

# President Elections 2022

Election Pack



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“Anyone can be an officer but to be a good officer you need to care about the student experience and not be afraid to fight for what you think is right. So if you have confidence, some good ideas in your manifesto and are solution focussed about how we could improve the student experience then go for it. As a side note, be prepared for drunk first years to always talk to you on the bus if you win.”

— **Callie Edwards (SU President Falmouth 2018-19 and 2019-20)**

# Introduction

Our vision is to create a world class student experience and to help achieve our mission we aim to have a positive impact on every members' personal student journey. We are proud to be student led and focussed upon our members.

Although we're funded by the University of Exeter and Falmouth University, we're an autonomous organisation. This ensures that we remain entirely focused on our students with one purpose in mind: to make student life better for you!

Like all Students' Unions in the UK, we're a registered charity (1145405). This means that we're not-for-profit: any income we gain goes straight back into providing services for you as members. We're governed by charity law, which has some implications on how we can spend our money - making sure it's spent on our membership (that's all of you!), for example.

Students are at the heart of everything that we do. Our Presidents represent students views, opinions and experiences regarding students' lives to decision makers operating at every level, helping to shape the wider student experience and we enjoy positive collaborative relationships with both Universities. Students lead our Union Council and Forums, which determine our priorities and campaigns. Students also make up the majority of our Trustee Board, which is legally responsible for our staff, finances, risk management and reputation. Students also have the power to shape what the Union does through our Annual Student Members' Meetings and referenda. So this really does show how you, our students and members, are the beating heart of the organisation.

We are proud of that range of opportunities and support provided to students by their SU, we have an exciting range of student led societies, sports clubs, volunteering opportunities and provide professional independent specialist advice, as well as chances to be politically active. We also help students to organise a wide range of events and activities specifically for their fellow students. And that's just the tip of the iceberg, not to brag of course...

We aim to ensure that every student has the highest quality of education and best student experience possible during their time studying in Cornwall and beyond. And a key part of achieving this, is having full-time elected Presidents to champion this work. Our annual President Elections provide all student members the opportunity to elect our next leaders and this could be you!

You can nominate yourself for one of the following positions:

- SU President Falmouth
- SU President Exeter
- SU President Welfare & Inclusivity
- SU President Student Experience

Want to know more about the roles? Check out

[www.thesu.org.uk/studentvoice/presidentelections2022](http://www.thesu.org.uk/studentvoice/presidentelections2022) for the full job descriptions and more information to show you the full picture of what these roles are.

All of these opportunities provide a range incredible experiences and opportunities, to help enhance your leadership, stakeholder management, strategic thinking and public speaking (this list is far from exhaustive!) Not only are these roles effective ways to influence change for students but also to enhance your employability and CV for your next steps after University.

# Key Dates

## Could you be one of our next Presidents?

Nominations Open:

12 noon 7th January - 12 noon 7th February

Campaigning Period: 24th February 12 noon - 3rd March 5pm

Voting Opens: 28th February 12 noon

Date & Time	Activity
13/12/2021	
2pm	Why Stand? Drop-in Session 1 Still unsure about whether to nominate yourself? Come along to one of these sessions, ask questions, and find out what a great opportunity this is!
12/01/22	
11am - 12 noon	Ideas Lab Come along to try and work through scenarios that the SU Presidents face on a daily basis. There will be opportunities to work on these scenarios in collaborative groups and individually.
19/01/22	
2pm - 3pm Workshop Festival Event  4pm - 5pm Teams Session	Why Stand? Session 2 & 3 Still unsure about whether to nominate yourself? Come along to one of these sessions, ask questions, and find out what a great opportunity this is!

Date & Time	Activity
Week beginning 17th Jan	
Time TBC	Ask a member of staff Drop-in Session 1 Drop in to chat with members of The SU team to find out more about working in The SU and the life of a president.
Week beginning 17th Jan	
Time TBC	Ask a member of staff Drop-in Session 2 Drop in to chat with members of The SU team to find out more about working in The SU and the life of a president.
21/01/22	
10am - 11am Teams session	Manifesto Support You will have the opportunity to meet with the SU staff, who will talk you through what a successful and achievable manifesto looks like. This is a great opportunity to understand more about the role and what you can achieve. Remember to bring ideas to discuss!
26/01/22	
1pm - 3pm The SU Office, Penryn Campus	Manifesto Support You will have the opportunity to meet with SU staff, who will talk you through what a successful and achievable manifesto looks like. This is a great opportunity to understand more about the role and what you can achieve. Remember to bring ideas to discuss!

