

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

STUDENT ELECTIONS



Can I nominate for more than one position?

Yes. Students are encouraged to nominate for all positions they are interested in and eligible for (i.e. Council, Academic Senate and College Boards).

I am an Executive of a Club, can I still nominate?

Yes. Being an Executive of a Club does not hinder your eligibility to nominate for any student position.

I am graduating mid next year, can I nominate for any position?

No. To be eligible to nominate for any position, students must be enrolled in a course and active in a program leading to an award at the time nominations close and for the duration of the term of office.

I am enrolled in an enabling program of the University, can I nominate for any position?

No. To be eligible to nominate for any position, students must be enrolled in a course and active in a program leading to an award. Unfortunately, successful completion of an enabling program does not result in 'an award' in the context of the *University of Newcastle Act 1989*.

Do I receive any formal recognition for participating on a board or committee?

Yes. Students who are elected to Council, Academic Senate and College Boards who attend 70% of meetings in a year will have their membership recorded on their Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS), as part of their academic transcript.

Are there any requirements if I choose to submit a Candidate Statement and Photo?

Yes. Candidate statements and photos are provided to voters in the event a ballot is required, and there are specific requirements for both.

The candidate statement must be 150 words or less and outline why you are nominating and what you can bring to the role. It must not include any offensive, defamatory or inappropriate content

that may breach the University's [Student Code of Conduct](#). If the statement contains any inappropriate content or is longer than 150 words, the University Secretary reserves the right to request it be edited.

The photo should be a high-resolution, recent head-and-shoulders portrait, with a plain or uncluttered background suitable for publication.

Providing a candidate statement and photo is optional; however, most nominees choose to include them.

Are there any requirements if I wish to campaign on campus?

Yes. The [Electioneering Guidelines for Candidates](#) set out the University's expectations that all participants campaign positively and enter into the spirit of the election with good grace and respect for the other candidates. The guidelines also cover things such as complying with the [Campus Access Policy](#), making sure candidates do not disrupt or intimidate any members of the University community, and avoiding the unauthorised or inappropriate use of mailing lists.

Is online / social media campaigning allowed?

Yes. The use of social media and electronic campaigning is permitted, recognising students' obligation to comply with the *Student Code of Conduct*, campaigning guidelines are applied, and recipients have not been targeted through inappropriate or unauthorised means.

How are the votes counted?

Full details are available in the [Vote Counting Guidelines](#).

Can I find out how many people voted for me?

No. The vote count numbers are never published. This is a long-standing practice of the University.

I have more questions!

Contact the Deputy Returning Officer,
Legal and Governance Services
E: elections@newcastle.edu.au