YOUR STUDENTS ASSOCIATIONS' ELECTIONS

Nominations Guidebook



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KEY DATES

Date	Event	
Monday 29 th January (10:00)	Nominations Open Students will be able to nominate themselves by going to <u>https://forms.office.com/e/8iVyZaA4mv</u> for 31 days.	
Thursday 29 th February	Nominations Close	
(10:00)	Nominations on the website will close at this point.	
Thursday 29 th February (16:00)	Candidates' Materials DEADLINE In order for Your Students' Association to publicise you as a candidate, this is the point where you should have: - Submitted your Photo - Submitted your Video - Submitted your Pledges - Submitted your Poster	
Friday 1 st March (10:00)	Announcement of Candidates Those who have been nominated for their respective positions will be announced on this date.	
Monday 4 th March (10:00)	Supported Campaign Period Begins Your Students' Association displays and distributes all candidate material and voting promotional material in order to promote the candidates up for election.	
Monday 11 th March (10:00)	Voting opens Students are able to vote for their chosen candidate(s) from this date.	
Tuesday 12 th March – Thursday 14 th March (08:30)	Morning BriefingsYou'll be briefed on what to expect and what tactics to use in order to generate votes. These tactics will vary from day to day.You'll be given a breakdown of the previous day's turnout performance (Wed & Thu) - You'll be informed what happens after voting closes.	
Thursday 14 th March (12:00)	Voting Closes and Supported Campaign Period EndsNo students can vote after 12pm.	
Thursday 14 th March (12:30)	Candidates Debrief This is a short (15 min) chat to discuss format of release of results, what Your Students' Association is doing beforehand, and what candidates can do while they wait.	
Thursday 14 th March (14:00)	Expenses Submission <u>DEADLINE</u> Candidates must submit their expenses by this deadline, to the form you were provided via your student e-mail.	

Results are announced

Successful candidates will be announced at this time.

(Announcement of the Election results is dependent on candidate expenses being submitted on time, complaints being handled in full and all other urgent election matters being handled.)

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations! By opening this nominations guidebook, you have taken the first step to becoming an elected officer at Your Students' Association.

Your Students' Association is an organisation led by students, for students. Every year, students elect from amongst themselves, the new leadership team of Your Students' Association. This is a great opportunity for you to represent your fellow students and change the student experience for the better.

Your Students' Association exists to represent all students in the Highlands, Islands, Perthshire and Argyll – whatever you study, wherever you study. There are a range of different roles available where you can leave a legacy for students in your region and where you learn.

For more information about Your Students' Association, visit www.hisa.uhi.ac.uk

Elected officers represent the voice of students. They sit on the highest decision-making bodies of UHI and its academic partners, meet with local and national politicians, and campaign for change. They do all this to help change people's lives.

To become a Student Officer, you don't need to submit a CV, attend an interview or have any prior experience. All you need is a vision of how being a student could be better, and to secure the support of your fellow students in an election.

This nominations guidebook will help to guide you through the key things you need to know for the elections.

WHAT IS YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION?

Your Students' Association is the legally recognised representative body for students studying at the University of the Highlands and Islands and each of its academic partners. We are independent of UHI and aim to act as a critical friend/support system for their students.

Your Students' Association's role is to ensure that students' voices are heard. This can be in terms of their teaching and learning experience, the support they receive and the services they need. It also represents students on issues that UHI or its academic partners, don't control – such as travel, housing, and health. Student Officers meet regularly with MPs and MSPs and work with the National Union of Students (NUS) to influence decisions that affect students.

All enrolled students are members of the Students' Association and able to vote, unless they advise Your Students' Association that they wish to 'opt out' and not be a member.

HOW IS YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION RUN?

Your Students' Association is a member-led organisation – run by students, for students. Only students may nominate themselves in its elections, and vote for its officers. This ensures that when it comes to speaking for students, it is the students themselves who do so.

Democracy is a key value of any Students' Association. Every year elections are run to choose the leadership of Your Students' Association. This means that those who lead Your Students' Association are representative of the student body and are recognised by UHI and its academic partners as having a legitimate mandate to speak on students' behalf.

