

Frequently Asked Questions

Student Elections

Can I nominate for more than one position?

Yes – You can nominate for multiple positions (i.e. Council and Academic Senate). Students are encouraged to nominate for all positions they are eligible for and interested in.

Does being an Executive of a Club hinder nomination eligibility?

No – Being an Executive of a Club does not hinder your eligibility to nominate for all student positions.

I am graduating mid next year. Am I eligible to nominate?

No. Undergraduate and postgraduate students who are enrolled as a full or part-time student at the time of nominations **and for the term of office** are eligible to nominate.

I am enrolled in an enabling program of the University. Am I eligible to nominate for one of the undergraduate or postgraduate student positions?

Students enrolled in an enabling program are not eligible to nominate for any of the student positions. Unfortunately, successful completion of an enabling program does not result in 'an award' in the context of *the University of Newcastle Act 1989*.

What are the requirements for the candidate statement and photo?

Your candidate statement must be 150 words (or less) and outline why you are nominating and what you can bring to the role. The statement must not include any offensive, defamatory or inappropriate content that would breach *the University's 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.

It is not compulsory to provide a candidate statement and photo, although most nominees do include them.

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

There are Electioneering Guidelines which are circulated to candidates in the event of a ballot. The Electioneering Guidelines 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.

Is electronic campaigning (such as Facebook messaging friends, creating Facebook groups, posting statuses on Facebook, using Instagram, Twitter or Snapchat) allowed?

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

How are the votes counted?

The University uses a system of optional preferential voting. The ballots cast in an election are counted as follows:

- Each ballot is allocated to the candidate against whose name appears the lowest number on the ballot.
- The candidate with the lowest number of allocated ballots is eliminated.
- If there are two or more candidates with an equal lowest number of votes, the Returning Officer determines the candidate to be eliminated by lot.
- Where a valid preference is shown on a vote cast for an eliminated candidate the value of that ballot is allocated to the remaining candidates according to the indicated preference.
- Each ballot has the transfer value of one.
- A ballot which does not show a valid preference is considered exhausted and is not allocated further.
- Candidates are eliminated according to the steps above until one candidate has received fifty percent of the unexhausted votes.
- When a candidate has received fifty percent of the unexhausted votes that candidate is elected.
- If there are only two remaining candidates and they each have equal numbers of votes, the Returning Officer determines by lot which of them is to be elected.

Can I find out how many people voted in the election and how many votes the successful candidate won by?

No – The vote count numbers are kept confidential, this is a long standing practice of the University.

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

Students who are elected to Council, Academic Senate, Teaching and Learning Committee, Research Committee 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.

Contact

If you have any questions about the elections, email the Deputy Returning Officer, Governance and Assurance Services

E: elections@newcastle.edu.au