



GUILD AND NUS



ELECTION HANDBOOK 2026

IMPORTANT NOTE: PROPOSED ELECTION REGULATIONS – Changes in effect from August 2026

The 113th Guild Council has approved changes to the Election Regulations that the Western Australian Electoral Commission has deemed will be in effect from August 2026, pending approval from the University of Western Australia Senate.

IMPORTANT DATES & TIMES in 2026 FOR CANDIDATES & GROUP AGENTS:

GROUP REGISTRATIONS OPEN	10:00am	MONDAY	18 MAY 2026
GROUP REGISTRATIONS CLOSE	4:00pm	FRIDAY	12 JUNE 2026
NOMINATIONS OPEN	9.00am	MONDAY	27 JULY 2026
NOMINATIONS CLOSE	5:00pm	FRIDAY	31 JULY 2026
DEPOSITS DUE	5:00pm	FRIDAY	31 JULY 2026
WITHDRAWALS CLOSE	12:00pm	TUESDAY	4 AUGUST 2026
BALLOT PAPER DRAW	1:00pm	TUESDAY	4 AUGUST 2026
2026 ELECTIONS INFORMATION SESSION (COMPULSORY FOR GROUP AGENTS & INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES)	1:00pm	TUESDAY	11 AUGUST 2026

**LODGE NOMINATIONS & DEPOSITS WITH
THE RETURNING OFFICER, MARY PETROU @ GUILD ELECTIONS OFFICE**

CONTENTS

Important Dates	2
Polling Locations	3
Disclaimer	3
Introduction	3
Election Regulations	3
Election Officials	3
Returning Officer	3
Returning Officer Responsibilities	4
Group Registrations	4
Group Statements	4
Nomination Procedures	4
Nomination Forms	4
Personal Statements by Candidates	5
Nomination Withdrawals	5
Appointment by Agent	5
Council Transition Training	5
2026 Elections Information Session	5
Candidate/Group Election Material	5
Electronic communications constituting Election Material	5
Group electronic media	6
Prohibited Election Material	6
Prohibited Display of Election Material	6
Blackout period	6
Lunch Hour Blackout period	6
Exclusion Zone	6
Costing of Election Material	6
Election Material Submission Dates	7
First approval cycle procedure	7
Second approval cycle procedure	7
Distribution	8
Prohibited Conduct	8
Campaigning and Distribution	8
“How to Vote” Material	8
Groups	8
Group Names and Colours	8
Group and Candidate Expenditure	8
Broadsheet	9
Voting and Counting System	9
Appointment of Scrutineers	9
Eligibility to Participate in the Elections	9
Offences	9/10
Guild Misconduct	10
Code of Conduct	10
Grievances	11
Election Offences Tribunal	11
Guild Misconduct Tribunal	11
Discipline Procedure	11
Disputed Returns	11
Booth Bans	11

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2026

Monday 18 May, 10.00am

- Group Registrations Open

Friday 12 June, 4.00pm

- Group Registrations Close & Group Statements Due

Monday 27 July, 9.00am

- Nominations open

Friday 31 July, 5.00pm

- Individual Nominations close & Personal Statements Due
- Deadline for lodgement of \$10 Deposit

Tuesday 4 August, 12:00pm and 1:00pm

- Withdrawals Close at 12:00pm
- Draw for Ballot Positions in Meeting Room 1 at 1:00pm.
Live Streamed (by Pelican).

Tuesday 11 August, 1.00pm

- 2026 Guild Elections Information Session - Sue Boyd Room (Level 1).
(Compulsory attendance for Group Agents & Independent Candidates.)

Monday 31 August, 10:00am

- First round submission deadline of Election Material to Returning Officer & UniPrint.

Friday 4 September, between 8am – 11am

- First round Election Material to be paid and picked up (from Guild Finance or Returning Officer).

Friday 4 September 6pm - see Reg 106(3)(d)

- Postal vote applications close at 6pm.

Monday 7 September, 10.00am

- Second round submission deadline of Election Material to Returning Officer & UniPrint.

Tuesday 8 September, 1.00pm (TBC)

- Presidential Debate – G106 Wilsmore Tattersall Lecture Theatre

Friday 11 September, between 8am – 11am

- Second Round Election Material to be paid and picked up
(from Guild Finance or Returning Officer).

