

MISU Election Regulations

To ensure MISU elections are fair and transparent, there are a number of rules and regulations that must be followed. The following regulations, in addition to Article 11 of the MISU Constitution, must be adhered to by all candidates running in a MISU Election or By-Election.

It is the responsibility of each candidate and their campaign team to read these regulations in full, ensure they adhere to them and seek clarification where required by emailing returningofficer@misu.ie

Candidates and their campaign teams are responsible for their own adherence to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

The Regulations are divided into the following sections:

1. Eligibility to Work in Ireland
2. Nomination for Election
3. Close of Nominations
4. Announcement of Candidates
5. Candidate's Briefing
6. Campaigning
7. Returning Officer Disciplinary Powers
8. Current MISU Executive Committee Members

1. Eligibility to work in Ireland

- 1.1 A Sabbatical Officership is a full-time role and will require the successful candidate to take up office on Monday 16th June 2025. On commencing their term of office, the successful candidate will become a full-time employee of MISU and on commencement of employment, the successful candidate must meet all legal requirements to allow them to work full-time in Ireland for the full duration of their contract of employment (16th June 2025 to 12th June 2026). In the event that they fail to continue to meet these requirements during the course of the duration of the contract then the Officer shall be liable to relinquish the post.
- 1.2 The Postgraduate and Thurles College Officers are paid part-time positions and the successful respective candidates will become part-time employees of MISU and at the time of their election, they must meet all legal requirements to allow them to fulfil the hours of work as outlined in the MISU Constitution for the full duration of their contract of employment. In the event that they fail to continue to meet these requirements during the course of the duration of the contract then the Officer shall be liable to relinquish the post.

2. Nomination for Election

- 2.1 Each prospective candidate must be a member of Mary I Students' Union (MISU) as defined by the MISU Constitution (article 4.1). The Returning Officer has the right to verify the student status of all prospective candidates.

- 2.2 Each prospective candidate must complete the required election nomination form which must be signed by twenty students, registered with MIC. Each student must complete their own details and must sign their own names.
- 2.3 The Returning Officer has the right to verify the details of any proposer of any prospective candidate. If the Returning Officer finds that any of the details are incorrect or that the requirement outline in 1.2 has not been adhered to, then this shall result in the Returning Officer declaring the nomination form to be invalid and the candidate will not be eligible to stand in the MISU Election / By-Election. The decision of the Returning Officer in this regard shall be final and not open to appeal.
- 2.4 It is the responsibility of each prospective candidate to ensure that all the required documentation is submitted, in full and as requested, when returning their documentation. Failure to do so, will result in an invalid nomination form and the prospective candidate will not be eligible to stand as a candidate in the MISU election. The decision of the Returning Officer in this regard shall be final and not open to appeal.
- 2.5 Candidates may only run for one officership position at any given time.

3. Close of Nominations

- 3.1 Nominations will close at 02:00pm on Friday, 28th February 2025.
- 3.2 Following the close of nominations, the Returning Officer will review and ratify all nominations received.
- 3.3 Where a nomination form has been deemed invalid by the Returning Officer, the person will be contacted by the Returning Officer to form them and the reason/s as to why the form was deemed invalid. The decision of the Returning Officer in this regard is final and not open to appeal.

4. Announcement of Candidates

- 4.1 The Returning Officer or their nominee will publish the following information outside the MISU Offices, on the MISU website and MISU Social Media Sites:
 - 4.1.1 The names of all candidates who are running for each Officership.
 - 4.1.2 The manifesto provided by each candidate.
 - 4.1.3 The date of the election.
 - 4.1.4 The times and methods by which votes may be cast.
 - 4.1.5 The date, time and venue for Hustings (Meet the Candidates)
 - 4.1.6 Whether any invalid nomination forms were received.
- 4.2 All candidates for election must attend 'Meet the Candidates' or show good cause as to why they cannot attend.

5. Candidates' Briefing

- 5.1 The candidate's briefing may be in -person, virtual or hybrid which will be at the discretion of the Returning Officer and will take place at a time determined by the Returning Officer.
- 5.2 All candidates must attend the candidate briefing, unless a prior agreement has been made with the Returning Officer. If any candidate does not attend without notifying the Returning Officer, they risk disqualification from the elections.
- 5.3 Candidates may bring up to one student supporter (a member of their campaign team) to the briefing.
- 5.4 Candidates will have the opportunity to put questions to the Returning Officer about campaigning, the voting process and the regulations.