It is important that students continually inform the work of Your Students' Association and its officers. Local Officers regularly engage with Student Voice Reps (SVR) at their academic partner, in order to gain a better understanding of the broader student experience. Local Officers also have a role on the Executive Committee, so that their experiences can shape the work of Your Students' Association and assist the Cross-Campus Officers

Throughout the year, Your Students' Association run events called All Student Meetings. These are annual conferences where student representatives from across the region meet to discuss the experience of being

a student and shape Your Students' Association's work. Your Students' Association also provides opportunities for students to engage with NUS Scotland and other national agencies so that important decision-makers are influenced by our fellow students' experiences.

Your Students' Association has a team of around 22 members of full-time and part-time staff. Their role is to ensure the smooth running of the organisation and to provide direct support to every Cross-Campus and Local Officer at Your Students' Association. The staff help every Officer with their work to ensure they are successful in their role and deliver their pledges to Your Students' Association's student members across UHI.

WHY BECOME A STUDENT OFFICER?

The role of a Student Officer is a job like no other. You do not need prior experience as you will have a team of dedicated staff who will support you. Furthermore, being a Student Officer is the best way to make a positive impact for all those that study at UHI and its academic partners.

Your Students' Association has a track record of success in changing students' lives, both inside and outside of the classroom – from learning quality and housing, to student finance. In every case, this change has been led by students like you. If you have a vision for how being a student could be better, and a passion for improving the student experience, there is an officer role for you.

If you are already a Student Voice Rep, becoming an officer can be a great next step. It offers you an even bigger opportunity to help your fellow students and can even lead to exciting new career opportunities, both inside and outside of Your Students' Association.

If you are interested in knowing more about what officers do, email returningofficer@uhi.ac.uk and ask about local officers at your academic partner.

<u>Florence Jansen</u> Local Officer (2018-2020) HISA Regional President (2020-2022)

"Being a HISA officer, both locally and regionally, has set me up for my future in addition to what my course had to offer. I have learned many skills and what it truly means to be in a leadership role."



THE ROLES

There are two categories of roles available in Your Students' Association's election – cross-campus and local. Cross-Campus Officer roles are all full-time positions that represent all students at UHI. Local Officers are lead student representatives at each of the academic partners of UHI. These local roles vary depending on the nature of the academic partner.

Cross-Campus Officers can work from any UHI academic partner.

Local Officers must work from the academic partner they are enrolled at.

Full role descriptions for all roles are found on Your Students' Association's elections website available at https://hisa.uhi.ac.uk/studentvoice/elections

CROSS-CAMPUS ROLES

PRESIDENT

The President is the leader and figurehead of the students' association. As President, you will:

- Lead the Students Association's Executive Team
- Lead on the Student Associations' Development
- Lead on the Partnership with UHI and external affiliations
- Be a Trustee of the Association

VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION

As the Vice President Education – or VPE – you will:

- Lead on the student learning experience
- Champion and help co-ordinate the Student Voice Rep system
- Co-ordinate and implement relevant campaigns on academic issues
- Be a Trustee of the Association

LOCAL ROLES

At each academic partner, there will be a student officer with a responsibility to represent students on a local basis. Local Officers are lead student representatives at each academic partner. The nature of these

positions varies at each academic partner, and is explained further in this guidebook – if you feel you can make a change, there is a position for you!

Local Officers are responsible for ensuring the voices of students are heard by their academic partner. They engage closely with Student Voice Reps, represent the student voice to senior management, and organise events. Local Officers have a seat on Executive Committees, ensuring student voices are shaping Your Students' Association's work.

You will be the recognised student leader for where you are taught. As Cross-Campus Officers are responsible for representing students across the region, Local Officers are responsible for representing students at their academic partner.

All local Your Students' Association branches have at least one Local Officer. UHI Inverness, UHI Moray & UHI Perth have two Local Officers. UHI North, West & Hebrides have three Local Officers.

As a Local Officer, you are the lead student representative for your academic partner. You will play a key leadership role in representing the student voice at your academic partner and will work closely with other students and staff to do so. Your role will be to champion the development of students at your academic partner, to enhance their learning experience and to ensure the student voice is heard both locally and regionally.

Representing your fellow students at a LOCAL level:

You also play a role in representing students at your academic partner, to external bodies and organisations within your community. Such as the local council, to promote ideas and policies important to the needs of your fellow students. Throughout the year you should attend all Student Voice Rep meetings. This is in an incredibly important way to engage with students at your academic partner!

