

Student Elections Handbook 2026



WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
STUDENT UNION



The Western Sydney University Student Union student voice support staff acknowledge the custodianship of the Darug peoples on the lands in which this document was developed. We pay respect to the peoples of the Darug, Tharawal, Eora and Wiradjuri nations where our campuses are located. We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Elders past and present and extend this respect to all First Nations students and colleagues.

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2026 ELECTION TIMELINE

- 23rd September: Notice of Elections Published
- 28th September: Nominations Open
- 9th October: Nominations Close
- 13th October: Candidates Briefing
- 14th October: Voting Opens
- 21st October: Voting Closes
- 23rd October: Anticipated Release of Preliminary Results
- 2nd November: Latest Confirmation of Results



ELECTION PRINCIPLES

Free & Fair

Every eligible student has a reasonable and accessible opportunity to nominate, to campaign and to vote.

Independent

Voters are entitled to vote independently as elections are administered by an RO who acts free of influence from the Board, candidates and factions.

Transparent

Timetables, rules, count sheets and results are published in a timely manner.

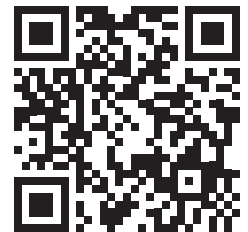
Secret

The voting method guarantees ballot privacy.

Timely

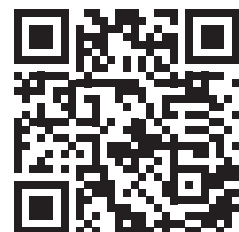
The election life cycle follows the deadlines set out in the Regulations.

*Learn more about
Your Student Union*



wsusu.org.au/elections

*Updates available
on WesternLife*



life.westernsydney.edu.au

ROLES AVAILABLE



Roles	Available
Student Director on the WSUSU Board	x3
Student Representative Committee President	x1
Student Representative Committee Vice-President	x1
Student Representative Committee General Secretary	x1
Student Representative Committee Welfare Officer	x1
National Union of Students (NUS) Delegate	x7

YOUR STAFF SUPPORT

Kate Small, Head of Advocacy, Wellbeing, and Student Voice, Cameron Faricy, Chief Executive Officer, and Grant Murray, Student Voice Officer, are your staff support through this elections process.

We believe that student leadership is integral to the governance of Western Sydney University Student Union, including a student-led board to ensure students are at the centre of decision making, and a Student Representative Committee (SRC) to consult with students regularly and advocate for systemic change within the university.

As an elected student leader, you are responsible for upholding your responsibilities and expectations of your role. Student-Directors of the WSUSU Board uphold the overall strategic direction of the organisation, and the SRC places students at the centre of decision making and macro advocacy for their constituents.

We are here to provide training, professional development, and mentorship throughout your time as an elected student leader, and we look forward to working alongside you into 2027 to provide fantastic student experiences for your fellow students at Western.



WSUSU Staff (left to right): Kate Small, Cameron Faricy, and Grant Murray.



Eligibility

To be eligible for elected Student Leader positions you must, be admitted to a program or non-award study and have an active registration in subjects at the University.

Student Board Director

To be eligible for a Student Director role on the WSUSU Board you must,

- Be admitted to a program or non-award study and have an active registration in subjects at Western Sydney University during the time of elections
- Be over 18 years of age
- Be eligible to be a director in accordance with the ACNC Commission Act
- Not be a staff member of the Student Union
- Not have already served a cumulative four (4) years as Student Director
- Be elected into the role in alignment with the election principles

SRC Executive

To be eligible for a role on the Student Representative Committee (SRC) you must,

- Be admitted to a program or non-award study and have an active registration in subjects at Western Sydney University throughout their role duration
- Be over 18 years of age
- Not be a staff member of the Student Union
- Be elected into the position in alignment with the election principles

SRC members who have their enrolment lapse are to be considered ineligible and will vacate office as they are no longer considered a student per the constitution and regulations.

NUS Delegate

To be eligible to be elected as a NUS Delegate to the National Conference you must,

- Be admitted to a program or non-award study and have an active registration in subjects at Western Sydney University during the time of elections
- Be over 18 years of age
- Adhere to the university's travel policy and guidelines

Role Description

Student Board Director

Student Directors of the Student Union Board will take office from January 1st following the general election. The term of office for Student Board Directors is two (2) years, and no Student Board Director may hold office for a cumulative total of more than four (4) years.

