

University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) election 2026

Prospective candidates' information session

Tuesday 4 August 2026

Housekeeping

- This session is being recorded and we'll upload it to the website
- Feel free to ask questions as we go along
- We'll also have Q&A at the end

What's happening this meeting

- An UMSU representative will talk briefly about the requirements of holding positions ~5min
- We'll tell you things about the election process
 - ~45 mins
 - another opportunity for questions at the end

Who we are



Stephen Luntz
Returning Officer

Other staff

Poll clerks
Admin assistants

approx. 25 staff through
the course of the election



Jaimie Adam
Deputy Returning Officer
(election week only)



Patrick Clearwater
Deputy Returning Officer

What we do

- The **Returning Officer** is responsible for the conduct of the election
 - we run the election logistically
 - make decisions and rulings
 - manage candidate behaviour and complaints
 - point of contact if you have questions

What we aren't

- We are not employees of UMSU or the University
 - we answer only to UMSU's Electoral Tribunal
- We aren't on your side, or anyone else's
- We will help as much as we can, but it's your responsibility to comply with rules & deadlines

New in 2026

- Election is electronic attendance, not online
- “Declaration of eligibility” forms now with nomination
- Policy statement deadline the Monday after nomination deadline

Nomination process

- Nomination form is online:

August 2026. This deadline is strict and cannot

Nomination form

[Nomination form for UMSU 2026 annual elect](#)

[More information for candidates](#) is available an
critical information for all candidate supplied b

umsu.unimelb.edu.au/elections

Nomination process

- The form has these questions:
 - 1 Position you're applying for
 - 2 POSITIONS NEEDING AN ELIGIBILITY DECLARATION: that declaration
 - 3 OFFICER POSITIONS ONLY: if you're running jointly
 - 4 Your details
 - 5 OPTIONAL: ticket you're running on
 - 6 Policy statement
 - 7 Declaration

Eligibility

- There are many rules, but eligibility is usually straightforward
- Trap: you must be an UMSU Member (except NUS)

Nominations: conflict of position

- If you're not running for multiple positions, zone out for this slide
- If you are running for multiple positions **that can't be held concurrently**, you'll be asked which you prefer:
 - last page of nomination form
 - this is taken to be the “list” required by the Regulations

Nominations: deadline

- Deadline: nominations must be received by
12noon Friday 14th August 2026 (Melb. time)
- Can late nominations be accepted?
 - No
- Can the deadline be extended?
 - No
- Should I leave it to the last day to nominate?
 - Bad day to have a computer glitch

Why you should nominate early

- Nominations are open now
- If you nominate early, we will review your nomination
 - you will have an opportunity to fix any problems

Candidate self-service

- We have a candidate self-service website
- You will be sent a link and access PIN after your nomination is received

Amazing features!

complete forms
without email

put new slanders in
your policy statement

automatic
acknowledgement

up-to-the minute
nomination status

Extremely important representative

Application received: 2025-07-19T18:37:02

State: **nomination provisionally accepted**

Name: Testy McTestface

Student number: 123

Ticket: The Good Ticket

Declaration of eligibility

declaration of eligibility is required for this position.

[Complete declaration](#)

Policy statement

You can submit a policy statement and a photo for this position.

[Submit policy statement and candidate photo](#)

✔ Policy statement submitted (not necessarily been reviewed by us)

● Candidate photo not submitted

Withdraw candidacy

You can't withdraw online; you'll need to email the Returning Officer. Use the button below to generate a pre-filled form to withdraw from this position (you'll just need to sign it).