There will be key members of staff at your academic partner that you will work with. Depending on which academic partner you study at, you will be one of two student members on the Board of Management – the governing body of your academic partner. The Local Officer role is expected to provide student representation on the Board of Management and linked committees, and support is provided by both Your Students' Association staff and board staff to ensure officers can fully engage in meetings. Engaging with members of staff, such as the academic partner Principal or those with responsibility for the student experience, is an important part of carrying out your role.

Students can only run for Local Officer Roles at the academic partner to which they are a student. Furthermore, candidates for a Local Officer position **MUST** live locally to the area of their academic partner (eg: close enough to the campus that you are able to travel in time for your work hours.)

Representing your fellow students at a CROSS-CAMPUS level:

Within the Highlands and Islands Students' Association, you are a full voting member of its Executive Committee.

Decisions are made at a regional level that impact upon the learning experience of all students, including those at your academic partner. The Principal Officers of Your Students' Association are the student representatives that sit on those regional bodies and whose decisions affect all students in the university partnership. The Depute Presidents play a vital role to support the Principal Officers and ensure that they understand the feelings and views of the students at the academic partner they represent.

Term of Office:

Candidates that are elected, do not take up post immediately after the election. However, candidates that are elected are called "Officers-elect" and receive an honorary title until they officially take up the post. For example, if you were elected to the role of Inverness President the title would be "Inverness President-elect." Officers-elect take up the post for the next academic term. There will be a full schedule of training and induction for officers to support them in their role. Officers-elect must submit proof of identification, the required right to work forms and undergo a successful Disclosure Scotland PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) check to be able to take up the officer position.



Gabbi Starr, HISA Inverness President 2017-18 at BBC studios.

HOURS AND PAY

The Cross-Campus Officers are full-time sabbatical positions and offer a starting salary of £20,020 per annum.

Students who are elected as Cross-Campus Officers take a year's break from their studies to perform the role. This position can involve working evenings due to meetings and other commitments, including occasional weekend travel and events.

Local Officers are paid, part-time positions (with the exception of the UHI Perth President position which is full-time). Local Officers are currently paid an hourly rate of £11.33. The number of hours that Local Officers work is dependent on their academic partner.

They are as follows:

Academic Partner	Role	Hours (per week)
Highland Theological College	Depute President	10 Hours
Scottish Association for Marine Science	Depute President	10 Hours
UHI Argyll	Depute President	12 Hours
UHI Inverness	Inverness President	15-17 Hours
	Depute President	15-17 Hours
UHI Moray	Depute President	15 Hours
	Depute President	15 Hours
UHI North, West & Hebrides	Depute President (North)	12 Hours
	Depute President (West)	12 Hours
	Depute President (Islands)	12 Hours
UHI Orkney	Depute President	12 Hours
UHI Perth	Perth President	35 Hours (Full-Time – Sabbatical)
	Depute President	10 Hours
UHI Shetland	Depute President	12 Hours

TRAINING FOR SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

All candidates who are successfully elected into their chosen roles, must attend a series of external training dates, in order to network with other Officers, learn more about the issues currently affecting the student experience, and develop vital skills that will help you to support students to the best of your ability. The main external training dates are provided below, with some extra detail on how they aim to help you develop as an Officer. However, these may not be the only events you will be expected to attend, during your time as a student Officer. More info on these events will be provided to you, before you are registered to attend.

Training Event	Date	Information	Which Officers Should Attend
Officer Training week	Week Beginning 1 st July 2024	This training is done internally by Your Students' Association and will aim to provide crucial information regarding how the students association runs, while also giving new officers the opportunity to voice any concerns and lay out their plans for their time as a student officer. Even if you are a Local Officer and have not officially taken up your post yet, you must still attend these training days. More information on these events will be provided once you have been successfully elected.	This training is for all officers.
NUS College Lead and Change	Week Beginning 8th July 2024 (Provisionally)	This training course designed to empower student leaders to bring about positive change within your associations and beyond. Led by experienced NUS Charity staff members, this event will provide officers with the tools, knowledge, and inspiration to make a lasting impact during their year in office.	This training is available to all officers. However, the number who attend may be decided on a first come, first served basis.
Sparqs' That's Quality! (Online)	TBC	The first part of this training is a half-day, sector-specific online event. The second part is an online self-study module, providing officers with a more detailed overview of quality in Scotland and is	VP Education and Full-Time Officers

