

# **MAKING POSTGRADS MATTER**

**GSA ELECTIONS  
2019**

## **CANDIDATE PACK**



**Graduate  
Students'  
Association**  
UNIVERSITY OF YORK

**YORKGSA.ORG/ELECTIONS  
#GSAELECTIONS**

# THANK YOU

Thank you for downloading this nomination pack and taking a keen interest in being a candidate in this year's Graduate Students' Association Elections!

The GSA is the primary representative body for all registered postgraduate students at the University of York. Postgraduates are automatically members of the GSA, are encouraged to take part in any of our activities, and are welcome to use any of our services.

The GSA represents postgraduate views on a variety of university committees, provide academic & welfare support and offers advice on all postgraduate matters.

We also aim to provide a social community for postgraduates through our dedicated postgraduate Welcome Week, regular events, trips and free sport.

As a democratic student-led organisation, voting for who will represent the views of postgraduates to the university is one of the most important tasks in the year. Whoever elected will be the voice for all postgraduates at the University of York.

Being an full-time officer of the GSA is an incredibly valuable experience. It's an opportunity to make significant changes within the university, as well as a way to learn a number of new skills and meet some great people.

But in order to get there you've got to win an election first. In order to do well you'll need to show that you know what motivates your fellow students and what their concerns are during their time at University. You'll need to show a commitment and a passion for improving the postgraduate experience. Most importantly you'll need to prove to voters that you are the candidate who can make the changes that they want to see happen.

We have attempted to provide all of the information candidates will require, but if you have any questions at all, please ask me or any of the current officers. Alternatively GSA team members will be available for drop-ins both in the GSA Office and across campus, and can answer any queries or offer practical advice on all aspects of campaign planning; from designing manifestos through to managing campaign budgets and all points in between.

Finally, I wish you the best of luck in your efforts and thank you for taking interest in improving postgraduate life by being part of the leadership of this fantastic organisation

See you soon!

**Peter Gorbert, GSA CEO**

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# LIFE OF A FULL-TIME OFFICER

Whichever role you have chosen to stand for, you are putting yourself forward for a unique job that carries responsibilities and opportunities quite unlike those you would normally associate with a graduate job or a sabbatical year.

## THE ROLE:

The Officer Team consists of the President, Vice President: Wellbeing & Community and Vice President: Academic. Each have their own jobs to do but also spend a lot of time working together as a team. Like any other job, there are minimum requirements. There will be the occasional evening and weekend work, and you may take part in ceremonies such as graduation. Additionally, as an ambassador for the GSA, you will need to dress smartly for any work external from the office.

As Trustees, the Officer Team are responsible for setting the direction of the GSA for the year they are elected, and making day-to-day decisions about how the GSA is run. If successfully elected to one of these roles you will have a budget to control and campaigns which you are responsible for. There can be lots of meetings to attend and reports to write, but don't be put off by this – they are necessary formalities needed to put your ideas into action, and more than balanced out by the time you will spend meeting and talking to postgraduates.

## THE LIFESTYLE:

As well as the day-to-day work, there may be a range of conferences, seminars and training events aimed at giving you more knowledge, confidence and insight towards achieving your goals – so you can expect to be doing some traveling around the country from time to time visiting other institutions and building a network of contacts. The social life of an full-time officers can also be whatever you want to make of it – at the very least you will get to attend a number of high-profile award ceremonies.

## RELATIONSHIPS:

Your diary will have a significant number of discussions (some formal, some less so) with University managers, GSA staff, external organisations, and of course – students. You may have to demonstrate your ability to maintain calm in the face of disagreement from time to time, so staying focused on the best interests of postgraduates as well as being able to politely disagree with others will ensure that the GSA will remain influential and not left outside the numerous decisions that impact on postgraduates every year.

You will also need to maintain relationships with various student groups including student societies. To avoid any accusation of bias or conflict, it is strongly recommended that you don't sit on the committee of any student society whilst you are a full time officer. This also helps to ensure that your focus remains on your officer role and to avoid accusations of favouritism or conflict of interest.

### **STAFF SUPPORT:**

You will have at your disposal a team of dedicated staff, employed to perform specific duties within the GSA, and to offer their knowledge and expertise to help you achieve your goals.

### **TEAM WORK:**

You will need to work as part of a close knit team of staff and students. A big part of this will be about learning to get your point across and debate topics without taking issues personally. The postgraduate community is a diverse mix with many different opinions and you will need to be able to reflect this in your role.