Student Board Directors are expected to:

- Oversee the strategic direction of WSUSU
 - Ensure that the Student Union complies with legal and regulatory obligations
 - Work to maintain a strong governance structure and uphold ethical standards
 - Complete training from a third party in accordance with the ACNC Commission Act
 - Attend regular meetings to discuss and vote on key matters in relation to WSUSU Governance
 - Declare conflicts of interest as needed
- Directors must comply with relevant University requirements, including the University's Code of Conduct; Conflict of Interest Policy; and Controlled and Associated Entities Governance Framework.
- As a Student Director you will receive training on the week starting on the 23rd of November at SENCon, with the Student Experience Network. The "Out of the Boardinary" sessions will be on the 24th of 25th of November which will cover the necessary skills and knowledge required within your role.
- Directors must comply with their legal duties outlined in the WSUSU Constitution, including but not limited to
- Acting in the best interests of the company to further the Student Union's charitable purpose
 - Aligning with ethical standards and not misuse their position as a director, declaring conflicts of interest as need to ensure transparency in decision making
 - Ensuring that the company remains solvent and financially stable



Role Description

SRC Executives

SRC Executives will take office from January 1st following the general election. The term of office for SRC Executives is one (1) year.

The role of the SRC is to:

- Serve as the primary forum for student consultation and representation across all campuses and study modes
- Make recommendations to the Board on issues that affect students
- Support and coordinate student collectives, campaigns and advocacy initiatives
- Promote and strengthen student participation in university committees and consultations
- Facilitate two-way communication between the WSUSU Board and the Student Body

The SRC must provide written reports to each ordinary meeting of the Board.

SRC processes are transparent for all students, with all meetings available for all students to attend via WesternLife. Meeting minutes are published to WesternLife in a timely manner by the General Secretary.

The SRC publishes a report every semester on their ongoing campaigns, successes of the period, and goals moving forward. This report is prepared collaboratively within the SRC Executive team.

SRC Executives are expected to:

- Engage with students to gather feedback and raise issues
- Communicate SRC outcomes back to students and collectives
- Participate in training and induction as required
- Support campaigns, advocacy and equity initiatives
- Maintain respectful and inclusive conduct

Members are encouraged to hold at least one consultation activity each semester as good practice

The SRC **President** chairs SRC meetings, represents the SRC to the Board and student body and ensures SRC reports are prepared.

The SRC **Vice-President** supports the President, acts as Chair in their absence, and coordinates campus engagement

The SRC **General Secretary** oversees agendas, minutes and communication in coordination with WSUSU staff

The SRC **Welfare Officer** leads advocacy on student welfare, housing, food security and wellbeing initiatives.

Role Description

NUS Delegate

The National Union of Students (NUS) meets annually to advocate for higher education students at the NUS National Conference AKA NatCon. The role as NUS delegate refers to this conference only and is not an ongoing role within the Student Union.

NatCon will draw delegates from approximately 22 student member organisations and their affiliated institutions. At the conference floor you will have the opportunity to put forth and vote on national policy positions that the NUS will take on for the following year.

The delegates present will also nominate and vote on NUS leadership for the following year too, including the National President, General Secretary, and other national & state based office bearer roles.

NatCon is traditionally held a few weeks out from the end of each calendar year. The exact date is to be announced.

You do not need specific experience to attend NatCon, but most attendees will be familiar with student political processes. If you do not have experience in this environment you are welcome to book a meeting with the Student Voice Officer of the Student Union to learn more.

Elected student delegates are expected to attend the conference if they are nominating themselves to attend. If a student has a misadventure and find themselves unable to attend they are welcome to reach out to the NUS to file to give their conference floor vote to someone else, known as a proxy. Eligible delegates are able to give their proxy vote to an individual or group if they so wish.

NatCon is traditionally held at a university in Victoria, and conference attendance will require in person attendance, paid for by the union with SSAF funds.

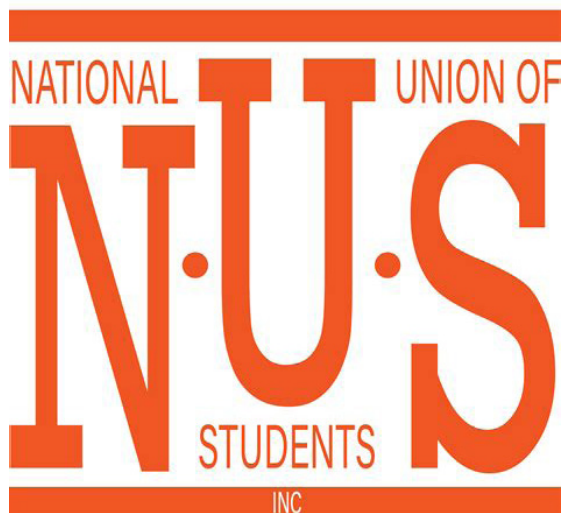
All travel is to be conducted within the Western Sydney University travel policies and guidelines, and will require student travellers to be communicating with Student Union staff regularly to ensure all travel details are accurately provided for the booking.