Date & Time	Activity
09/02/2022	
1pm - 4pm Falmouth Campus Seminar E	Candidate Briefing and Training Sesison (half day) Falmouth Campus
16/02/2022	
1pm - 4pm Penryn Campus EXCH Courtyard Room 5	Candidate Briefing and Training Sesison (half day) Penryn Campus
21/02/2022 - 23/02/2022	
Full days	Wellbeing Days - No Campaigning
28/02/2022	
Time TBC	Question Time A chance for candidates to answer questions submitted by students.

Date & Time	Activity
28/02/2022	
Midday	Voting opens at Midday
03/03/2022	
Midday	Voting closes at Midday
04/03/2022	
5pm Lower Stannary	Results Announced! We hope this will be a physical announcement and celebration, but we hope you'll join us one way or another at this time, to meet your next year's Presidents!

# Key Information

The following information applies to the SU President Elections:

- A representative from NUS will act as the Returning Officer
- The SU Director of Membership will act as Deputy Returning Officer

All candidates are expected to abide by the Election Rules, the SU Constitution and its Bye-laws and the relevant University regulations and policies. Our full Election Rules can be found on the SU website, as well as our Bye-laws and constitution.

Upon submitting your online nomination, you will be asked to complete a short survey owned by the National Union of Students, which is collecting demographic data to get a better understanding for engagement. This information will remain anonymous and only be shared in a headline format in national pictures. You have the option to opt out of this, but this information would help us to continue exploring our diversity narrative regarding our Officer elections. To find out more, please check out: <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/ud/elections-hub/elections-support-service/candidate-demographics-collection-service>

## Trustee Eligibility

Candidates are expected to become Trustees of the SU and there are thus eligibility and responsibility expectations. It is expected that candidates are not prevented from acting as a Trustee because they:

- have an unspent conviction for one or more of the offences listed here
- have an IVA, debt relief order and/or a bankruptcy order
- have been removed as a Trustee in England, Scotland or Wales (by the Charity Commission or Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator)
- have been removed from being in the management or control of any body in Scotland (under relevant legislation) or have been disqualified by the Charity Commission
- are a disqualified company director
- are a designated person for the purposes of anti-terrorism legislation
- are on the sex offenders register
- have been found in contempt of court for making (or causing to be made) a false statement
- have been found guilty of disobedience to an order or direction of the Charity Commission

## Right to Work in the UK

Candidates, if elected, will become employees of the SU. It is expected that they have a right to work in the UK. Documentation will be required to prove your right to work. A full list of valid documents is available [here](#). Get in touch if you're worried about this!

# Voting

12 noon 28th February to 12 noon 3rd March

- Voting shall be by Single Transferable Vote (STV).
- Voting will be via the SU website.
- Additional drop-in sessions or opportunities will take place across the voting period and will be sent out by the Elections team after nominations close.
- Only current students of Falmouth University or the University of Exeter Cornwall Campuses, who are full members of the SU, are eligible to vote in the SU Elections and can do so only once for each position.
- Each student should be allowed to decide on their own voting choices and should not feel forced, pressured or coerced into their voting decisions.
- Each student's vote should be their own and not that of a third party.
- Voting is confidential.
- Candidates and/or their campaign teams may not pressurise students into voting, nor may they check who students have voted for or keep a record of votes cast.

# Election Results

- The results will be collated at the close of voting by the Deputy Returning Officer and ratified by the Returning Officer.
- The results will be announced subject to any issues raised regarding the elections, in which case the results will be announced as advertised online.
- The Returning Officers and the IT/marketing support personnel will be the only people involved in the process and will be the only people with access to the results before the official announcement.

# Equality & Diversity Statement

The Falmouth & Exeter Students' Union (The Students' Union) has a [full policy](#) on Equality & Diversity and this can be accessed on our website.

