

Student President Election Rules 2024

We are Arden University Students' Association, which was established in response to your feedback, as students, to have greater representation at Arden.

- We represent all Arden University students studying across distance and blended learning, with the purpose to advocate and champion your best interests, no matter what or where you study.
- We work with Arden University staff to ensure you get the right support, guidance, and best opportunities to thrive during your studies at Arden University.
- We are electing our Student President for 24/25 as outlined in this set of Election Rules for 2024/25.
- Our elections aim to be free, fair, and accessible to everyone. It is the responsibility of the Students' Association Managing Director to ensure the smooth running of the elections. This document outlines the rules, guidelines, and processes to make that happen.

This set of rules does not aim to be an expansive list to cover every scenario, but a structure to ensure all involved have a clear understanding. With this, Arden University Students' Association staff, reserve the right to add additional rules in reflection of changing circumstances, but will ensure the communication of changes if that is required. Once the vote has closed, the results are final, and will be communicated to all students.

The Deputy Returning Officer is Sophie Harrison (Managing Director, Students' Association), and the Returning Officer is Steve Clayton (Pro Vice-Chancellor).

Candidates must:

- Always abide by all current Arden University Rules & Regulations, Government Guidance, and the Law
- Only begin campaigning on Friday 12th April, prior to voting opening on Monday 15th April. Campaigning must be in line with the guidance in this rules document.
- Be responsible for their conduct during the Election process
- Attend a Mandatory Elections Training prior to voting. Those who have not completed this training will be removed from the elections as this is a compulsory element of eligibility. This is to ensure all candidates understand the election process and guidance within.
- Not undertake any promotional activities for their campaign using privileged information (e.g., Student Representative Mailing Lists, Programme lists, Volunteer lists etc) This list is not exhaustive, and any other identified role privileged information is at the discretion of the Students' Association staff team.
- Not infringe a students' right to vote confidentially and freely
- Only use digital platforms to promote their campaign and candidacy, no in-person materials can be used to ensure parity across distance & blended learners. To note, University platforms can be used for campaigning and promotion, but mindful that the platforms do not exist for the purpose of Student Elections. The only exemption from this is Unitu, as this is where voting will take place, so no campaigning can take place here by any candidate.
- Be respectful of others while campaigning and promoting yourself as a candidate
- Only campaign in lectures/online classes with prior permission from the lecturer and must not cause disruption to teaching activity

Additional Rules & Guidance:

- All those employed by Arden University must remain apolitical in the Student President election.
- The nomination period and voting period starts from midnight on the first day (for both timeframes) and closes on 11.59pm of the last day (for both timeframes), adhering to British Standard Time.
- The full Election process including nominations & voting, will all be held on the Arden University Unitu platform.
- Every eligible student gets 1 vote in this election.
- The candidate with the most votes, will be elected as Student President. This type of voting is called 'first past the post' and will be used on our Unitu system.

Nominating

- There are certain criteria which students must fulfil before being eligible to run as a candidate or vote in the Arden Student President Elections. These are outlined below, if you have any queries around eligibility, please contact studentvoice@arden.ac.uk

Nominating

To run for Student President, candidates must:

- Be studying on an Arden exit award for the academic year 2023/24 as a current student at the time of nomination. This excludes franchise or partner students. This is in line with the approved constitution of Arden University Students' Association.
- Have completed their first submission of their academic programme.
- Completed mandatory elections training
- Have signed up and activated account on Unitu system (all students will have login information to sign up for an Arden University Unitu account)

Voting

To vote for Student President, students must:

- Hold full student status for 23/24 at Arden University at time of nomination. This excludes franchise or partner students, as they are not fully registered students at Arden University.
- Have signed up and activated account on Unitu system (all students will have login information to sign up for an Arden University Unitu account)

Complaints

The Students' Association staff team will strive to deal with complaints informally in the first instance. To note, complaints must only be linked to any alleged conduct or rule breaches relating to the Student President Elections. Information or queries linked to anything outside of the Student President Election, will not be considered by this process.

- All formal complaints about candidates must be reported directly to studentvoice@arden.ac.uk which is submitted to the Deputy Returning Officer
- Any complaints about candidate conduct should be submitted via email within 24 hours of the alleged incident. The complaint deadline is the same time the election vote closes.
- All complaints must include who the complaint is about, what is the specific alleged breach in the rules and clear evidence of the alleged breach.
- To appeal any complaint outcome, candidates must do so in writing to the Returning Officer via studentvoice@arden.ac.uk. Appeals must be submitted within 24 hours of notification of the complaint, or by the appeals deadline which is the voting deadline.
- The Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer will decide on the penalty (if any) of any candidate complaint. This can range from a verbal warning to disqualification from election. The Returning Officer is responsible for the final interpretation of these rules and the final decision.
- No candidate may challenge the result of the election once the count has started.
- The Deputy Returning Officer reserves the right to consider complaints that are made maliciously, or to purposefully disrupt a candidates' campaign. The Deputy Returning Officer may take disciplinary action accordingly.