

# Critical information for candidates of 2026 UMSU Annual Election

## Purpose of this document

This document contains a brief overview of the key obligations of holding office in UMSU. It applies to those elected as UMSU's Councillors, Office Bearers, and Committee Members. Those elected to the positions of NUS delegate, [or student representative of the University Council](#), may disregard this document.

## Mandatory induction attendance

All elected Office Bearers and Councillors are required to attend an induction program, which will be occurring during the weeks of:

- Mon 28 Sep - Fri 2 Oct
- Mon 23 Nov - Fri 27 Nov

Attendance is **mandatory**. Eligibility for any sitting fee or honoraria is conditional upon completion of the program and associated training, per R8(d) of the Council Charter.

Specific dates and times of induction session will be provided to your student email at a later date.

## Duties and Obligations of your representative position

### Working With Children Check

All elected Councillors, Office Bearers, and Committee Members must hold a valid Working With Children Check (Volunteer).

For more information, please visit [Working with Children Check](#).

### Attendance Obligations (Councillors and Office Bearers)

Attendance at Students' Council meetings is mandatory unless granted leave by the General Secretary prior to the meeting. Pursuant to C6.9(a)(vi) UMSU

Constitution, absence from Council without leave can result in termination of office:

1. on two consecutive occasions; or
2. on five occasions within a single academic year

Furthermore, pursuant to R24.5 of the Council Charter, Students are expected to make attendance at Students' Council meetings a priority and (as far as reasonably possible) to structure their course contact hours and extracurricular commitments around Council meetings.

#### Attendance Obligations (Committee Members)

A person ceases to be a Committee Member if the person, without leave granted by the respective Committee, fails to attend a regular meeting of the Committee on three consecutive occasions.

#### Disclosure of Bankruptcy and/or Criminal Charges

Councillors may need to declare if they have had a criminal charge, or declaration of bankruptcy, for the purpose of directors' liability insurance coverage relevant to exercising their role as members of Council.

#### Disclosure of Gender-Based Violence

Councillors may need to disclose if they have been investigated for an allegation of Gender-Based Violence or determined to have engaged in conduct that constitutes Gender-Based Violence during the course of previous employment, study, or otherwise through a legal process, for the purpose of UMSU's affiliation agreement with the University of Melbourne.

### **Information for international students holding subclass 500 visa regarding hours 'worked'**

[Student Visa Holders](#) are subject to various work restrictions including a cap of 48 hours of work per fortnight while their course is in session. This is found in [Condition 8105](#) (Schedule 8 of the *Migration Regulations*). There is no limit to the number of hours a Student Visa Holder can work when their course is not in session.

The definition of “work” is contained in regulation 1.03 of the Migration Regulations: “work” means an activity that, in Australia, normally attracts remuneration. The 48-hour per fortnight limit applies to all “work” from any source.

The definition of “work” in regulation 1.03 excludes “volunteer work”. According to the Department of Home Affairs, “volunteer work” is unpaid, short-term, work that would not otherwise be done for remuneration, and is for a not-for-profit organisation. As Committee Members are unpaid, their time is regarded as volunteer hours.

As Office Bearers and Councillors are entitled to an honorarium and sitting fee respectively, you are advised that your role as a student representative at UMSU is regarded as “work” under Regulation 1.03 of the *Migration Regulations*.