		designed to be used throughout an officer's time in office.	
Sparqs' That's Quality! (Residential)	5-6 August 2024 (Provisionally)	This training is a two-day residential, with a dinner on the first evening, allowing for social and networking opportunities. It provides a valuable addition to your planned induction for new officers - introducing participants to the quality enhancement agenda, looking at why quality matters to students and how to use it to make change.	VP Education and Full-Time Officers
CDN Student Board Member Training	Early September 2024 (Provisionally)	This training is led by CDN, NUS Scotland and Sparqs, and looks at college governance in the context of students' association activity and connection with student officer roles. It also includes an expert panel, with a Principal, Board Chair, experienced student member and governance professional from across the Scottish college sector.	All Depute President roles
NUS Scotland Conference	Early/Mid 2025 TBC	Every year NUS Scotland holds a conference of student representatives in Scotland, to decide which campaigns and policy work should be taken forward. Students are elected to lead the work of NUS Scotland by voting on policies, taking part in workshops and attending panels, in order to shape the changes that NUS will work for in the coming year.	Cross-Campus President, VP Education and Full- Time Officers
NUS Liberation Conference	Early/Mid 2025 TBC	This conference occurs annually. It provides students from liberation groups the opportunity to set the direction for the NUS' Liberation campaigns and to elect their officers and committee. The main activity of this Conference is to debate and vote on motions, in order to determine which will become the official NUS policy. There are 5 NUS Liberation campaigns which are designed to represent: Women students, Black students, Trans students, LGBTQ+ students & Disabled students	A selection of Local Officers who fit into one of the 5 liberation groups listed in the previous section.

NUS National Early Conference	//Mid 2025 TBC	This conference is the sovereign body of the NUS - it sets policy for the year ahead and elects the NUS President, Vice Presidents and the NUS National Executive Council. It is also where the budget for the year ahead is decided through the Annual General Meeting (AGM).	Cross-Campus President, VP Education and Full- Time Officers
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ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

This section explains what positions you are eligible to run for.

Students can run for election in one position only. Students can only run for Local Officer roles at the academic partner to which they are a student. Furthermore, a candidate may only run for a Cross-Campus Officer role or a Local Officer role, not both.

To be eligible for a position as a student officer, elected officers must successfully undergo a Disclosure Scotland PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) check before they take on the position.

CROSS-CAMPUS OFFICERS

All roles are full-time, paid sabbatical positions. If you are successfully elected, you shall take a year's break from your studies to fulfil the duties of the position. Students who are in their final year and are due to graduate, will be eligible to stand as well, as long as they are registered as a student at the time of the election. The term of a full-time Cross-Campus Officer is from 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025. However, although the end date will remain the same, your start date will likely be later than stated if you are elected through a By-Election. In order to take up an elected Cross-Campus role you must also complete a Charity Trustee Declaration Form, which is available at: https://hisa.uhi.ac.uk/studentvoice/elections

To be eligible to stand for a Cross-Campus Officer role, you must be registered on any course at the University of the Highlands and Islands or any of its academic partners.

LOCAL OFFICERS

In order to stand for election as a Local Officer, you must be registered as a student at the academic partner you wish to hold the position for. If you are successful, you must also be an enrolled student at the

same time as the term of the Local Officer role. The term of a part-time Local Officer is from 1 August 2024 - 31 May 2025. However, although the end date will remain the same, your start date will likely be later than stated if you are elected through a By-Election. If you do not continue as a student in 2024-25, you will not be able to carry out the role of Local Officer.

If you study at UHI Perth, the position of Perth President is full-time. Therefore, as it is a sabbatical position, you do not need to be a student in 2024-25 to take on this role. If you are due to continue as a student, you will be required to take a break from your studies to carry out this role.

Students that have been in a paid officer position for two years, will not be eligible to stand in the 2024 Student Elections for the same post again. However, students who have been in a Local Officer position for two years can then, if they wish, stand for a Cross-Campus post.



Nurina Sharmin, HISA Perth Vice President for Education and Engagement 2017-18 at NUS Scotland conference.

NOMINATE YOURSELF!

Nominating yourself for a position is easy!