6. Campaigning

- 6.1 Candidates cannot commence campaigning until after the candidate's briefing with the Returning Officer. The date and time of the briefing will be determined by the Returning Officer and communicated to the candidates. Any breach of this shall result in the candidate receiving a sanction from the Returning Officer.
- 6.2 All candidates shall adhere to the basic principles, aims and objectives of MISU as outlined within Articles 2 and 3 of MISU Constitution. As per article 11.8.5 of the MISU Constitution, failure to adhere to this shall warrant in the convening of the MISU Disciplinary.
- 6.3 Candidates shall ,at all times, treat their fellow candidates with dignity and respect. Any breach shall result in the candidate receiving a sanction from the Returning Officer.
- 6.4 All candidates are solely responsible for all of their campaigning materials, literature, and the conduct of their campaigners.
- 6.5 All canvassing must be confined to the college grounds. Any breach of this regulation shall result in the candidate receiving a sanction from the Returning Officer.
- 6.6 MIC Student and/or Staff emails (@mic.ul.ie) cannot be used for canvassing or campaigning. Any breach of this shall result in the candidate receiving a sanction from the Returning Officer.
- 6.7 The use of Union, Clubs and Societies resources for election campaigning is strictly forbidden.
- 6.8 The use of the MISU logo is not permitted on any campaign materials and any such use shall result in the candidate's disqualification from the MISU Election process.
- 6.9 Candidates are restricted to hanging campaign posters in designated areas on the MIC campuses, which they will be notified of at the candidate's briefing with the Returning Officer.
- 6.10 All election material must be removed by 10:00am on the morning after the election.

- 6.11 Election candidates will have to adhere to the set spending cap of €250 (monetary value). Posters, as mentioned in 4.11, are exempt from this cap.
- 6.12 Receipts must be kept for all purchases and must be produced by the candidate if requested by the Returning Officer. Candidates are not reimbursed by MISU for election expenses.
- 6.13 Candidates must not use stickers or any other similar material. Any breach of this shall result in the candidate receiving a sanction from the Returning Officer.
- 6.14 On the day elections and where there are physical polling stations candidates and their supporters will be excluded from canvassing and/or campaigning in a pre-defined area around the polling station as determined by the Returning Officer. Any breach of this shall result in the candidate receiving a sanction from the Returning Officer.
- 6.15 All sponsorship and/or contributions, either fiscal or benefit-in-kind, committed to the financing or aiding of an individual or joint electoral campaign for both General Elections and By-Elections is strictly prohibited. Any breach of this regulation shall result in the candidate's immediate disqualification from the MISU Election.
- 6.16 Candidates cannot enter into any agreements with any nightclubs, bars, retailers, suppliers etc. for their election campaign on behalf of the Students' Union on the proviso that they may be elected. Any breach of this regulation shall result in the candidate's immediate disqualification from the MISU Election process.
- 6.17 Alcohol or items pertaining to gambling are not permitted as part of campaigning. Any breach of this regulation shall result in the candidate's immediate disqualification from the MISU Election.

7. [Returning Officer Disciplinary Powers](#)

- 7.1 All candidates must adhere to MISU Election Regulations.
- 7.2 If a candidate or their campaigners breach any of the above regulations or any of the regulations as outlined in the MISU Constitution, the Returning Officer can discipline the candidate by:
 - 7.2.1 Suspension from campaigning for any or all of the MISU election process, either in person or through Social Media Platforms or both;
 - 7.2.2 Expulsion from Hustings, and/or from campaigning either in person and/or through Social Media platforms;
 - 7.2.3 Disqualification from the election during the election process, up to and following the announcement of results.
- 7.3 Any sanctions imposed by the Returning Officer on a candidate will be notified to the student body.

8. Current MISU Executive Committee Members

- 8.1 Any current member of the MISU Executive Committee, who is running for election, must keep their role as an Executive Committee member separate to their campaign.
- 8.2 They cannot use any MISU facilities, MISU equipment, MISU software, MISU branded clothing, MISU contacts or connections which are available to them in their capacity as a current Executive Committee member, for any reason whatsoever in their campaign. Failure to adhere to this will result in their immediate disqualification from the election process.