Monday 14, Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 September ONLY

- Election Polling dates; Polls open 10.00am - 5.00pm daily.
- Polling at other campuses (see next page) from 11.00am - 3.00pm.

Thursday 17 September, 5:00pm

- 5:00pm: Close Deadline for receipt of postal votes.

Thursday 17 September, 5:00pm

- Presidential count UWA.

MAY / JUNE 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY / AUGUST 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SEPTEMBER 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	29	30				

POLLING LOCATIONS	DATE	TIME
UWA Campus – Oak Lawn (Near Guild Village)	Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th September 2026	10:00am – 5:00pm
UWA Campus – Reid Library (Lawn area near Reid Library stairs)	Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th September 2026	10:00am – 5:00pm
Nedlands Campus – Nedlands Café (Foyer)	Monday 14th September 2026	11.00am – 3.00pm
UWA Business School – Foyer	Tuesday 15th September 2026	11:00am – 3:00pm
Q.E. II Medical Centre - FJ Clarke Lecture Theatre (Foyer)	Wednesday 16th September 2026	11:00am – 3:00pm
Oral Health Centre of WA (Medical-Dental Library) - OHCWA	Thursday 17th September 2026	11:00am – 3:00pm

Disclaimer:

This handbook has been produced for the benefit of all potential candidates in the 2026 Guild Elections. If you intend to participate as a candidate (or Group Agent) in the elections, it is essential that you become fully acquainted with its contents.

More detailed procedures and candidate obligations may be found in the **UWA Student Guild Election Regulations (2026)** together with the NUS Rules which are all on our Elections website: www.uwastudentguild.com/student-representation/elections

INTRODUCTION

The UWA Student Guild Elections include the elections of:

- Office Bearers and Councillors of the Guild.
- National Union of Students delegates to the NUS national conference.

The Electoral Regulations and Rules that are the legislative basis for the elections above are available on our website under Elections: www.uwastudentguild.com/student-representation/elections and also found under the Regulations section: www.uwastudentguild.com/the-guild/guild-regulations.

ELECTION REGULATIONS – Regulation Changes in effect from August 2026 (downloadable [HERE](#)) or www.uwastudentguild.com/the-guild/guild-regulations. Please study the Regulations carefully. They are available online. Please pay particular attention to relevant dates and procedures for Group Registrations and Statements, as well as Candidate nominations and Personal Statements.

The 113th Guild Council has approved changes to the Election Regulations that the Western Australian Electoral Commission has deemed will be in effect from August 2026, pending approval from the University of Western Australia Senate.

The Election Regulations were substantially reorganised to improve clarity and consistency. The amendments were mostly administrative, with limited changes relating to postal voting, complaints processes and election offences.

PLEASE NOTE: Please review the Page Limits, Costing of Election material procedure, and the Costing Limits carefully.

In addition:

- **Please be aware** at all times of the relevant rules, deadlines and requirements. As mentioned above, there will be Election Regulation changes in effect from August 2026, *pending approval from the University of Western Australia Senate*.
- **Please do not** leave anything to the last minute. **Do not** make assumptions concerning any rules or procedures on the basis of assertions made by anyone other than the Returning Officer.
- **Please seek advice** from the Returning Officer (via the new contact details below), and if in doubt on a procedural matter, seek advice well before any deadlines.

ELECTION OFFICIALS

Returning Officer

The Electoral Commissioner of the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) has appointed **Mary Petrou** as the Returning Officer for the **2026 Guild Elections**.

Mary Petrou can be contacted via email address: Npro_uwastudentguild@elections.wa.gov.au or mobile number **0439 050 249** (NEW phone number in 2026) or please contact elections@guild.uwa.edu.au for all general Election enquires.

Returning Officer Responsibilities

The Returning Officer has responsibility for all the election processes including:

- Group Registration and Group Statements
- Nominations and Personal Statements
- Production and security of ballot papers and other ballot material
- Postal Voting
- Polling arrangements
- Conduct of the Poll
- Counting of Votes
- Declaration of the Poll
- **All Election Material and monitors costs in relation to such material.**

GROUP REGISTRATIONS

Pursuant to Regulation 57, Group Registrations are open for a period of 4 weeks from 9.00am Monday 18th May 2026 and close at 4:00pm Friday 12th June 2026.