To nominate yourself for the officer role you want to run in, you need to complete an online form on Your Students' Association's website.

Go to <u>https://hisa.uhi.ac.uk</u> and login with your student details.

Click on the "elections" option on the front page under the "Student Voice" drop-down menu. Here you will find a "Nominate Yourself Today!" button.

This will take you to the nominations MS form where you will be asked for your:

- Name*
- Student Number*
- Photo (Only head and shoulders visible is recommended)**
- Poster**
- Pledges***
- Video***

*This is a requirement to submit on the form

**This is not a requirement, but it is advantageous as it enhances your visibility to voters.

***You do not need to submit this until the candidate materials deadline.

Once you submit your nominations form, it will be sent to the elections coordinator, who shall ensure that you are eligible to run in the position you have selected. After this check is complete, you will be sent an email to your student account, confirming your nomination and detailing the next steps.

A nominee is not officially accepted as a candidate until all candidates have been announced on Your Students' Association's website. You must refrain from campaigning, promoting or announcing your nomination, until the announcement of all candidates has been released by Your Students' Association.

Nominations must be received before the deadline, which can be found in the Key Dates section of this Guidebook.

CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

For every position, each candidate should submit the materials listed below. The deadline dates for these candidate materials are outlined in the key dates section at the start of this guidebook. Each of these materials are designed to support you in your campaign to be elected and have a positive effect on helping candidates publicise themselves effectively. The table below summarises how each aspect can have a truly positive impact on your campaign.

Material	Potential Impact
Pledges*	Your Pledges set out three major selling points: who you are, what you'd like to change for students and why you think it would help improve students' lives. Pledges give students an insight as to the issues you would focus on as their representative, which in turn gives students an insight into your character and potential as an officer.
Video*	A video is a great way to display passion and help students connect with you as a person. Students get to better see who you are and how you'll engage with them as their officer. After a face-to-face meeting and a live video chat, a recorded video is the best method to engage students. Remember to keep it under 1 minute, be as engaging as possible and stay on point!
Poster	A good poster summarises your pledges, highlights that you are standing for election and displays a photo of yourself. Again, like the pledges, it gives students an opportunity to see your creativity as well as your balance of casual and professional approach to students.

*Please note you can submit your pledges <u>as a video</u>. Simply upload the video on to YouTube or any other public video sharing website and add the link as your pledges.

Here's what each aspect is and how it is used by Your Students' Association:

Pledges

Pledges are the basis of your campaign. They express why students should support and vote for you, and what you will do if you are elected to that position. It is one of the most important ways for students to understand what you have to offer them, particularly those students you may not get the opportunity to meet while campaigning.

Your pledges will be uploaded onto Your Students' Association's website, either by yourself when you submit your nomination, or by Your Students' Association after the campaign materials deadline. Examples of what you may wish to include are: a short introduction of who you are, what you pledge to do if you are elected and your views on any important issues.

If you're not sure of the issues students face or what you'd do if you won your election, speak to your Student Voice Rep who will know of any key issues going on. Don't ask Your Students' Association's local team though – they can't give specific pledges advice, but they can give a friendly ear if you want to chat through any concerns. Read the role description of the role(s) you are interested in – not only will this tell you the specifics of the job but it can also give you some ideas on what to include in your pledges.

DON'T GO OVER THE WORD COUNT! The word limit is set to make our elections fair and if you go over it, then what is shared on Your Students' Association's website and elections page will be cut off on the 500th word.

Don't see your pledges as a cover letter for a job! Avoid long paragraphs or writing out all of your points. Focus on 3-6 of the ones you believe to be most important, use bullet points and try to make sure it's easy to understand, so students know what you are saying and what it is you want to do. Remember you can expand more when you go out and talk to students or if you plan to use digital campaigning in any way.

Submit everything before the deadline – This makes things a lot easier and also means that you can concentrate on your campaign plan! As well as this, late materials may not be accepted by Your Students' Association.

Guidance for what to include in your pledges, as well as a template, can be found on the elections web page available at: <u>https://hisa.uhi.ac.uk/studentvoice/elections</u>

Poster

A poster is a great visual for promoting your campaign and catching the eye of potential voters. Your poster will be displayed in the list of candidates, which will be available to students on Your Students' Association's website.