### **BEING THE FIGUREHEAD:**

Having your picture as part of any number of posters, handbooks, news articles, web posts will be second nature by the time Welcome Week comes around. Officers will have staff and students approaching them and saying anything from "you're that person in the GSA...I think..." to "What are you going to do about..?" Be prepared to say "I don't know, tell me more about that?" to even occasionally "thanks, it's great to hear that you enjoyed the event..." Being in the spotlight might take some getting used to, but there will be a number of you all in the same situation with whom you can relate.

### **REPRESENTING THE NEEDS OF 5000+ STUDENTS:**

There will be a number of times when people will ask you, "and what do postgraduates think about this?" Clearly the variety of postgraduates at the University of York is remarkable, whether considering faith or ethnicity through to the mode of study chosen by students here. What this adds up to is one thing – student interests and opinions are not simple matters and often there are specific groups of students with specific needs that shouldn't be forgotten. This is an advantage when dealing with those who expect the simple answer; we can be seen as far more influential when we have knowledge of extra options or needs.

# FULL-TIME OFFICER JOB ROLES

Full job descriptions can be found on the GSA Elections Webpages: [yorkgsa.org/elections](http://yorkgsa.org/elections)

## ALL GSA OFFICERS

GSA Officers share the following responsibilities with the Independent and Co-opted Trustees:

- Ensuring the GSA has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and is focused on achieving these.
- Being responsible for the performance of the GSA and for its behaviour.
- Ensuring the GSA complies with all legal and regulatory requirements
- Acting as guardians of GSA assets, both tangible and intangible, taking due care over their security, deployment and proper application.
- Ensuring that the GSA's governance is of the highest possible standard.

However, the GSA Officers, as Trustees elected by the Members of the GSA are also charged with ensuring that the views of the student body are researched.

All Officers also actively work to promote the values of democracy, diversity and equality of opportunity as well as ethical and environmental values amongst the student population.



## President

The role of the President specifically covers the representing of the membership to the University, as well as internal and external stakeholders. The president will act as the figurehead for the GSA and main point of contact for many stakeholders.

The President will lead on supporting the work of colleges and their postgraduate communities.

The President will be responsible for ensuring the employability offerings of the University are reflective of the needs and desires of postgraduate students. You will be expected to take a proactive approach to the role, including leading change through proposing new policy where needed.

The President will also be a Trustee of the Association and have significant, and shared, budgetary responsibility.



## Vice President Wellbeing and community

You will be responsible for ensuring the wellbeing of postgraduate students is taken into consideration by the University when making decisions and ensure the University is aware of developing trends in the postgraduate community. You will be responsible for planning and running the GSA's wellbeing campaigns.

To ensure that our members get the most from their University of York experience, You will have responsibility for designing and developing a social activities program encompassing events, trips and sports and ensuring that the offering is a true reflection of the needs and wishes of the membership as well as monitoring and measuring the social program the GSA provides. You will also support the postgraduate networks and the network coordinators.

You will be expected to take a proactive approach to the role, including leading change through proposing new policy where needed.



## Vice President Academic

You will be responsible for ensuring the academic needs of postgraduate students are taken into consideration by the University when making decisions and ensure the University is aware of developing trends in the postgraduate community. You will be responsible for planning and running the GSA's academic campaigns and events

You will also support the works of postgraduate course reps and faculty reps ensuring issues raised are fed back to the University. You will be expected to take a proactive approach to the role, including leading change through proposing new policy where needed.

You will also be a Trustee of the Association and have significant, and shared, budgetary responsibility.





## Student Trustee

Student Trustees sit on the Board of Trustees at the GSA. Trustees are not be involved in day to day affairs, but take an overview of how the GSA is performing, both financially and in delivering services to students.

The overall role of the Trustees is to ensure that the GSA is well run, meeting its aims and working within the legal and constitutional framework laid down.

You will also support the works of postgraduate course reps and faculty reps ensuring issues raised are fed back to the University. You will be expected to take a proactive approach to the role, including leading change through proposing new policy where needed.



## President



## Vice President Wellbeing and community



## Vice President Academic



## Student Trustee



# JOB ENTITLEMENTS

This section is designed to give you a brief overview of the rights and responsibilities of the full-time roles. Full details of the rules, policies and procedures will be included in the Staff Handbook which will be provided to full-time officers when they start their role.

## REMUNERATION

GSA Officers will be contracted to work for a 52-week year starting on September 1st and ending August 31st. Officers receive an annual compensation which currently stands at £18,500 per annum, which may rise in line with any increases agreed by the GSA Trustee Board.