When confirmed in your role, you will be contacted to confirm your attendance and begin organising logistics. You will be expected to complete the necessary travel documentation through WSU portals (i.e. TEMs) with staff support by the 6th of November.

Once submitting your travel documentation you will be contacted by a travel agent to confirm your itinerary.

If at any point you find yourself unable to attend the conference, please notify support staff as soon as possible via:

elections.wsusu@westernsydney.edu.au



Nominations

A Student may nominate for only one position in an election cycle, excluding nominations for NUS delegates. Four (4) students must endorse the nomination for Student Director, and one (1) Student must endorse the nomination for SRC member. NUS Delegate nominations do not require any endorsement. Students may nominate individually or as part of a ticket.

All candidates are required to attend the candidates briefing which will be held online after the close of nominations. Not attending this briefing may lead to cancellation of your candidacy.

The candidates briefing will be chaired by the Returning Officer (RO) to

1. Clearly communicate the guidelines, expectations, and prohibited actions while campaigning
2. Answer any remaining questions about the role or elections period



Individual Nominations

All nominations must be lodged electronically via the form approved by the Returning Officer and include:

- your full name
- student number
- contact email
- a policy statement of no more than 500 words

Ticket Nominations

A ticket nomination must be lodged electronically via the same approved form referenced above, and must include:

- The position each nominee seeks
- Each nominee's full name, student number and contact email;
- a policy statement of no more than 500 words
- The signature of each nominee

A ticket's name must not replicate or closely resemble any recognised political party or lobbying group (e.g. Labor, Liberal, The Greens, Socialists).

If, at any time during the nomination process, an individual nominee within a ticket is found to be ineligible, the ticket may either:

1. Replace that person by submitting a revised ticket nomination form (naming a new eligible nominee) prior to the Close of Nominations; or
2. Opt to leave the vacancy unfilled, in which case the ticket will contest only the remaining positions.

Campaigning

The campaigning period begins at the close of nominations and ends at the close of voting. Campaigning must be truthful, respectful, non-defamatory, non-discriminatory, and comply with Western Sydney University codes of conduct.

Campaign Materials

All election materials must clearly display candidate name (or authorising officer name), student number and home campus, and must not contain offensive, defamatory or misleading content.

- No use of the University's crest, logo, name or other trade marks on election material unless prior written permission is obtained from the University
- WSUSU logo/brand assets may be used only in line with WSUSU Brand Guidelines and with the Chief Executive's written approval for each item
- Campaign material must not imply endorsement by WSUSU, the University or staff
- University lecture theatres, classrooms, email lists, LMS, intranet etc. may not be used for campaign purposes without written approval from the relevant University officer. Approved uses must follow venue-hire conditions and security directions
- All campaign material must respect copyright and follow the University's Brand and Visual Identity, Copyright and Social Media policies
- WSUSU does not indemnify any candidate or campaigner against defamation claims arising from their campaign material

Spending

Total campaign expenditure must not exceed AUD \$520 per candidate, or \$1,560 per ticket.

Within seven (7) Working Days of the formal declaration of results, every candidate and ticket must lodge with the RO an itemised statement of campaign expenditure (including all donated funds, goods or services). The RO will publish all statements on the WSUSU website within five (5) days of receipt.

Your Video Statement

This year you will have the opportunity to submit your candidate statement as a video to be shared from the student union social media account @wsustudentlife. This is optional.

Your video can be a maximum of 30 seconds, feature you speaking to the camera, with no additional music or effects that will distract the viewer from your statement.

Campaign guidelines still apply in regards to, but not limited to, harassment, bullying, intimidation, or defamation of any kind. The expectation is that the content upholds the highest level of decency, respect, and honesty. The Returning Officer retains the right to ask for any amendments or exclude the video at any time.

Additional details will be confirmed with your candidacy.

