

MDXSU Election Rules & Regulations 2025

We want to encourage fun, vibrant, and exciting campaigns, but elections must also be free and fair. That is why we are providing guidelines on the elections for all candidates. Breaches of any of the following rules and regulations could lead to disqualification, so it is very important that you follow them.

Candidates must abide by the following rules:

- 1) Candidates must treat other candidates, students and members of the public with respect
- 2) Candidates will not act in such a way to bring the election process, the SU or the University into disrepute
- 3) Candidates' campaigns should be fully transparent and accountable to the SU
- 4) Candidates must not do anything to gain unfair advantage
- 5) Candidates must not undermine the fair and democratic running of elections

Candidate Regulations:

Alongside our core rules, please also follow the following regulations to ensure a fair and enjoyable election.

1) You must only undertake campaigns activities that other candidates would also have the ability to do

Elections can be very competitive, and everyone is looking for an edge when it comes to running their campaign. But they must also be fair. That is why you can only do something that another candidate would also have a fair ability of doing.

So, if you manage to convince a club promoter you have never met before to let you do a shout out at a student club night – that is fine, because any other candidate could have done that. But if the club promoter is your brother, then you cannot. Same goes for sending e-mails out to society mailing lists, making use of private Facebook groups etc. If someone else couldn't do it, neither can you.

2) Voters must be able to vote freely, and you can't in any way interfere with their vote once they are voting

Voting is done online, which means anywhere can be a voting booth. Voters need to be able to vote freely, which means you can't talk to a candidate while they are voting, and nor can you coerce, bully or in any way interfere with their vote.

Even if a voter asks for your help, you aren't allowed to communicate with them while they are casting their vote – so make sure you get all the information you need to across before they begin the voting process.

3) Campaigners can only alter, move or remove their own campaign materials

You cannot take down another candidate's posters, delete their Facebook posts, alter their materials or in any way interfere with another candidate's campaign. This should be a pretty simple rule not to break – just don't touch another candidate's materials.

4) Mailing lists can only be used where it is lawful to do so

It isn't legal to send communication to people who haven't consented to receive it, so you must make sure that you can demonstrate you have permission from those on a mailing list to contact them about your election.

So, even if everyone has access to it, and you don't fall foul of rule 1, you can still break a key election rule by contacting people who haven't consented to hear from you.

5) You must make sure that anyone campaigning for you also follows the rules, and be able to demonstrate that if a complaint is made against your campaign team

These rules don't just apply to the candidate. If anyone in your campaign team, supporting you or otherwise taking part in running your election campaign does something to break these core rules, it could lead to you being disqualified from the election.

Once again, breaches of these main rules or the financial regulations by either the candidate or their supporters could lead to disqualification from the election, so please ensure you understand them fully.

6) You must abide by the financial regulations outlined below

There will be a limit on how much each candidate can spend on their campaign.

This limit will be announced to all candidates via e-mail and at the Candidate Briefing. Candidates must submit a valid campaign spend sheet to elections@mdx.ac.uk

This must be completed, including receipts no later than 1 HOUR AFTER VOTING CLOSES.

Candidates cannot use any resources (outside of those in the candidate resources pack supplied by MDXSU) or make any expenditure to support their campaign.

7) Campaigning must take place within the designated campaigning period

Candidates can begin to campaign as soon as their nomination has been approved. They will receive the election rules then and they have to be sure to abide by them. Ignorance of the rules will not count as a defence.

8) Campaigning must not take place in 'none campaigning zones'

There are parts of the University where it is inappropriate to campaign and as such they have been designated 'None campaigning zones'. In these spaces, there must be no campaigning activities undertaken. These zones are:

- The students' union office
- The library

Other zones might be added – you will be informed of this as a candidate via your email so please keep an eye out!

Rules for SU & University Staff:

Candidates must not make use of SU resources in order to undertake their campaign.

Candidates and supporters of candidates who currently hold an elected role or job within the SU – as long as they are students of MDX - can continue to undertake their role and are free to campaign outside of their contracted hours.

University and SU staff are allowed to generally support the elections, and encourage students to get involved and vote. They should not show any favour or support for any specific candidate.