

In addition to the Constitutional Requirements (Article 11), Candidates running in any MISU Election or By-Election must adhere to the following regulations. It is the responsibility of each candidate and their campaign team to read these regulations in full and to ensure they are adhered to, and to seek clarification where required by emailing returningofficer@misu.ie

Any current member of the MISU Executive Committee, who is running for election, cannot use their current position in campaigning and they must keep their current MISU Executive Committee role separate to their campaign. 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 immediate disqualification from the election process.

1. Nominations

- 1.1 Each prospective candidate must be a member of Mary I Students' Union (MISU) as defined by the MISU Constitution. The Returning Officer has the right to verify the student status of all prospective candidates.
- 1.2 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 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.
- 1.3 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 nomination form for the Election / By-Election. Failure to submit the required documentation in full 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.
- 1.4 Nomination forms shall be signed (digitally) by the prospective candidate and signed (digitally) by twenty proposers. The proposers must be registered students of the College and must complete their own details on the nomination form. Should the Returning Officer have any doubt on this, the Returning Officer can deem the nomination form to be invalid and the candidate will not be eligible to stand in the MISU election. The decision of the Returning Officer in this regard shall be final and not open to appeal.

2. Announcement of Candidates

- 2.1 The Returning Officer or their nominee will publish the following information outside the MISU Offices, on the MISU website and MISU Social Media Sites:
 - 2.1.1 The names of all candidates submitting valid nomination papers.
 - 2.1.2 The manifesto provided by each candidate.
 - 2.1.3 The date of the election.
 - 2.1.4 The times and methods by which votes may be cast.
 - 2.1.5 The date, time and location of Hustings
 - 2.1.6 Details of any invalid nomination papers

3. Campaigning

- 3.1 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. (section 4)
- 3.2 Any breach of 3.1 shall result in the candidate receiving a sanction from the Returning Officer.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Candidates shall ,at all times, treat their fellow candidates with dignity and respect.
- 3.5 Any breach of 3.4 shall result in the candidate receiving a sanction from the Returning Officer.
- 3.6 All candidates are solely responsible for all of their campaigning materials, literature, and the conduct of their campaigners as well as any campaigning materials distributed in hard or soft copy by their campaigners.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 No emails are to be sent by any student promoting a candidate to any student with a @micstudent.mic.ul.ie or @mic.ul.ie account. This includes asking people to email on your behalf. Any breach of this shall result in the candidate receiving a sanction from the Returning Officer.
- 3.9 Candidates or their agents who do take up the option to canvass through social media forums must provide details of all social media sites they are using for this purpose. This should be done by emailing the social media site links / usernames to the Returning Officer.
- 3.10 Any candidate who campaigns through a social media forum, which they have not informed the Returning Officer of, shall result in the candidate receiving a sanction from the Returning Officer.
- 3.11 Approved social media pages may only be published publicly after the meeting with the Returning Officer, as per 3.1 above. Any candidate who is in breach of this regulation shall be subject to sanction by the Returning Officer.
- 3.12 Links to / usernames of the social media sites which will be used for campaigning must be emailed to the Returning Officer by 6:00pm on Thursday 1st December 2022. Any breach of this shall result in the candidate receiving a sanction from the Returning Officer.
- 3.13 The use of the MISU logo is not permitted on any electioneering materials and any such use shall result in the candidate's disqualification from the MISU Election process.
- 3.14 Candidates are restricted to hanging their posters in designated areas, which they will be notified of at the candidate's briefing with the Returning Officer.
- 3.15 All election material must be removed by 10:00am on the morning after the election.
- 3.16 Election candidates will have to adhere to the set spending cap of €250 (monetary value). Posters, as mentioned in 3.14, are exempt from this cap.

- 3.17 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.
- 3.18 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.
- 3.19 Where there is a physical polling station, candidates and their supporters will be excluded from canvassing 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.
- 3.20 Candidates and their supporters will be excluded from distributing or displaying campaign material in a pre-defined area around the polling station (where one has been set-up) as determined by the Returning Officer. Any breach of this regulation shall result in the candidate's disqualification from the MISU Election.
- 3.21 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.
- 3.22 Candidates cannot enter into any agreements with any nightclubs or bars 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.
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- 3.24 Alcohol is not permitted as part of campaigning. Any breach of this regulation shall result in the candidate's immediate disqualification from the MISU Election.

4. Candidates' Briefing

- 4.1 All candidates must attend the candidate briefing. If any candidate does not attend, they risk disqualification from the elections. The briefing may be in -person, virtual or hybrid which will be at the discretion of the Returning Officer
- 4.2 The briefing will take place at a time determined by the Returning Officer and where the briefing is to be held in person or hybrid, it will take place in the MISU Meeting Room. This will be confirmed by the Returning Officer once nominations close.
- 4.3 Candidates may bring up to one student supporter (a member of their campaign team) to the briefing.
- 4.4 Candidates will have the opportunity to put questions to the Returning Officer about campaigning, the voting process and the regulations.

5. Returning Officer Disciplinary Powers

5.1 All candidates must adhere to MISU Election Regulations.

5.2 If a candidate or a member of their team breaches any of the above regulations or any of the regulations of the MISU Constitution, the Returning Officer can discipline the candidate by:

5.1.1 Public Reprimand;

5.1.2 Expulsion from Hustings;

5.1.3 Expulsion from Campaigning either in person or through Social Media platforms or both;

5.1.4 Suspension from campaigning for any or all of the MISU election process, either in person or through Social Media Platforms or both;

5.1.5 Disqualification from the election during the election process, up to and following the announcement of results.

6. Election Observers

6.1 Election Observers may be employed by MISU on behalf of the Returning Officer.

6.2 Election Observers will monitor electioneering activities to ensure adherence to these regulations.

6.3 The Election Observers will also monitor social media activity prior to the election process commencing and during the election process to ensure the above regulations are not breached.

6.4 The Election Observers are responsible for monitoring all electioneering activities and they shall report on any regulation breach(s) to the Returning Officer who will be entitled to take such action as may be appropriate, up to and including disqualification from the election if deemed appropriate.

By signing this document, I am confirming the following:

- **I have read the above Regulations**
- **I understand the above Regulations and I agree to abide by these Regulations**
- **I understand the sanctions I will be subject to, if I breach any of the Regulations or any articles of the MISU Constitution.**

Signed: _____

Date: _____