Misconduct & Appeals

In the interest of a free and fair election candidates are expected to adhere to these guidelines. Prohibited behaviours relating to campaigning and the elections broadly will be monitored and consequences will be enforced by the Returning Officer as required

Any prohibited actions may result in:

- Sanctions by the Returning Officer (RO)
- Removal from eligibility to nominate
- Bans from being involved in future WSUSU elections
- Referral to student misconduct processes
- Further actions as required, such as notifying law enforcement

Students should be aware of the relevant, but not exhaustive list of related information and guidelines that appears at the end of this document. Please note all relevant laws may not be linked, regardless students should be aware disorderly conduct may attract additional consequences.

Prohibited Actions

- Use of megaphones or amplified sound on campus
- Campaigning by non-students
- Display of political party or recognised lobbying groups logos or branded clothing
- Offering any inducement to vote or abstain
- Use of University or WSUSU resources without permission
- Interference with another candidate's material or ballot access
- Harassment, bullying, intimidation or defamation of any kind
- Campaign activity in designated no-go zones (e.g. libraries, exam venues)
- Entering classrooms or lectures during the election period (so-called "lecture-bashing" or "lecture-bombing") for the purposes of campaigning
- The use of clubs, collectives, student publications, SRC, and Student Union resources such as funding, social media accounts, mailing lists, or other communication channels for endorsement or promotion
- Aggressive leafleting or physically blocking voters for the purpose of canvassing
- Any touching of a voter's phone, computer, or device in order to help, affect, or influence a vote
- Entering student accommodations premises without the express permission of the owner/operator
- Any conduct bringing the Student Union or the University into disrepute.

Post Elections

Post Election Milestones

After ballots close, there are a number of key milestones you should be aware of if you are nominating in the election. Don't forget that training set by WSUSU support staff is mandatory and must be completed to a satisfactory level. Non-attendance at training is regarded as non-compliance with WSUSU policy and may have consequences. Paid employment or university assessments are not satisfactory reasons for non-participation. If you have any concerns about completing mandatory training, please don't hesitate to contact your WSUSU support staff to identify a suitable approach to ensure you meet your role expectations.

Other Opportunities

If you've missed out on an opportunity to join the WSUSU Board or SRC and would like to become a student leader via another means, or you are still keen on being a representative of student voice on campus don't worry, we've got your covered!

Consider this, your student union has a plethora of student leadership roles coming your way in 2027. Roles upcoming will cover additional SRC sub-committee roles; W'SUP student-led news editing, designing & reporting; Equity Collectives leadership; Clubs & Societies leadership; student volunteering and even an array of dedicated student casual employee roles across the campuses!

**Learn more about
volunteering**



wsusu.org.au/volunteer

23 Oct 2026	Preliminary election results released
2 Nov 2026	Latest date for confirmed results
26 Oct - 13 Nov 2026	TBC Appointment processes for additional student leader roles (see page over)
13 Nov 2026	WSUSU board meeting; newly elected board members to attend
16 - 17 Nov 2026	Student leader orientation
24 - 25 Nov 2026	Board member professional development at SENCON
Date TBC Jan 2027	First WSUSU board meeting of 2027 (election of board to take place)
Date TBC Feb 2027	Student leader induction and conference TBC

Additional Student Leadership Opportunities

Student Reference Group

If you are interested in civic engagement, advocating for students broadly and want to have a say and are not involved in the SRC, you might be interested in joining WSUSU's Student Reference Group, to be established in 2027.

The Student Reference Group will seek input and feedback on the Student Union's programs, events, and initiatives for students.

Members will also be able to join focus groups, working groups and various opportunities throughout the year to promote student advocacy and wellbeing focused initiatives.

Volunteers

Volunteering with WSUSU is your new way to get involved, gain graduate ready skills, make new friends and create new fun memories. If you are keen on joining the inaugural WSUSU student volunteer program go to the WSUSU volunteering webpage and fill out your details in the form!

We expect other opportunities such as student internships and content collaborations to come up throughout the year. If these pique your interest, submit the volunteer form so we can get in touch with you.

W'SUP News Editorial Team

Announcements for the recruitment process for W'SUP News editors, designers and reporters will be posted to the W'SUP Instagram and information will be posted to their website.

SRC Sub-Committees

SRC Sub-committees' leadership roles are decided in an internal vote via present student members of the relevant sub-committee meeting, normally held toward the end of the preceding year.

Sub-committees are open to all students, as outlined in the Student Representation Procedures, available on the WSUSU website. During the applicable sub-committee meeting, the present members will nominate and vote to appointed leadership roles.