Group Registration Forms are available from the Guild website www.uwastudentguild.com/student-representation/elections under 'Information for Candidates' or www.uwastudentguild.com/assets/downloads/elections/group-registration-form-2026.pdf or collect a copy from Guild Administration, 1st floor Guild Village Building.

GROUP STATEMENTS

According to Regulation 58(4): Each Group must submit a statement of between 100-150 words setting out the Group's vision and values and a description of what they stand for, the Group Agent's contact details and information about how Students can get involved with the Group. The Group Statement must be **submitted to the Verification Program** prior to the close of the registration period **and must be emailed to elections@guild.uwa.edu.au** (with the word count). A **hard copy** of the Group Statement **must be attached** to the Group Registration Form when it is submitted to the Returning Officer. Please include the word count. The Group Statement must be included in the **body of the email** OR sent as a **Word document** attachment ONLY and please **include the word count**. **Please do not supply Group Statements in PDF or other formats.** Each Group Statement is to be **published on the Guild Elections website** under 'Registered Groups', viewable here: www.uwastudentguild.com/student-representation/elections/registered-groups.

Group Withdrawals: In accordance with Regulation 61 a person who has nominated as part of a Group may withdraw their consent to be part of that Group by lodging a 'Notice of Withdrawal to Be Part of a Group' Form with the Returning Officer.

Group Withdrawal Forms are available on our Elections website, under Information for Candidates: [www.uwastudentguild.com/assets/downloads/elections/notice-of-withdrawal-\(group-reg\)-2026.pdf](http://www.uwastudentguild.com/assets/downloads/elections/notice-of-withdrawal-(group-reg)-2026.pdf)

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Nominations open **for 1 week** only: at 9.00am Monday 27th July 2026 and close at 5:00pm Friday 31st July 2026.

Warning: Students who are casual employees of the Guild and who intend to nominate for Guild Elections should note that their nomination for election will result in the termination of their casual employment with the Guild - refer to Guild Regulation 106(1).

Nomination Forms are available to download from the Guild website www.uwastudentguild.com/student-representation/elections under 'Information for Candidates' or collect a copy from Guild Administration, 1st floor Guild Building.

Nomination Forms need to be lodged by the candidate **in person**, directly with the Returning Officer, as per Regulation 66(2). A signed 2026 **Code of Conduct** form also needs to be lodged by the candidate at this same time, along with the candidate's **Personal Statement** (see below for further details).

In order for a candidate's nomination to be valid, a \$10 bond (cash or EFTPOS Payment ONLY) must be paid **in person** (by the candidate) to the Returning Officer **at the time of lodging the Nomination Form**.

The maximum amount payable by a candidate for more than one position shall be ten (10) dollars. This fee shall be non-refundable if an unsuccessful candidate does not acquire a total of primary votes equal to or more than 10% of the quota required for election to any of the positions that the candidate has nominated for.

PERSONAL STATEMENTS BY CANDIDATES

According to Regulation 66(2)(e): A Nomination form shall be accompanied by a **personal statement** of between 100 to 150 words setting out the nominee's vision, values and reasons for nominating, and if the nominee is a member of a Group, the name of the Group must be included. The Nomination Form must be signed by the nominee and acknowledges: that the **Personal Statement will be published on the Guild website for public access** as per Regulation 66(h)(i). A candidate's Personal Statement needs to be **submitted electronically to the Verification Program** prior to the close of nominations **and must be emailed to elections@guild.uwa.edu.au** (at the time of nominating). The Personal Statement must be included in the **body of the email** OR sent as a **Word document** attachment ONLY and please **include the word count**. **Please do not supply Personal Statement as a PDF or in other formats**. A hard copy of the Personal Statement must **also** be attached to the Nomination Form and given to the Returning Officer (including word count). Personal Statements will be **published on the Guild website** under 'Personal Statements, viewable here: www.uwastudentguild.com/student-representation/elections/personal-statements

Nomination Withdrawals: A person nominated as a candidate may withdraw their Nomination by lodging a 'Notice of Candidate Withdrawal' form with the Returning Officer, up until the Close of Nominations, as per Regulation 70, and that person shall be deemed not to have nominated. Individual Withdrawal Forms are available on our website, under Information for Candidates: www.uwastudentguild.com/assets/downloads/elections/nomination-form-2026.pdf

