

As a Students' Union we have made the decision to allow SU affiliated Student Groups to publicly endorse individual candidates standing for an SU Officer position. We have provided some guidance on how Student Groups can support candidates in a way that supports the elections and does not infringe on any election rules.

Below are the Guiding Statements on how an SU affiliated Student Group can endorse a candidate accompanied by some FAQs. If you have any queries about candidate endorsement, please contact the Returning Officer at sureturningofficer@bath.ac.uk as soon as possible.

Guiding Statement 1

Individual SU affiliated Student Groups can endorse candidates, based on mutual agreement by the majority of the committee.

Guiding Statement 2

Individual Student Groups must respect all candidates equally.

Guiding Statement 3

Individual Student Groups should be aware of overcommunicating or 'spamming' when endorsing candidates.

FAQs for candidates and committees

What is an SU affiliated Student Group?

An SU affiliated Student Group is a Society, Sports Club, Volunteer Group, Diversity and Support Group or other Groups such as Student Minds and Nightline.

What about Student Media, they are a Student Group, can they endorse?

The SU's Election Rules <https://www.thesubath.com/elections/rules/> state that Student Media must "Remain impartial and unbiased throughout election periods". Therefore, Student Media are not permitted to endorse candidates, however individual members may be members of candidate campaign teams and specific rules are in place for members who do so. See Rules for Student Media <https://www.thesubath.com/elections/rules/> for more information.

What is endorsement?

By endorsing a candidate, or candidates, you are showing public support of the candidate. You can, for example, promote the endorsement to your Group's members, post on your Group's social media in support, and candidates can promote that you have endorsed them.

When can candidates approach SU Student Groups regarding endorsement?

Candidates may contact Student Groups committees to request endorsement after the announcement of Candidates. Approaching Student Groups before this is considered early campaigning and may be subject to breach of election rules and possible action.

If I am a member of a Student Group committee and a candidate in the Officer Elections, can I get my group to support me?

You are allowed to ask the Student Group you are a committee member of to endorse you after candidates are announced, and the other members of the committee can decide if the Group should endorse you as a candidate. As a candidate, you should remove yourself from any committee

discussions relating to endorsements of candidates, this includes temporarily removing yourself from access to any communication channels used by the committee.

How do we as a Student Group committee choose a candidate to endorse?

We do not have a set method, but ask that if questioned you are able to demonstrate how you agreed upon a candidate, or candidates, to endorse. If there are complaints regarding your endorsement and you are not able to demonstrate a fair process having been used you may be asked to remove your endorsement. As above, any discussion regarding endorsement should not include any candidates. A 'majority' of the committee would normally be deemed as 50% + 1 i.e. a simple majority.

Can we choose to not endorse any candidates?

Yes. Whilst we found that endorsements helped increase engagement amongst Student Groups in the elections, if you as a committee agree to not endorse any candidates, or cannot reach an agreement of who to endorse, you can choose not to endorse any.

I'm part of a Student Group committee that has chosen to endorse a candidate, can we say why we don't like the other candidates?

In the elections, Principle Rule 2 states that campaigners should not campaign negatively. Because of this Student Groups and their individual members should focus on the positives of any candidates you chose to endorse.

Please note that negative campaigning may result in complaints and/or disciplinary action against any Student Group, candidate or individual involved.

What counts as over communication and why does it matter?

Our advice for Student Groups would be excessive communication can deter students and in some cases result in students unfollowing pages, routing your emails to Junk, or reporting content. We recommend a maximum of 1 email per day, and 2-3 posts per social media platform per day during the elections.

Can a Student Group endorse multiple candidates?

Student Groups are welcome to endorse 1 candidate for each Officer position. This means each Student Group can endorse up to 6 candidates.

FAQs for Student Group members

I don't like the candidate my Student Group has chosen to endorse, do I have to vote for them?

No you don't. An endorsement is a show of support from a Group but it does not mean every member of that Group has to vote for that candidate.