Equity Collectives

All equity collectives will be supported to appoint collective convenors for 2027 at a date to be announced. If you would like more information, please get in touch with the team via the below email address.

civicengagement@westernsydney.edu.au

Clubs Leadership

If you think you have what it takes to lead a club or society, consider joining your favourite student led group's Annual General Meeting (AGM) to meet your club reaffiliation requirements.

For more information contact the Student Clubs team via the below mailbox.

studentclubs@westernsydney.edu.au

FAQs

Why should I become a Student Leader?

As a Student Leader you will be able to join training sessions, network, and engage peer to peer mentoring. The benefits can vary depending on your goals as a student.

How does voting work?

Once candidates have been confirmed, the voting period will begin. Students will receive a unique link to their student email address where they can vote for a ticket, or individual nominees. Per WSUSU Regulations, the voting system used will be optional preferential voting, for more information please visit the elections webpage.

For the dates of the voting period head to the election timeline in this handbook.

How can I get involved when elections are closed?

Students can get involved in the Student Representative Committee or can volunteer and assist Student Representatives with various projects or campus events and activities, as well as other programs that WSUSU offers. For more information head to wsusu.org.au/get-involved

Do I get paid as a Student Leader?

Student Board Directors and SRC Executives receive a small honorarium for their work to reimburse any costs throughout their term. This honorarium aims to support students with cost of living while they are in their roles.

What experience do I need for the role?

No previous experience is needed. Student Leaders receive training throughout the year and support staff are here to help when needed. Student Directors attend mandatory training the week starting the 23rd of November.

Can I nominate if I'm in the college?

Nominations are open to all students currently enrolled in at least one subject. Student representation includes all students, including the college, online learning, undergraduate students, postgraduate students, and higher degree research.

What is the difference between SRC and WSUSU Board?

A Student Director and SRC Executive have very different responsibilities and expectations. Student Directors are responsible for the strategic direction of the Student Union and maintaining ethical governance, policies, and reporting.

The SRC works to create systemic change within the university, advocating for the needs and interests of students.



Related Documents

Student Union Policies

[WSUSU Constitution](#)

[WSUSU Regulations](#)

To access these links download the digital handbook here!



wsusu.org.au/elections

WSU Policies

[Digital Information Security Policy](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

[Student Representation &](#)

[Participation Policy](#)

[Student Misconduct Policy](#)

[Travel Policy](#)

[Travel Knowledge Document](#)

National Union of Students

[About the NUS](#)

[NUS Policy Submission Guide](#)

Still have questions at the end of this handbook?



Email

elections.wsusu@westernsydney.edu.au

Glossary

ACNC	Australian Charities and Not-for Profit Commission
AFR	The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee within the WSUSU Board
Ballot	In relation to an election, the official declaration of a vote by an eligible student using any form of voting as determined by the Returning Officer for that election
By- Election	An election that may occur when there is a vacancy in Student Leaders positions
General Election	The annual election of student directors and SRC members
Honoraria	An amount to be paid to student representatives holding an official voting membership of a representative body. The NRC of the WSUSU Board sets a remunerations schedule. For more information please see the wsusu website
NatCon	An annual conference held by the NUS
NRC	The Nominations and Remuneration Committee within the WSUSU Board
NUS	National Union of Students
Proxy Vote	When voting power may be delegated
RO	Returning Officer
SEN	The Student Experience Network
SENCon	An annual conference held by the Student Experience Network (SEN)
SRC	Student Representative Committee
WSU	Western Sydney University
WSUSU	Western Sydney University Student Union

Words of Wisdom from a former SRC President

Hello future student leaders! Welcome to your journey in student leadership and student voice.

In 2018 I was the President of the SRC and I found my journey to be enriched with opportunities to speak for my fellow students, especially those who were in need of additional support mechanisms and those who just wanted to be more engaged in the university, but maybe didn't know how. I was very fortunate to work closely alongside many fantastic student leaders and staff at the university who were all very supportive of the soup kitchen initiatives we developed, which as I understand have evolved into the Food Security program and attached initiatives of the student union you see being delivered today.

Student welfare is a critical piece at this time and I wish you all the best in advocating for your fellow students.

If you are nominating for a role as one of the Student-Directors of your new WSUSU Board, I strongly recommend you take the time to understand your responsibilities as they may tend to differ from the representation role the SRC plays.

In either case I am sure you will make many memories during your campaign for votes in your nominated role.

I know I carry many memories from my experiences during the elections and throughout my time as a student representative.

I wish you all the best.



*Cheryl Jendrachowski
SRC President, 2018*