Create withdrawal form

Conflict of position:

Conflict of position

▼

History of your candidacy at this year's election:

History

▲

Date	Description	By	File
2025-07-19T18:37:02	Nomination form created	Testy McTestface	Download

Ticket registration

- What is a ticket?
 - group of students running on a common platform
- Ticket registrations are also due noon, 14th Aug
- Requires signatures of 15 general members of UMSU

Ticket registration: process

- **Option A:** online registration

- complete form online
- email link to 15 UMSU members

- **Option B:** paper form

- download from election website, obtain signatures, scan and send

Tickets: other details

- Re-registering a previous ticket?
 - Need permission from the previous registrant
- Name overlaps with an UMSU club?
 - Need permission from the club (e.g. motion of committee) certified by Pres/Sec
- Non-English name?
 - Need English translation

Tickets

- Tickets are not compulsory
- Ticket registrants and candidates on a ticket are expected to take responsibility for the entire ticket
- **Start your registration well in advance of the deadline** (noon, 14th August; same as nominations)

Tickets

- We also have a ticket status website for tickets
- Has worked well, doing it again this year
- New regulations mean the site will tell you more
- We'll send you the link when your ticket is registered

Policy statements

- You can submit a policy statement of up to:
 - 1,000 words: a ticket
 - 300 words: Officer positions
 - 100 words: all other positions
- (Not sure what a word is? Ask or *[over word limit]*)

Policy statements

- Policy statements are submitted:
 - for candidates: with nomination
 - for tickets using online process: with application
 - for tickets using paper form: separately by email
- Changes: by web or email, **up to Monday 17th**
- We print Them exactly as received without fixing grammar, spelling, or fact checking

Candidate photos

- You can submit a candidate photo
 - by upload
 - or email
- Must be received by Monday 17th August
- Detailed guidance on website:

– <https://umsu.unimelb.edu.au/make-difference/elections/2026-election/for-candidates/#election-guide>

Election guide

- Policy statements & photos go in *Farrago's* election guide
- We will make the guide available on the website, at polling places, and on the ballot

Online management

- Last year we rolled out online platform for candidates and tickets
- Expect an email with a link a few days after your nomination
- Helps our admin (and therefore you) but not compulsory

Voting process

- This has changed substantially
- Election will be 7–11th September
- Two options:
 - Attendance: come to a polling place, vote with our devices
 - Electronic postal: apply for an emailed vote

Voting process – attendance

- Polling places at least at Parkville, Southbank, Burnley
- Exact times to be confirmed, but likely late polling Tuesday
- Exclusion zone

Voting process – postal

- Students must apply
- We send a vote by email
- Regs require application by Thursday 3rd September
- Regs let us accept late applications in certain circumstances — still deciding but will definitely include illness during election week

Voting process

- Voting is preferential
 - For single-member positions: number 1, 2, 3 etc
 - For multi-member positions: can number all candidates (“below the line”); **OR** can number tickets (“above the line”)
- ATL: no ticket preferences

Campaigning: basics

- You are allowed (encouraged!) to campaign to people to convince them to vote for you
 - can be online
 - or in person
- You must follow certain rules in the Electoral Regulations

Campaigning: rules

- (Not all rules are covered here)
- Must submit copies of all material to us
- Must not act dishonestly or deceptively
- Must **not** campaign to someone in the process of voting, or “help” them find the voting link
- if someone feels pressured to vote or campaign against their will, the consequences could be serious

Campaigning: rules

- We will organise a campaigning information session the week before the election
 - We expect all tickets to send representatives
- We will have a detailed guide on the website
- Not sure? **Ask.**
- Final word: the Electoral Regulations.

Other rules

- Campaigners must display student ID while campaigning
 - we recommend a lanyard
 - for online campaigning, must include *Published by XX (NNN)* on material

Electoral Regulations

- Cover all aspects of how the election is run
- We didn't write them
- They are rules binding on us as well as you
- Available on election website

How to get in touch

- **Quickest:** returningofficer@union.unimelb.edu.au
- **In person:** our office will be in Building 168, location TBC. Office hours TBC TBC; appointments available (incl. at Southbank + Burnley)
- **By phone:** see election website
- **By snail mail:** contact us in advance

Questions & summary

- **Deadline:** 12noon Friday 14th August
- We are only a little bit scary so get in touch
- Many details on the election website

umsu.unimelb.edu.au/elections