk). For counts taking place after a conference observers will be invited to observe via videolink. Candidates should include contact details of their Observer including email address so the video link can be sent to the Observer.”

Candidates in these elections should therefore notify [democracy@nus.org.uk](mailto:democracy@nus.org.uk) of their nominated Observer by the close of polling.

The Count for this election will take place on 17 April 2019.



## National Union of Students

Macadam House  
275 Gray's Inn Road  
London WC1X 8QB

**t** 0845 5210 262

**www.nusconnect.org.uk**

For general event enquiries contact:

**e** [events@nus.org.uk](mailto:events@nus.org.uk)

For content of the conference, democratic  
procedures and elections enquiries contact:

**e** [democracy@nus.org.uk](mailto:democracy@nus.org.uk)