The Students' Union is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and eliminating any unlawful or unfair discrimination and harassment in the Presidential Elections.

We are committed to providing equality for all irrespective of:

- Age
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Gender reassignment
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity

Under the Equality Act (2010), these are known as 'protected characteristics'.

The purpose of this statement is to:

- Value diversity and promote equality of opportunity for all.
- Promote respect and encourage good relations within and between groups.
- Promote an inclusive and harmonious place of work where there is mutual respect and where harassment and bullying, intimidation or violence is not tolerated.
- Prevent unlawful discrimination and victimisation.
- Comply with our legal obligations.

The Students' Union will take seriously any breach of this policy.

Everyone is required to promote a culture free from illegal discrimination and all forms of harassment and bullying. Any incidents of discrimination, harassment or bullying will be investigated and may provide grounds for disciplinary action or dismissal.

We will work to ensure that all our students, employees, trustees and visitors, as well as those who apply or seek to apply to work with us, are treated fairly and are not subjected to discrimination by The Students' Union on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics listed above.

The Students' Union will take any complaints of discrimination, harassment or victimisation seriously and they will be dealt with in accordance with agreed procedures.

Any student who believes they have suffered any form of discrimination, harassment or victimisation should report this to the Chief Executive Officer. The Students' Union will make every effort to ensure complaints are dealt with promptly and victimisation of the complainant does.

# Glossary

Below are a list of words, abbreviations and acronyms commonly used within The Students' Union, especially to do with the Elections, that will be of help in understanding the supplied literature.

- Candidate - Person who is applying, or putting themselves forward for, a particular position, i.e. an elected Sabbatical Officer/ SU President.
- Constitution - A legal, governing document that states an organisation's purpose, who benefits, who are the Trustees and how it is accountable. A constitution is a requirement of the Charity Commission, of which Students' Unions are regulated by in accordance with Charity Law in England and Wales. This is essentially the rule book which the SU needs to follow.
- DRO - Deputy Returning Officer (oversees the fair, accurate running of the SU Elections)
- FX Plus (Falmouth Exeter Plus) - Shared service provider of Falmouth and UECC, providing catering facilities, welfare services, halls, accommodation etc.
- Hustings/Question Time - An event which provides a platform for candidates to speak, present themselves and their manifesto and enter in debate. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask the candidates questions.
- Manifesto - A written document that outlines a candidate's intentions and proposed policies and actions, should they be elected to office.
- MoU - Memorandum of Understanding (outlines how two organisations expect to work together).
- NUS - National Union of Students.
- President Elect - A person who has been elected to a position but has not yet been installed.
- Sabbs - This is short for Sabbatical Officers, who are full-time, paid elected students. (Simply put, Sabbs is another word for Presidents).
- Slate - A group of candidates that run in multi-position elections on a common platform - this is prohibited in our elections.
- SU Board of Trustees - Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union Board of Trustees who have the strategic and legal authority for the SU Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

- SLT - Senior Leadership Team. This comprises of the SU CEO, Director of Membership Services and Director of Finance and Resources. They have the day-to-day management authority for SU operations.
- RO - Returning Officer (an external person, from the NUS, who oversees the fair and accurate running of elections).
- RON - Re-Open Nominations. If a voter believes a candidate is not suitable for the position, then they can vote for Re-Open Nominations (R.O.N.).
- The SU - Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union.
- Trustee - Someone with legal authority and responsibility for something on behalf of others. The SU Trustees have responsibility for the organisation on behalf of students. An external Trustee is someone who is not a student, but may be a past President or someone with skills and experience required on the Trustee Board. A student Trustee is a current student of Falmouth or UECC but is not a President.
- UECC - University of Exeter Cornwall Campuses.

# Get Involved!

Being an SU President is something which will not only enable you to significantly enrich the lived experience of your student peers and future students, but can make a positive impact on your career going forward. It will likely open doors, prove that you can achieve things you didn't think were possible, enable you to influence decisions at a really senior level for such an early stage in your career, sharpen and grow your transferable skills and give you the chance to make life-long friendships with those who you work with.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at [elections@thesu.org.uk](mailto:elections@thesu.org.uk)!