



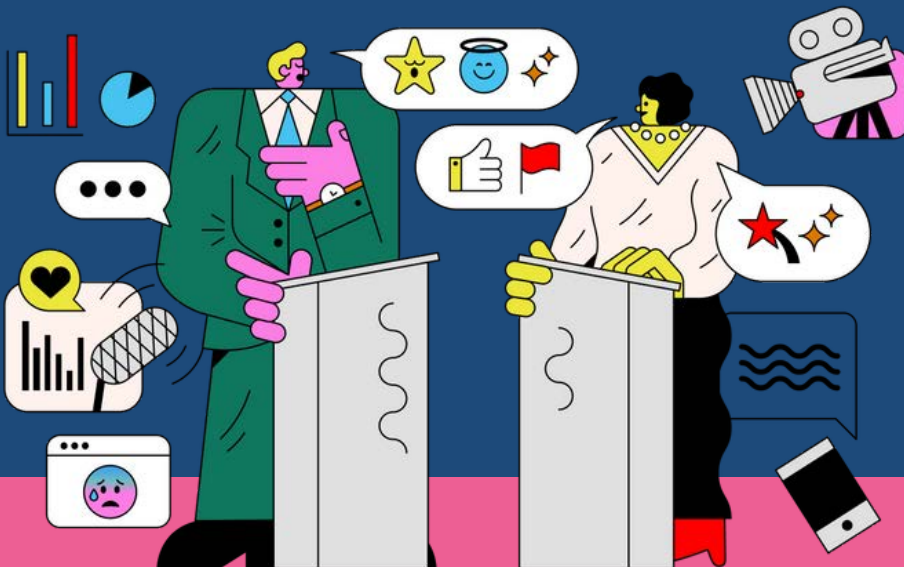
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STUDENTS'  
**UNION**

# STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION GUIDE 2023

**STAND . VOTE . CHANGE**

If you're thinking about standing for election, but have questions about the Students' Union, the elections process or the roles available, this guide gives you all the information you need to get started, so take some time to read it fully. When it comes to standing for election & the roles, please don't panic as you'll get extensive support & training in your role from Eva in the SU. It will open up so many opportunities such as, international travel projects, meeting new people and making changes at NWRC that matter to you!



# WHAT IS THE STUDENTS' UNION?



North West Regional College Students' Union (NWRCSU) exists to ensure that NWRC students are represented and supported, and have the best experience whilst studying at the college. The Student's Union is run by students, for students. You decide what the union does, when & where. As your Students' Union we want to ensure all students at NWRC have a voice and are empowered to lead change.

Our services, facilities and activities exist to create a community of students who make their voice heard on their student experience. We deliver activities such as elections, the class rep system, clubs & societies and events.

Remember that you don't have to join, you're already in! Every student enrolled at NWRC is automatically a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents all students on all campuses and with the help of the Student Council represents the wider student voice.

## What do the SU Officer team do?

We elect Officers to the NWRCSU Council. Each year, a team of students are democratically elected to lead NWRCSU. They make sure that our students are heard and have what they need to learn and thrive whilst at college.

They keep in touch with your views and sometimes meet with the senior leadership of the college to tell them what students want and need to have a great student experience at NWRC. They work to tackle all issues to do with student life - from national campaigns, to student welfare, to things you want to change on your course, as well as making sure the Students' Union offers what you want it to.

**Our Student Council represents you and your views in a host of different ways, on issues ranging from social experience to academic quality, to liberation and much, much more.**



# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF STANDING FOR ELECTION?

## SHAPE STUDENT LIFE 01.

Making a difference on what it means to be a student here is a big motivation for lots of people. You might be thinking in terms of equality, academic opportunity or being part of a wider student movement with a big voice and a strong conscience. Or you might have ideas about how to make sports or activities better here. Whatever your motivation, standing for office gives you a chance to shape what happens next.



## 02. MEET SOME GREAT PEOPLE

You'll get to know likeminded people with the energy and passion to want to stand. There's plenty of training and events for candidates and people often say they made great friends in the process.