Appointment by Agent: When a candidate is not available to nominate in person for the 2026 Guild Elections, an Agent may be appointed to nominate on their behalf. The Candidate needs to lodge with the Returning Officer an **Appointment of Agent by Candidate** form, which (if approved) will allow another person to lodge the candidate's Nomination Form, Code of Conduct and \$10 deposit. This form is available on the website: www.uwastudentguild.com/assets/downloads/elections/appointment-of-agent-by-candidate-form-2026.pdf

Council Transition Training: If successfully elected Candidates must attend the compulsory Council Transition Training (CTT). Non-attendance of the CTT will result in the Guild forwarding the matter to the Guild Misconduct Tribunal and may result in the candidate forfeiting their elected position.

2026 Elections Information Session: The 2026 Elections Information Session will be held at **1pm on Tuesday 11th August 2026** in the **Sue Boyd Room**. All Group Agents & Independent Candidates are required to attend this compulsory session with Mary Petrou, (Returning Officer) & Tony Goodman (Guild Managing Director).

CANDIDATE/GROUP ELECTION MATERIAL

Election Material, as defined in Election Regulation 92.

For the 2026 Election as per Regulation 95(1) Candidate/Group Election Material may include the following:

- (i) Electronic communications; (*see Regulation 98*)
- (ii) Badges;
- (iii) Leaflets;
- (iv) Posters; - *Note: no provision for posters in 2026*
- (v) Speeches;
- (vi) How to Votes;
- (vii) Overhead Transparencies; and
- (viii) T-shirts

Electronic communications constituting Election Material (Reg 98)

(1) Material of the kind referred to in Regulation 98(1)(a) (ie electronic communications section ABOVE) shall be deemed to be Costed Election Material in all circumstances provided it quotes or paraphrases the election platform of the candidate or their Group and makes no mention of any other Candidate or Group.

(2) No Candidate or Group is under any circumstances permitted to allocate expenditure to promotion of electronic Election Material.

(3) Candidates may only use their own personal social media to distribute or display electronic Election Material.

(4) Groups may use group electronic media to promote their election platforms; but this media must be removed in the month immediately after the declaration of the poll.

(5) Please see Regulation 96(8) Display of election material: No printed election material is to be displayed outside of University grounds, including in residential colleges, libraries, catering outlets or licensed premises.

Group electronic media means any public social media profile created for the express purpose of the election, including but not limited to *(see list on following page)*:

- Stand-alone websites hosted by the Guild;
- Facebook
- Instagram
- TikTok
- SnapChat
- X *(formerly Twitter)*
- YouTube
- Google+

This definition does not permit stand-alone websites except those hosted by the Guild.

Prohibited Election Material

- Banners
- Stickers
- Chalking (chalking on blackboards, footpaths, walls etc is prohibited)
- Electronic communications other than those outlined in Reg 622A

Prohibited Display of Election Material

Election material may only be displayed in prescribed areas. The Returning Officer determines these areas.

Blackout Period

No Election Material shall be Distributed between the Day, 24 hours after the close of polls, and 5:00pm on the Day, 10 Days before polling commences for the next Election.

Blackout period dates:

Blackout Period Ends: 5:00pm Friday 4th September 2026

Blackout Period Begins: 5:00pm Thursday 17th September 2026

Lunch Hour Blackout period - No in-person campaigning! As per Regulation 97(4)(b) Election Material, including How-to-Votes shall not be distributed in person between **12:30pm – 1:30pm during Polling Week.**

- Monday 14th September 12:30pm – 1:30pm – Lunch Hour Blackout Period
- Tuesday 15th September 12:30pm – 1:30pm – Lunch Hour Blackout Period
- Wednesday 16th September 12:30pm – 1:30pm – Lunch Hour Blackout Period
- Thursday 17th September 12:30pm – 1:30pm – Lunch Hour Blackout Period

Exclusion Zone

As requested by the Guild Election Culture Committee & Guild Council, the WAEC & Returning Officer have been instructed to set up an exclusion zone outside the Reid Library Polling booth which will include a walkway for students to walk through campus along Saw Promenade. There will also be an exclusion zone marking off the Refectory courtyard area near the Oak Lawn Polling Place.

Costing of Election Material

A Group shall not print more than the equivalent of **180 A4 Pages** of Election Material per aligned Candidate and **4000 A4 Pages** in total.

