

Candidate Guide: NUS Conference Delegate Elections 2020

Welcome to the 2020 NUS Conference Delegate elections!

This guide will tell you everything you need to know about being a candidate in this year's NUS Delegate Elections. Whether you're a 1st year, 2nd year or coming to the end of your studies, standing to be an NUS Delegate provides you a chance of being one of seven delegates who will go to next year's biggest student conference, to represent the students of Salford.

NUS are not just the people behind the discount card - the National Union of Students (NUS) represents all students in higher and further education across the UK on issues of national importance. Over 600 students' unions across the UK, including ours are affiliated members. NUS run an annual National Conference which next year will take place from the Monday 12th April – Tuesday 13th April in Liverpool

NUS have led on many high-profile campaigns, including those on fees and funding, changes to disabled students' allowance, welfare and students' rights, liberations issues affecting groups like LGBT, International students, Black students and many more.

The impact the pandemic has had on students in the last 8 months means National Conference is likely to be a hub of debate and discussion about how student issues will be dealt as the universities continue to navigate this every changing landscape.

So, if you are a student activist, involved in making change for Salford students, this is your chance to step up to the next level and make change on a national level!

We hope you decide to nominate yourself in this year's elections and wish you the best of luck with your campaign!

The USSU Elections Team

Benefits of being an NUS Delegate?

- You'll be voting on topics of national importance and having your say on the high-profile political work NUS undertakes
- You'll be representing the Salford student body – that's over 20,000 students!
- You'll experience an intriguing and exciting conference, meeting students from all over the UK
- As a low-commitment role, you can hold this position while studying and aside from the 3 days of the conference and an initial meeting with your fellow delegates, you won't need to spare any more time during the year
- This is a good way of experiencing Union elections, particularly if you are interested in running for one of our Sabbatical positions next semester!

Key Dates

Event	Date & Time	Location
Nominate Yourself	9am Monday 19 th January – 12 noon Friday 6 th November	Online
Candidate Information Session	4pm Friday 6 th November	Teams Meeting
Voting Week	9am Tuesday 10 th November – 4pm Thursday 12 th November	Online
Results	After 2pm Friday 13 th November	Online

Nominations

To nominate yourself you must complete the online nomination form by **midday on Friday 6th November**. The form is available at https://www.salfordstudents.com/user_groups/my_nominations

Only fully completed nomination forms will be accepted.

Expenditure

You can spend up to £25 of your own money on your campaign. **This will not be reimbursed by the Union.** You must produce receipts for all expenditure and tell us even if you don't spend anything. These must be handed in by the end of voting. You don't have to count "Labour costs", but hire, delivery, materials production and materials or distribution of consumables is counted

How does voting work

All elections will be carried out using the Alternative Vote system. This is a preferential system where the voter ranks the candidates in order of preference.

Each voter puts a '1' by their first choice candidate, a '2' by their second choice, and so on, until they no longer wish to express any further preferences or run out of candidates. You do not have to use all of your preferences.

At the 2014 NUS National Conference, delegates passed policy to ensure that delegations to National Conference would be made up of "at least 50% self-defining women, rounded down". As a result of this at least three of the seven delegates from Salford Students' Union must be self-defining women. As the President is an ex-officio delegate and self-defines as a woman the vote will be counted to ensure that at least two of the six elected delegates are self-defining women. If you would like further details on the specifics of the count, please contact elections-ussu@salford.ac.uk

Reopen Nominations - Every election will have reopen nominations (R.O.N). If there are no other candidates that you want to vote for you can choose reopen nominations to show your disapproval.

FAQ 's

Who can stand? - Any current student at Salford can stand to be an NUS Delegate. You must still be a student enrolled at Salford at the time conference takes place (April 2021).

If you want to discuss your specific circumstances, please email elections-ussu@salford.ac.uk

Isn't it just a popularity contest? - An election chooses the most popular person for the role and students have the final say in who that is. You'll have access to lots of information, training and support to ensure that you can run get as many students as possible to vote for you.

How much time will it take? - Not much at all! Our NUS Delegate elections are much shorter than our March elections and so are a great way to test the waters, if standing for a full-time officer position next year is something you are thinking about. Differences this year will mean that campaigning is limited to online material and the voting platform is hosted online too. All we ask is that you are available for the 2 days of the conference next year (12th-13th April) and have a little time to think about putting your 200 word manifesto together and how you'll get your name out there during the voting period, so people know to vote for you.

What happens if I don't get elected? - If you don't win you will still have had an amazing experience, made new friends and done new things. It takes a lot of skill and determination to put yourself out there and stand for election so be proud of yourself, whatever the outcome!