## 03. SOFT SKILLS & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Soft skills are one of the most valuable skills you can develop, especially when you go to university. Student council truly gives you the opportunity to foster skills like leadership, communication, teamwork, organization and public speaking – all of which you need in university.

Student council also gives you the opportunity to focus on yourself. You get to decide how you choose to present yourself, what passions you wish to explore, what kind of leadership style you prefer, and learn what kind of university program or career you think you might enjoy.

Perhaps you're looking for a part-time job, or considering applying to university. In any case, you'll need a CV or personal statement! Choosing what to include on your CV can be difficult, especially if you don't have a lot of work or volunteer experience. Lucky for you, a student council position looks great. It shows employers and universities that you're passionate and take initiative.





# HOW DO I PUT MYSELF FORWARD FOR A ROLE?

Anyone wishing to put themselves forward for an Officer position needs to submit a nomination using this QR code →



Once candidates are contacted, you'll need to submit the following to our NWRCSU staff member:

## 1. A manifesto

Your aims and priorities. This is a kind of promise to other students that if they elect you, you will take those things forward.

## 2. A photo of you

So that voters can recognise you! (Supported image formats are .jpeg, .jpg, .png, .x-png, .gif, .bmp)

## 3. A campaign slogan of up to 6 words

All candidates choose a short, catchy slogan to spark interest and help the voters remember you and your campaign.

## 4. A campaign poster

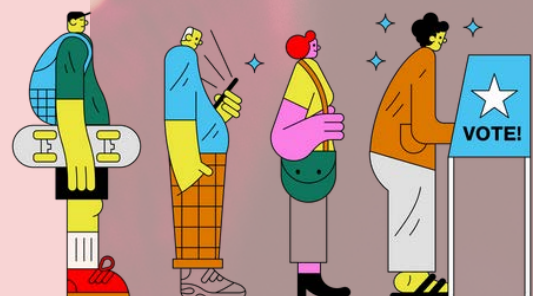
After nominations close, a booklet is published with an advert for every candidate. It's your chance to communicate your manifesto creatively.

**All of the above are an essential requirement of becoming a candidate!**

## HOW DOES THE ELECTION WORK? ◆◆◆

The timeline of the SU Officer Elections 2023 is as follows:

- Nominations Open Monday 4th September 2023
- Nominations Close Friday 29th September 2023 - 9pm
- Campaigning Begins Monday 2nd October 2023
- Voting Opens Friday 6th October 2023 - 8am
- Voting Closes Tuesday 10th October 2023 - 8pm
- Results Announced Wednesday 11th October 2023



# ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF SU OFFICERS AT NWRCSU

The details of most SU Officers roles are very similar. Here are some of the generic responsibilities of Officers of NWRCSU...

- To be a representative of the Students' Union and seek to involve as many students in the Union and its activities / campaigns as possible
- Attend Students' Union council meetings, training, events, conferences etc
- Act reasonably and prudently in any matters affecting students
- Conduct themselves in a manner in which they can feel proud
- Present not simply their own views, but the views of the student population even where they differ from their own.
- Work with the Student Events & Liaison Officer



## STUDENT PRESIDENT

Our President is elected by the students, to decide what the union does, when & where. This position exists for students to help to have a brilliant time at NWRC. The president leads the Students' Union and the Elected Officer Team.

## STUDENT GOVERNOR

The student governor will be responsible for attending meetings to reflect the views of students at the college, ensuring opinions on projects, activities, societies and clubs are all heard and will sit on the colleges' Board of Governors. They have the opportunity to contribute to important College decisions, such as what the College is planning to do over the next few years.

# OTHER NWRCSU OFFICER ROLES..



## Media & Communications Officer

Our media and communications officer will be responsible to write and distribute content to promote the college's activities, events and clubs. They may have the opportunity to manage the Students' Union social media accounts for the year.



## LGBTQIA+ Officer

The LGBTQ+ Officer works to represent all students who identify as LGBTQ+ here at NWR. They are responsible for publicizing things of interest to LGBTQ+ students, advocating for their interests, and making sure their concerns and opinions are heard by the Students' Union.