Salaries are paid on the last working day of the month by means of a credit transfer into your bank account.

## WORKING HOURS

The standard hours of work are 37.5 per week, made up of 7.5 hours a day Monday to Friday. However the nature of the duties is such that it is not difficult to specify normal working hours and you may be required to work such additional hours as may be necessary for the proper performance of your duties, these may include some evening and weekend work.

## FLEXIBLE WORKING

The GSA believes that all employees should maintain a healthy work-life balance and that working flexibly can help staff ensure this. The flexible working procedures are intended as a way for employees to manage their own time on a week to week basis, in order to fulfill the requirements of their role. The GSA's core hours of work are between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday with an unpaid half hour lunch break. Officers are normally expected to be in the office and working during this time. It is up to individuals how they wish to distribute their daily working hours outside of the core office hours.

## LEAVE ENTITLEMENT

You are entitled to 30 days holiday during each calendar year, this includes the usual public holidays in England and Wales. You will be paid your normal basic remuneration during such holidays. The calendar year runs between September 1st and August 31st. If your employment starts or finishes part way through the calendar year, your holiday entitlement during that year shall be calculated on a pro-rata basis rounded up to the nearest half day.

## TRAINING

Before officers start on 1st September, they will be required to attend a number of pre-start training days to help them ease into their new position. This will be coordinated with the CEO after the full time officers have been elected.

Throughout the year, officers can request training to help them get the most out of their role, with any costs to be agreed with the trustees. A dedicated budget is set aside for this training.

# NOMINATIONS: MANIFESTOS

You need to submit a nomination form and a manifesto online of no more than 1000 characters by the close of nominations. If your manifesto is longer than 1000 characters it will be cut when it reaches that limit.

Candidates will also be asked to provide a slogan (10 WORDS MAXIMUM) alongside their nomination form.

**Nominations forms must be submitted by 12:00 Monday 13th May**

## WHAT TO INCLUDE

Each candidate should provide a statement (manifesto) setting out their main objectives for the year. The manifesto is a document which says who the candidate is, why they are standing for election and what they intend to do, should they get elected. You are advised to engage in research and speak to both incumbent Officers and staff before writing up your manifesto. Note, neither staff nor Officers will be able to assist in the writing of the manifesto.

You should endeavour to write your manifesto around these three principal headings:

- Who you are
- Why you are standing
- What you intend to do if elected

## GSA ONLINE PROFILE

You will also be asked to provide a short piece about yourself and to extract the four principal points from your manifesto to put on your profile. This does not need to be provided with your nomination and manifesto; you will be informed of the deadline for supplying this at the first Candidates' meeting.

## HOW TO WRITE A MANIFESTO

Writing an election manifesto needn't be something to tear your hair out about. Essentially, your manifesto should state what you would plan to do in your time in office and what changes you would make. It is not an excuse to bad mouth your opposition, or make unrealistic promises. Take some time before you write to think about what you believe you can achieve and what the voters would respond to.

# MANIFESTOS: TOP TIPS

Be concise and use clear language. Avoid long, complicated words – you won't win awards for being clever and you might just alienate important voters.

Make sure you have clearly stated what position you are running for and where students can go to vote ([www.yorkgsa.org/elections](http://www.yorkgsa.org/elections)).

Set out your goals for your time in office and ensure they are realistic & achievable – officers are answerable to the student body who might decide to ask why you've not managed to extend the library building. Work out what would make you vote for someone and think about which points would appeal most to students.

Your manifesto is about you and not about your opponents. Avoid discrediting or disrespecting others and making reference to members of staff is a big no-no!

Be relevant. There's not much point telling everyone you like cute kittens when you're standing for President. However, instances where you have shown leadership, tenacity, and tact would indicate to voters your suitability for the role.

Keep it to a maximum of 1000 characters. Voters will want to read what you have to say and are likely to give up if you have written the equivalent of the Oxford English Dictionary.

Be creative and inspiring. Once you have drafted your manifesto, you will have the opportunity to get feedback from members of the elections committee who will give you an opportunity to make changes before the campaigning period.

You can run your manifesto past the Elections Team by dropping by the GSA Offices in Vanbrugh or by emailing it to [elections@yorkgsa.org](mailto:elections@yorkgsa.org). Remember, the deadline to submit your final manifesto is Friday 17th May at 12:00.

