



Elections are for life...

...not just election season.



Session objectives

- Establish why students' associations hold elections
- The role that students' association and college play
- Understand how we can embed elections throughout the year

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What do we mean by elections?

- Students' Associations across the country run sabbatical and volunteer elections to elect their leaders and representatives.
- Election season is usually a relatively small part of the year however it is the time when the association has the most exposure.
- We should be promoting and thinking about elections throughout the whole year

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Why do we have elections?

Task

- Discuss with the person next to you why students' associations run elections?

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Roles and responsibilities

- Education Act 1994, Section 22
- 1) The governing body of every establishment to which this Part applies shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that any students' union for students at the establishment operates in a fair and democratic manner and is accountable for its finances.

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Roles and responsibilities

- (2)The governing body shall in particular take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that the following requirements are observed by or in relation to any students' union for students at the establishment—
- d)appointment to major union offices should be by election in a secret ballot in which all members are entitled to vote;
- (e)the governing body should satisfy themselves that the elections are fairly and properly conducted;



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Election guiding principles

- Involving and Accessible
- Valid and Secure
- Nurturing Citizenship
- Raising Awareness of the Association
- Legal and Conforming

Task

- What are the practical things you can do to make sure your elections run according to these principles?

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Election timeline

There are four key phases to elections.

- Strategy
- Planning
- Implementation
- Review

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1. Strategy

- Questions to consider:
 - Who will your returning officer be?
 - What form will voting take?
 - When is your voting period?
 - What resources do you have?
 - How will you promote elections?
 - Will you hold referenda?
 - How will elections link in with other activities throughout the year?

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2. Planning

Things to consider

Nominations – getting candidates

Candidate Training

Election rules

Election promotion specifics

Election Booklets

Opportunities for candidate promotion

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3. Implementation

- Implementation involves the running of elections, the ballot boxes themselves and ways to celebrate the results with a bang!
- Things to consider:

Question time

Supporting candidates

Getting the vote out

The count

Results

What and who you need to tell

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4. Review

- It is vitally important that you review the successes and areas for development for the next years elections.
- Things to consider:

Benchmark your Association

What went well

What needs development?

Survey your students

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Discussion

Strategy: How will elections link in with other activities throughout the year?

Planning: How will you get candidates?

Implementation: How will you get the vote out?

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NUS election videos

- [Congratulations](#)
- [Rules](#)
- [Voting](#)

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