Each Independent Candidate or Group shall be entitled to print a minimum of the equivalent of **500 A4 Pages** of Election Material.

Where the Returning Officer is satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that a Candidate had knowledge that Election Material, other than that Costed by that officer was to be used by the Candidate for Election purposes, the Returning Officer may, at their discretion, determine the equivalent A4 pages used by the Candidate on Election Material.

As per Regulation 141 (ze) – it is an election offence to exceed the expenditure limit as prescribed above.

Fluorescent Paper is NOT AVAILABLE and there is no provision to guillotine printed material.

Please note:

- **All election material shall display “Authorised by XXXXX XXXXXXXX” and the “Contact number: XXXX XXX XXX” for it to be deemed acceptable.**
- Large, solid areas of black are unsuitable for copying.
- **You will need to supply 1 set of originals plus an Election Material Costing Form to the Returning Officer**
- **Submit 1 copy of original Election Material electronically to UniPrint**
- All artwork to have a 1cm border all around.
- Photos should be scanned or laser printed at 300dpi or higher for best results.
- Originals must be black ink on white paper.
- **No colour images will be permitted.**
- Please provide a completed sample for double-sided work.

Election Material Submission Dates

There will be **two submission dates** for costing of Election Material in the 2026 Guild Elections. Candidates may lodge their material for Costing on either or both of the two dates set out below.

FIRST APPROVAL CYCLE PROCEDURE

➤ **10.00am Monday 31 August 2026**

This is the deadline for first submission of Election Material. Two Copies to be submitted; One copy of prospective Election Material, stating “Authorised By” and the name and phone number of the authoriser is to be submitted to the Returning Officer, accompanied by a completed ‘Election Material Costing Form’ **AND** one copy of original Election Material is to be submitted electronically to UniPrint. Each individual piece of prospective Election Material must be accompanied by a completed ‘Election Material Costing Form’. The Returning Officer shall issue a receipt for Election Material lodged. Election Material Costed by the Returning Officer shall be sent directly to the Guild Printing Services.

➤ **10.00am Tuesday 1 September 2026**

If any Election Material is deemed to be Uncosted, then candidates may retrieve a copy of their Uncosted Election Material from the Returning Officer (or Guild Administration), together with an explanation of why material was Uncosted.

➤ **1.00pm - 4.00pm Tuesday 1 September 2026**

The Returning Officer will be available for consultation within these hours. Candidates will have only one opportunity to resubmit material that has been declared Uncosted.

➤ **10.00am Wednesday 2 September 2026**

This is the Deadline for re-submission of modified Election Material.

➤ **8.00am - 11.00am Friday 4 September 2026**

Costed Election Material, printed and stamped with the 2026 official Guild Election “COSTED” stamp, shall be available for collection. Candidates shall make payment and collect their material from the Returning Officer or Guild Finance, 1st Floor, Guild Building.

SECOND APPROVAL CYCLE PROCEDURE

➤ **10.00am Monday 7 September 2026**

This is the deadline for first submission of Election Material. Two Copies to be submitted; One copy of prospective Election Material, stating “Authorised By” and the name and phone number of the authoriser is to be submitted to the Returning Officer, accompanied by a completed ‘Election Material Costing Form’ **AND** one copy of original Election Material is to be submitted electronically to UniPrint. Each individual piece of prospective Election Material must be accompanied by a completed ‘Election Material Costing Form’. The Returning Officer shall issue a receipt for Election Material lodged. Election Material Costed by the Returning Officer shall be sent directly to the Guild Printing Services.

➤ **10.00am Tuesday 8 September 2026**

A list of the authoriser’s of Uncosted Election Material shall be posted on the Guild noticeboard. Candidates may retrieve a copy of their Uncosted Election Material from Guild Administration, together with an explanation of why the material was Uncosted.

➤ **1.00pm - 4.00pm Tuesday 8 September 2026**

The Returning Officer will be available for consultation within these hours. Candidates will have only one opportunity to resubmit material declared Uncosted.

➤ **10.00am Wednesday 9 September 2026**

This is the Deadline for re-submission of modified Election Material.

➤ **8.00am - 11.00am Friday 11 September 2026**

Costed Election Material, printed and stamped with the 2026 official Guild Election "COSTED" stamp, shall be available for collection. Candidates shall make payment and then collect their material from the Returning Officer or Guild Finance, 1st Floor, Guild Building.