# STANDING FOR ELECTION

In this section, you will find all the basic information you need to stand to be an GSA Officer.

## ELIGIBILITY

Any postgraduate student registered at the University of York, including PhD students in their writing-up year, may stand for any full-time role. Students are permitted to stand for election on the provision that they can satisfactorily prove that they will be able to serve the entire term of office.

Only postgraduate students who will be registered students at the University of York for the majority of the elected period may stand for the role of Student Trustee.

## MEETINGS

There will be a briefing session for candidates which will cover the Rules. This will be immediately following close of nominations and it is compulsory.

## TRAINING

There will be a training session, which will give more in depth information about the rules and also cover useful topics such as successful campaigning and a manifesto workshop. It is not compulsory but candidates are strongly advised to attend or send a member of their campaign team.

You may also bring a member of your campaign team, such as your campaign team manager. Ignorance of the content covered in the training session will not be accepted as any sort of extenuating circumstance.

## ONE MINUTE MANIFESTO + CAMPAIGN PHOTOGRAPHY

During this training period the GSA will invite all candidates to film a summary of their manifesto under one minute in length to be published online on the GSA Elections webpage and GSA social media, along with a photograph taken for the online voting platform. Again, these sessions are not compulsory but are highly recommended.

## DROP-INS

During the campaigning period, candidates may arrange to visit the GSA office for advice and support around the elections and to raise any complaints. Staff will not always be available so please arrange a time to come in beforehand.

# STANDING FOR ELECTION - CONTINUED

## **DROP-INS**

During the campaigning period, candidates may arrange to visit the GSA office for advice and support around the elections and to raise any complaints. Staff will not always be available so please arrange a time to come in beforehand.

## **PERMISSIONS**

We advise all candidates to discuss running in their elections with their academic supervisor or programme leader, especially if you are considering taking a year out of your studies.

All candidates will need to sign a Trustee Declaration form as GSA Officers are also Trustees of the Graduate Students' Association and must satisfy certain criteria.

## **INCUMBENT OFFICERS**

Incumbent Officers running the elections will need to declare any paid holiday and time in lieu to be used for the purposes of election campaigning to Elections Committee.

Incumbent Officers should not use any resources of their current positions (such as publicity photos and material, stationery, social media accounts) that are not accessible to candidates who are not or have not held position as an Officer.

## **WITHDRAWING CANDIDACY**

Any candidate who withdraws should first speak with the Elections Committee. The candidate's nomination will be made 'not live' but will remain publicised with a banner saying 'Withdrawn' across the photograph and/or manifesto.

# ELECTION RULES

## RETURNING OFFICER AND DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER

GSA Elections are overseen by a Returning Officer who is normally someone external from the GSA and University. They are the final arbiter for rules, decisions and direction of GSA Elections.

For day-to-day running of elections, the powers of the Returning Officer are devolved to the Deputy Returning Officer who is the CEO of the GSA. They regularly liaise with the Elections Committee and Returning Officer for all decisions on elections.

A full list of the election rules and regulations will be available on the GSA website. The below section are key points from the election regulations. All candidates are encouraged to read the election regulations in full.

## PRINCIPLE RULES

- Elections are the opportunity to showcase to postgraduates why you are the best person to represent them. In the spirit of a fair and equal election, the GSA bases its elections on three basic principles that we expect of all candidates.
- All candidates must act in the interests of a fair election and ensure they follow the election rules at all time.
- Candidates must not behave in a manner which may bring themselves, the elections, the GSA, or the University of York into disrepute.
- Treat all other staff and students with respect
- Candidates must ensure their campaigns are inclusive.

## BEHAVIOUR RULES

When standing as an GSA Officer, you are representing not only yourself but also the GSA. As such, we expect certain behaviours of our candidates to ensure the election is fair and respectful.

All candidates will be held liable for the actions of anyone acting on their behalf.

There must be no 'negative campaigning', such as candidates or their supporters making unsupported attacks on other candidates' manifestos or making attacks of a personal nature against other candidates. Any challenge which is not deemed to be of a personal nature is allowed.

No candidate shall seek to gain advantage over another candidate by breaking election rules.

All candidates must attend the mandatory Candidates' Meetings given by the Elections Committee.



# BREACH OF RULES

Any breach of the rules may result in a sanction. Sanctions can include everything up to a total disqualification from the election. The nature and severity of sanction will be decided upon by the elections committee.