You must design your own poster. Posters must be submitted in pdf or jpeg formats only. If you have any queries regarding the poster, please contact the elections coordinator at returningofficer@uhi.ac.uk.

If you are not confident designing your own poster, you can find a template poster on the elections web page available at: <u>https://hisa.uhi.ac.uk/studentvoice/elections</u>. You will only need to submit key information and choose a colour scheme. Please note, this will be of a standard design format. Key information to add would be:

- Your name
- Your Photo
- Position applying for
- A 50-word summary of your pledges

Video

Videos are a great way to promote your campaign and to display who you are as a candidate to potential voters you may be unable to meet physically. Your video will be displayed on Your Students' Association's website among the other candidates.

You can make your video by using your phone or any other recording device. Keep it to less than 1 minute long. Your Students' Association will trim all videos at the 1-minute mark.

Hustings

As well as these materials, Your Students' Association will also be delivering live hustings events, giving candidates the opportunity to introduce themselves to voters and share their ideas. Each of these events will run for approximately 2 hours. The dates for these events will be communicated to nominees and students, a few weeks before they are scheduled to commence.

These events will function similarly to a town hall debate and consist of each candidate being asked the same set of pre-prepared questions. These questions will be circulated to all candidates before the date of the event. Your answers to each question must be no longer than one minute each – The chair of the hustings will stop you at 1 minute for each question. These hustings are not mandatory, however confirmation that you wish to take part, must be received via email at least 1 hour in advance of the event taking place. If you are unable to attend at these times but still wish to take part, you will be able to provide your answers and have them read out by the chair on the date of the event.

CANDIDATES BRIEFING

There are 3 aspects to candidates' Briefing, which candidates will be invited to. Candidates' Briefing is compulsory to attend. All Candidates must undergo the Rules, Ethics & Campaigning briefing, while only Cross-Campus candidates need to attend the Cross-Campus Officer Demographics Briefing, and only Local Officers need to attend the Local Officer Awareness Briefing. Candidates' Briefing is broken down into various elements, covering the essential information that will help you in your campaign.

Type of Briefing	Expected Content	Delivery Method(s)
Rules, Ethics & Campaigning Briefing (Mandatory)	 Election Rules Expected behaviours Mindset/tone How to campaign Your Students' Association's publicity support Your budget How students can vote for you 	Online video, Run regionally
Cross-Campus Officer Demographics Briefing	 How students can vote for you How Your Students' Association functions on a regional basis Information on how the various academic partners vote The demographics of Your Students' Association and how the academic partners differ 	Online video, Run Regionally
Local Officer Awareness Briefing	 Expectations for Officers at your local academic partner An introduction to members of Your Students' Association's local team. Local student demographics and the best ways to campaign. 	Online Via Teams, Run Locally

ELECTION RULES

All Your Students' Association's elections are governed by Schedule Six of Your Students' Association's Memorandum and Articles of Association which is available online at https://hisa.uhi.ac.uk/studentvoice/elections/electionrules

All candidates must abide by the University's policies and procedures and those of their academic partner. All candidates must obey the law.

Returning Officer and Depute Returning Officer:

The elections are overseen by the Returning Officer, who is responsible for the good conduct and administration of the elections and shall have the final interpretation of the election rules. The Returning Officer is assisted by a Depute Returning Officer.

The Depute Returning Officer's main role is to handle complaints regarding candidates and how the election has been administered within the parameters of Schedule Six of Your Students' Association's Memorandum and Articles of Association. They are contactable throughout the election period via returningofficer@uhi.ac.uk

Elections Co-ordinator:

Your Students' Association has separated out the roles of Depute Returning Officer and the Elections Coordinator, as the two roles are distinct. One person holding both roles, limits impartiality, should complaints about administering the election arise.

The Elections Co-ordinator leads and organises the elections. They are assigned the role of working with staff in order to structure the elections in ways that complies with Schedule Six and aims to maximise student engagement in the election. They do this by working with staff across the region. They are contactable throughout the election period at returningofficer@uhi.ac.uk

Your Students' Association Staff:

For the Nominations Period, Your Students' Association staff engage students through a variety of means, with a view to answering any questions they have about the elections, particularly standing for election. Your Students' Association staff are neutral throughout the election process and aim to recruit as many candidates as possible, to maximise the opportunity for the wider student body to choose who the students think will best represent them in the coming year.