Distribution

Election Material may NOT be affixed or attached to any area by anyone other than those persons specifically appointed by the Returning Officer. No person may **remove, alter, deface, obstruct or affix** Election Material to a prescribed area.

There are no limitations on the handing out of leaflets or election material provided the material has been COSTED. Candidates may distribute their material or leave it for persons to collect. **NOTE: Candidates must NOT leave big piles around as they may be stolen or removed by the cleaners.** No person shall be permitted to remove a candidate's authorised Election Material unless duly authorised by that candidate or the Returning Officer. Any person disobeying this ruling may be charged with misconduct.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

- Distributing of unauthorised material
- Defacing, altering, confiscating other candidate's Election Material
- Interfering with the conduct of the election
- Violent, abusive or disruptive behaviour

Campaigning and Distribution

Campaigning is limited to the University Campus only. **Please Note:** residential colleges are NOT part of the University Campus.

PARTICIPATING IN THE ABOVE PROHIBITED CONDUCT MAY LEAD TO A CHARGE OF MISCONDUCT.

'How to Vote' Material

Although 'How to Votes' are Costed, they do not impact upon a candidates' expenditure limit. They must be Costed during one of the two approval cycles. 'How to Votes' must be printed through Guild Printing Service (or a supplier Costed by the Returning Officer) like other Election Material and must be paid for as set out above.

GROUPS

Group Names and Colours

There will be no restrictions on Group names or colours unless use of either a Group name or colour is deemed by the Returning Officer to be inappropriate or misleading. As a general guideline the name of a Guild Department, Division, Club or Affiliated Society will be deemed as inappropriate.

While not restricting a group's choice of colour, the Guild Printing Service has a relatively limited range. The range is normally limited to: Blue, Yellow, Pink, Purple, Green and Red - Regulation 65 refers to colours.

In accordance with Regulation 62 the Returning Officer will reject a group name if:

- it comprises more than 4 words or 25 characters;
- it is obscene or in poor taste in the opinion of the Returning Officer;
- it is the name, or is an abbreviation or acronym of the name of another group already accepted for the election;
- it so nearly resembles the name, or abbreviation or acronym of the name, of another group name already accepted for the election that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that group or that abbreviation or acronym, as the case may be;
- it comprises the words "Independent Party" or comprises or contains the word "independent"; or
- it in the opinion of the Returning Officer, has the potential to interfere with the fair conduct of the Election.

By close of Group Registrations all groups must have submitted a completed Group Registration Form appointing a Group Agent and providing contact information for that agent.

Group and candidate expenditure

Groups are in the habit of producing material on behalf of all the candidates within the group. It is important, however, that the individual candidate's expenditure be kept in mind. The cost of material that deals with the general group objective must be spread

across all candidates within that group. Group members may NOT 'donate' parts of their expenditure to other candidates within that group, nor may they contribute more to the cost of general material than other candidates within their group.

In the past, groups have produced material that contains both Candidate specific information and general information. Where this occurs, the cost of that material will have to be distributed appropriately. Such distribution is at the discretion of the Returning Officer.

Groups should make it easy on themselves by ensuring that 'mixed' material is comprised of easily divided components. For example, an A4 sheet that is divided as, one half general group information, one quarter candidate X, one quarter candidate Y, would be appropriate. In addition, there is no guarantee that complex compositions will be divided by the Returning Officer in precisely the way envisaged by the authoriser.

BROADSHEET

There will no Broadsheet again in 2026, however please review the two sections (on page 4 of this Handbook) regarding Election Statements to be published on the Elections website; **Group Statements** (from Registered Groups) and **Personal Statements**:

- **Registered Groups** www.uwastudentguild.com/student-representation/elections/registered-groups and
- **Personal Statements by Candidates** www.uwastudentguild.com/student-representation/elections/personal-statements.

VOTING AND COUNTING SYSTEM

Voting at the Guild Elections is NOT COMPULSORY. Guild Elections use an optional preferential voting system. Voters must place the number 1 in the square of the candidate of their choice. They may then, if they wish, show further sequential preferences for ANY or ALL of the remaining candidates.

A proportional representation system for the counting of votes is used. This means that successful candidates must receive sufficient votes to reach a 'quota' and therefore do not necessarily require a majority of votes to be elected.