## BREACH OF LAW OR REGULATIONS

The GSA, Election Regulations apply to everyone during any election. Any breaches of these regulations, GSA or University Policies, University Regulations or the laws of the UK may come with additional actions above those outlined in the election regulations.

## COMPLAINTS PROCESS

If you believe a candidate is in breach of any rules, this should be made in writing via the online elections complaint form on the GSA elections website.

All rulings on the interpretation of the rules shall be made by the elections committee. Any queries regarding the rules should be made to the Deputy Returning Officer and before engaging in any action that may be in breach of the rules.

Actions on candidates who are found breaking election rules will include a statement of what rules were broken published on the GSA website and the candidates election profile, with additional sanctions such as restrictions on campaigning or in severe cases, disqualification from the elections process.

Complaints must be raised immediately and will be dealt with promptly. After the close of voting only complaints related to the counting of the votes will be received.



# CAMPAIGNING

Getting your name out there and talking to students about your plans and policies is integral to running a successful campaign. However, all campaigning activity should be fair and respectful.

## PHYSICAL CAMPAIGNING

Candidates may not start formal campaigning or use campaign material until allowed to do so. Campaigning begins at 12:00 on Monday 20th May.

Candidates are responsible for the actions of their supporters.

Candidates are reminded that they must show respect and consideration at all times to other candidates, their supporters, all other students and University staff.

Candidates must abide by the current Elections' Publicity Policy as covered in the candidate meeting and by any University decision on use of any part of campus.

Please respect personal space such as offices and private work places and take care not to breach University Regulations.

You cannot be endorsed, receive public support from, or have someone campaign on your behalf from anyone who is not a University of York student unless prior permission is received from the Returning Officer / Deputy Returning Officer.

## ONLINE CAMPAIGNING

Candidates who purchase domain names for the use of their campaign should include these expenses in their final expense report, unless they can demonstrate a previous use for the domain name they own.

Candidates and their supporters can access Facebook groups that are already established, as long as their opponents are given the same opportunity. However, they may not post on central GSA pages or groups. A post will be made at the start of the campaign period in GSA and University groups accessible to all candidates. Candidates may comment on this post with information and links to their on campaign pages.

The use of University emails or email lists (e.g. course lists) for campaigning is not permitted.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Prior to the start of campaigning, a campaign team is permitted to use Facebook groups for internal communication. These groups must be closed/private and should be limited to the core campaign team of 15 maximum.

The Deputy Returning officer must be added to all campaign groups. Candidates must send all social media presences to [elections@yorkgsa.org](mailto:elections@yorkgsa.org)

Candidates can set up one Facebook page / group or event for the use of campaigning.

Ensure that any other pages on any social media platform, such as any activity group, sports clubs or societies, do not like/retweet etc. a candidates page as this may be deemed as that activity group supporting that candidate.

Candidates are only permitted to post in groups and pages that have allowed it. A list will be provided to candidates at the first candidates meeting.

No activity group should give preferential treatment to specific candidate(s) e.g. if a candidate was to post in a group and another candidate also wishes to post in that group, the group administrators must not favour one candidate over another.

Any individual may post anything they like provided they are doing so as an individual and not as an officer or representative of any activity group.

The GSA will set up a GSA Officer Election Event in which candidates in that election are permitted to post.

If you are an administrator of a page and you post on that page, the post is displayed as being written from that page and not from an individual. Remove yourself as an admin to correct this. Note, this is not applicable for candidates' pages, only if you are an administrator of an activity group, for example.

Candidates should not spam.

If tweeting, use the hashtag #GSAElections

Candidates must only use accesible English language social media sites for campaigning unless otherwise stated by the elections committee

## **ELECTIONS MEDIA**

During the training period, candidates will be invited to record a one minute manifesto and take a campaign photo. During the campaign period, there will also be 60 minute live streamed hustings, more details will be covered in the first candidate meeting.

Examples of the one minute manifestos can be found on the GSA Youtube channel.

These media materials will be featured on the GSA elections webpage and social media.

Note, you must endeavour to be available to ensure you can make time for your media videos and interviews. If unable to find an appropriate time, the GSA will endeavour to find alternative arrangements but that cannot be guaranteed and there is no recourse for complaint if a mutual time cannot be found.

## **PRINTING**

The GSA will provide candidates with an allocation of posters to use during the campaign period. Additional printing is allowed, but candidates are recommended to do so in moderation.

Candidates are encouraged not to spend significant amounts of money on election materials.

## **FUNDING**

No candidate may receive financial or other material assistance from any external body such as a business, society, political organisations or governing bodies.