## Young Adult Carers' Officer

This position will be representing students who have caring responsibilities. They are here to represent the interests and concerns of student carers.



## Disabled Students' Officer

Responsible for representing students with disabilities. They are also responsible for publicising things of interest to students with disabilities, advocating for their interests, and making sure their concerns and opinions are heard by the Students' Union.



# OTHER NWRCSU OFFICER ROLES..



## Welfare / Mental Health Officers

These Officers will be predominantly working on issues regarding student mental health, wellbeing and safety. They will represent and support students' wellbeing on and off campus, working to support student initiatives linked to these issues. 2 positions available.



## Equality & Diversity Officer

The role of the Equality & Diversity Officer is to work with the SU to break down barriers to participation and success for students, especially those who may be from underrepresented backgrounds.



## BAME Officer

The BAME officer works to represent all students who identify as Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic here at NWRC. They work throughout the year on a variety of projects, and work to increase awareness and challenge racial prejudice and discrimination through various campaigns.



## Environmental Officer

The Environment/Zero Waste Officer works on sustainability campaigns and championing environmental issues within NWRC Students' Union.

# OTHER NWRCSU OFFICER ROLES..



## Women's Officer

The Women's officer works to represent all students who identify as women here at NWRCSU. They work throughout the year on a variety of projects, and they also have involvement in our events for International Women's Day.



## Clubs & Societies Officer

This Officer represents and supports students in matters relating to active involvement within the Students' Union, specifically sports, societies, events, volunteering and other student-led activities.



## Activities & Events Officer

The events officer works with the rest of the SU officers and Eva at NWRCSU to plan and organise a range of SU events throughout the year. This will include large events but also smaller events including awareness days etc.





# ELECTION TIPS



## GET YOUR FRIENDS INVOLVED

Your friends can be an excellent network to encourage their network of friends to vote for you as well. NWRC is a relatively small place and everyone is connected through friends, cohorts, club and society groups, etc. There are lots of ways to encourage other students to vote for you, these are just a few ideas to get you thinking.



### TALK TO VOTERS



Engaging with the electorate directly is the best way to get people onside and remember to vote for you.

### USE SOCIAL MEDIA



Use of social media is really popular during elections. Tell your contacts why you would be a great candidate; get people to change their profile picture to a message to encourage their contacts to vote for you, upload pictures, start a group or a page etc. See if you can get your name trending on Twitter, create your own webpage, use QR codes, whatever you think will reach out to your fellow students.

Make a poster and get it up and around the campuses. If you need any help making your poster just call into Student Services.

## YOUR MANIFESTO

- Each candidate should provide a statement (manifesto) setting out their main objectives for the year
- The manifesto is a document that says who the candidate is, why they are standing for election and what they intend to do, should they get elected
- Manifestos should be brief and not be more than 500 words long (this is a limit, not a target)
- Don't include inappropriate references e.g. to alcohol consumption
- Don't be overly modest, you're trying to sell yourself, but don't be too boastful either
- Don't make untrue claims
- Make sure you spell-check what you've written
- Add a photo when you upload the manifesto, it helps! Make sure your photo contains nothing inappropriate!

*Good Luck!*



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As you may, or may not know, the SU election is online to allow as many voters as possible the chance to cast their vote. The most votes for each post is the winning candidate. If the candidate doesn't accept their role then it will be offered to the 2nd place candidate, and so on. Empty posts can be filled with co-option agreed by majority of council members at the first meeting. Meetings, campaigns, activity and associated activity is fully supported by staff member from Student Services.

# VOTING OPENS FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2023 8AM

 Student Union Office, Tower Building, Strand Road Campus

 07423764418

 [www.nwrc.ac.uk/students-union](http://www.nwrc.ac.uk/students-union)

 [student.union@nwrc.ac.uk](mailto:student.union@nwrc.ac.uk)

 nwrcsu

 [nwrcstudentservices](https://www.instagram.com/nwrcstudentservices)