Full details of the calculation of quota and the method of the transfer of votes from one candidate to another are contained in the Election Regulations, Schedule 2 'Rule of Optional Proportional Representation'.

Appointment of Scrutineers: A candidate may appoint in writing one scrutineer (see Regulation 19) who may attend and observe the counting of the ballot papers relating to the position for which the candidate is seeking election (provided that no scrutineer shall be a candidate in that election). The Appointment of Scrutineer form can be downloaded on Elections website: [www.uwastudentguild.com/assets/downloads/elections/appointment-of-scrutineer-form-\(2026\).pdf](http://www.uwastudentguild.com/assets/downloads/elections/appointment-of-scrutineer-form-(2026).pdf)

This form may be submitted at any time to the Returning Officer or the Officer conducting the count. A candidate may appoint more than one person as scrutineer for a count but **only one may attend at any given time**.

ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS

Generally all enrolled students may participate in the elections, however see Election Regulations '**Part 5 – Eligibility to participate in election**' for exceptions (including Schedule 1 of the Regulations).

Non-UWA students are NOT permitted to campaign during the Guild or NUS Elections.

The UWA Elections are CLOSED to non-UWA students and candidates. This means that to be a candidate or to campaign for someone who is a candidate, the person must be an enrolled as a UWA Student.

All candidates and people who are campaigning for candidates must carry with them their own UWA student ID card. Failure to produce this card when asked to do so will result in the non-UWA student being asked to leave or subsequently removed from Campus by UWA Security.

Candidates and campaigners are asked to openly display their UWA student ID when campaigning. It is recommended that the ID card is placed in a lanyard and hung around neck.

OFFENCES

An electoral offence is a serious matter. Offences carry heavy penalties and participants should make themselves acquainted with their obligations.

Election Offences:

Based on the Regulations, Part 13 – Offences & Misconduct, Regulation 141: A person commits an election offence if that person, in relation to an election under these regulations:

- (a) offers a bribe or exerts undue influence, directly or indirectly, on a voter, candidate or electoral official; or
- (b) canvasses for votes in a polling place; or
- (c) interferes with and infringes the secrecy of the ballot; or
- (d) acts in a position or contests an election while disqualified from doing so under the Student General Regulations or these regulations; or
- (e) falsely impersonates another person; or
- (f) destroys or defaces a ballot paper, ballot box or election notice with the intention to defraud; or
- (g) deposits a ballot paper in a ballot box, returns a postal ballot paper through the mail, or removes a ballot paper from a polling place or counting centre with the intention to defraud; or
- (h) forges a nomination, ballot paper or electoral form; or
- (i) fails to obey a lawful instruction of the officer-in-charge within a polling place or counting centre; or
- (j) supplies ballot papers without authority; or
- (k) vote more than once for the same position in the same election; or
- (l) cast more than one vote in the same election in contravention of regulation 56(4); or
- (m) defaces, mutilates, destroys or removes any notice, list or other document affixed by the returning officer or by their authority; or
- (n) makes a false statement in any claim, application, return or declaration or in answer to a question under these regulations; or
- (o) distributes any advertisement, handbill or pamphlet which is not approved as prescribed under these regulations or is otherwise published in contravention of these regulations; or
- (p) in the case of an electoral official, candidate or scrutineer, wears or displays, a badge or emblem of a candidate or group in a polling place during polling or at a counting centre during counting; or
- (q) obstructs an election meeting; or
- (r) hinders, obstructs or prevents an electoral official or candidate from discharging their duties or exercising their rights; or
- (s) defaces, mutilates, removes or interferes with election material without authority from the returning officer; or
- (t) interferes with, defaces or destroys a ballot paper, electoral form, nomination, official electoral notice, ballot box, nomination receptacle, lock, seal, electoral roll or other significant object pertaining to the election; or
- (u) brings alcohol to a polling place or counting centre; or
- (v) engages in disorderly conduct at a polling place or counting centre; or
- (w) in the case of a candidate, remains within 5 metres of a voting enclosure after a formal warning; or
- (x) distributes or displays election material within 5 metres of a voting enclosure following a formal verbal warning; or
- (y) duplicates, conceals or unlawfully marks a ballot paper; or
- (z) witnesses an electoral paper which has not been completed; or
- (za) witnesses a signature without actually seeing the person concerned write that signature; or
- (zb) acts as a witness on an electoral form whilst being a candidate or group agent; or
- (zc) hinders, obstructs or prevents an electoral official or candidate from discharging a duty or exercising a right under these regulations; or
- (zd) directly or indirectly attempts to induce an electoral official to alter the course of an election; or
- (ze) in the case of a candidate, exceed their expenditure limit as prescribed in the Election Handbook; or
- (zf) in the case of a candidate, breaches the 'Candidate Code of Conduct' set out in Schedule 3; or
- (zg) distributes or authorises the distribution of uncosted election material; or
- (zh) fails to obey a determination of the returning officer; or
- (zi) disobeys the lawful and reasonable directions of Guild employees or the returning officer.