# ELECTIONS WELFARE

Ensuring your wellbeing during Officer Elections is incredibly important. Running can be tiring and looking after yourself will make you healthier and a stronger candidate and campaigner. Here are some tips to look after yourself during campaigning.

## TAKE BREAKS

Although trying to talk one-on-one with every student is an admirable goal, you need some time to yourself. Whether it is going for a walk, socialising with some friends or just sleeping, taking a break is important and will hopefully increase your energy to go back to campaigning. Don't feel guilty while taking these breaks, take some time to revitalise and then go back out to get those all-important votes. It is also important to remember that you still have a degree to get back to. Don't let your academic progress suffer for election campaigning.

## SEEK SUPPORT

Having a strong network of friends around you while campaigning is vital. Whether it be people to talk to about how it's going, or your campaign team around you supporting your election, having those key friends will ensure you stay strong during elections.

If things do ever get too much, you can always have a chat with any member of the Elections Committee. They are there to ensure your wellbeing during elections so never feel afraid to get support if you need it.

## STAY HEALTHY

It's easy to forget the little things while campaigning, like eating well, sleeping enough or exercising. However, being mindful of your habits during elections is crucial for being an effective campaigner. Sleeping, eating and exercising are all important tools to maximising your vote, as you will have more energy while talking to students.

## CAMPAIGN IN A WAY THAT WORKS FOR YOU

People campaign in different ways. Some are great at standing on parade talking to students, going round halls or running excellent social media campaigns. Knowing your strengths, and your limits, will make you an effective campaigner. It is also important to know what you struggle with and when to stop, after all, you have a campaign team around you to help so use them so you don't burn out.

## SUPPORTING OTHERS

Remember it is not only you working hard for the election, it is your campaign team as well. Campaign Teams are volunteers, giving their time to get you elected. Try to make sure that they are looking after themselves and they can seek support from the Advisors and Elections Committee as well if needed.

## **PUBLICITY POLICY**

Candidates are encouraged not to spend significant amounts of money on election materials.

The GSA will provide candidates with an allocation of posters to use during the campaign period. Additional printing is allowed, but candidates are recommended to do so in moderation, and to not make use of free printing resources.

Use of banners is permitted in moderation, provided that they are securely tied.

You may seek advice on whether your material is appropriate from the Deputy Returning Officer or members of Elections Committee.

Publicity material is not permitted on surfaces where it will cause an obstruction or damage, please be aware that these materials will be removed by university staff without warning.

No campaigning or campaign materials are allowed within computer rooms or the library (this includes the library cafe)

Do not remove, deface, alter or cover up other candidates campaign materials. If you witness campaign material in breach of the regulations please notify the elections committee who will deal with it.

Publicity material may be removed by Elections Committee if it has become damaged or contravenes any rule, or if it is deemed to be unsafe.

Any candidate proposing to provide home prepared food or any perishable food as part of their campaign must speak to the Deputy Returning Officer in advance to ensure that the necessary risk assessment has been satisfactorily completed and all health and safety requirements have been met.

All publicity material is to be removed immediately after close of polling and recycled.

Please endeavour to keep the campus tidy during the elections period.

If you are in any doubt, please contact the Deputy Returning Officer before either producing or displaying campaign materials.

# VOTING

Voting in the GSA Elections couldn't be simpler. Just follow the link on the elections website- and input your student number which can be found on our student card, or you can click the link in the voting email which will be sent out when voting opens. You can also find one of our GSA Voting stations on campus in the Berrick Saul building, Library foyer, Piazza building and Wentworth College.

The GSA runs a Single Transferable Vote (STV) system. You must rank the candidates in order of preference with 1 being your preferred candidate.

Remember to read the manifestos of each candidate carefully before making your choice. Manifestos can be found on the candidates page.

Voting will open on Friday 24th May at 12:00 and will close on Friday 31st May at 12:00.

Results will be announced at a results night event on Friday 31st May.

Any other questions regarding voting can be directed to the Deputy Returning Officer.

## ELECTIONS TIMELINE

**Monday 29th April: GSA Annual General Meeting**

**Monday 29th April: Nominations Open**

**Monday 13th May: Nominations Close**

**Tuesday 14th - Friday 17th May: Elections workshops**

**Monday 20th May : Campaigning opens**

**Tuesday 21st - Thursday 23rd: Online hustings**

**Friday 24th May: Voting opens**

**Friday 31st May: Voting closes / Results night**