GUILD MISCONDUCT

An election offence constitutes a form of Guild misconduct under the Student General Regulations. Such offences may be referred to the Guild Misconduct Tribunal for consideration, while the Returning Officer retains jurisdiction over the election offences listed above.

CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to participate in the election all candidates must sign the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct can be downloaded from the Guild Elections website, under Information for Candidates or is accessible via the link below:

www.uwastudentguild.com/assets/downloads/elections/code-of-conduct-2026.pdf

GRIEVANCES

In 2026 a process will be set up for students to log grievances for breaches of the Charter of Student Rights of the Student Election Code of Conduct and of the Student Guild Election Regulations. Candidates will be informed as soon as practicable when a serious complaint is lodged against them.

All grievances must be emailed to the Returning Officer who will then refer the matter as per Regulation 144(4): Subject to regulation 145 and depending on the nature of the complaint, the Returning Officer must:

- (a) refer the complaint to the Guild Misconduct Tribunal to be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out in Part 7 of the Student General Regulations; or
- (b) engage the Election Offences Tribunal to deal with the complaint as set out in regulation 148.

ELECTION OFFENCES TRIBUNAL

The Election Offences Tribunal investigates alleged election offences during an election and determines whether an offence has been proven. Where appropriate, the Election Offences Tribunal may refer matters to the Guild Misconduct Tribunal or other relevant University bodies.

The Election Offences Tribunal membership consists of the Returning Officer (Mary Petrou), the Managing Director (Tony Goodman) and Finance & Corporate Services Director (Mutya Maragiot-Joseph) or an alternative Guild employee, appointed at the Managing Director's discretion.

Please see regulations 146 - 149 for more information regarding Election Offences Tribunal.

GUILD MISCONDUCT TRIBUNAL

The Guild Misconduct Tribunal will consist of the Managing Director (Tony Goodman), the Guild HR Manager (Christina Young) and Chair of Guild Council (Yasaswi Shrestha). An additional Guild staff member may be included in the tribunal, if deemed necessary.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

There are two avenues for discipline that can be used during Elections.

- (1) In the case of breaches to the Election Regulations that are considered to be Misconducts based on Part 13, they should be reported to the Returning Officer and will be ruled on and dealt with by them. The Returning Officer will be primarily dealing with administrative issues and any misconducts which directly relate to the electoral process (e.g. forging ballots, going over the printing caps).
- (2) Breaches to the Code of Conduct, or Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities, come under the purview of the Guild Misconduct Tribunal. Serious misconducts will be referred to the UWA Board of Discipline. The UWA Board of Discipline has the power to suspend and expel students, and thus will be covering any serious misconducts that might occur during the election period. The University will be taking their role in dealing with poor conduct that occurs in the election very seriously.

DISPUTED RETURN

A Disputed Return must be submitted in writing to the Returning Officer, who will endeavour to respond within 24 hours where practicable. In some circumstances, the Managing Director may also be consulted to assist in resolving Disputed Returns.

BOOTH BANS

Booth bans will apply during Polling Week for breaches of the Guild Election Regulations.

The Returning Officer will set a time and date that the Booth Ban will apply, for both the person who has breached the Election Regulations AND the Presidential Candidate for that Group. Once a determination has been reached, the Booth Ban will apply across ALL polling places. All Group Agents & Independent Candidates will be informed of the Returning Officer's determination with regards to any or all Booth Bans.

If individuals from the same Group/Party continue to breach the Election Regulations, then the Returning Officer may make a determination to apply a Booth Ban to the whole group

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