

TIME TO LEAD

Chair of Student Council



About Us

The University of Bristol Students' Union is a membership organisation democratically led by students, for students. We represent over 26,000 student members and work to make sure that you get the best from time at university by providing over 400 clubs, societies and networks, offering free support services and academic advice and representing students on the issues that matter to you.

Students drive and are at the heart of everything we do:

- We are the collective voice of University of Bristol students
- We support activities, so students can try new things and develop skills
- We advise, support and empower students to make change
- We are a vibrant social hub
- We provide quality services for the benefit of students

Our Values

It's not just what we do that matters, it's how we do it. We will reflect what is most important to our students:



We are loud and proud about **equality, diversity and inclusion**. We are a Union for all students.



We want our students to thrive, so we support the **wellbeing** of our students through the services that we offer and the campaigns that we run.



We believe **community** matters; we create a sense of belonging across the student body through out student groups, networks, events and spaces.



Sustainability underpins all that we do; we want our Union, our University and our planet, to be here for the long term.



We believe opportunities for joy, humour and positivity are important, we want our students to have **fun** whilst at University.

About the Role

Job Title	Chair of Student Council
Role type	Voluntary

What skills could I gain from a role like this?

Communication

Time Management

Research Skills

Problem-Solving

Leadership

Team Work

- Develop public speaking and communication skills by chairing both large and small meetings
- Develop time management skills by chairing democratic meetings and ensuring the meetings don't overrun
- Develop academic and research skills by learning our democratic processes and charity law, and applying this knowledge when discussing motions
- Develop the ability to work well independently and with others by improving time management skills, organisation, and working as part of a wider team
- Develop leadership skills by making procedural decisions around motions and democratic processes
- Develop problem-solving skills and a solution-oriented mindset by giving positive as well as constructive feedback on students' Ideas and Motions
- Develop confidence in making decisions and communicating them clearly to students during democratic meetings
- Recognise and value the views and differences of others by working with students from diverse backgrounds

The successful Chair of Student Council is supported by professional staff at the SU from the democracy team. If you're elected, these staff will ensure you are trained and have the support needed to carry out this role.

About You

What knowledge & experiences and skills & abilities would help me in a role like this?		Essential/ Desirable (E/D)
1	Current student at the University of Bristol, who will be a student in the 26/27 academic year	E
2	Confident to chair meetings with over 100 attendees or willingness to be trained in this area	E
3	Previous experience with student democracy	D
4	A commitment to the values and behaviours of Bristol SU	E
5	Familiar with student democracy and its processes or willing to develop that knowledge with support from Bristol SU	E



What can you expect from the role?

- To chair Student Council and Annual Members Meeting
- To chair monthly DSC meetings that discuss and assign ideas proposed by students to the appropriate democratic avenue
- To chair DSC meetings before Student Council and Annual Members' Meeting that set the Agenda for the democratic meetings
- To scrutinise and ensure the fair operation of Union meetings, referenda and elections
- To recommend sanctions to Student Council if you believe standards have been breached
- To chair Student Representatives Assembly

Fixed- time commitments are:

- Monthly DSC meetings
- Agenda setting DSC meetings - once before each democratic event
- Student Representative Assembly - typically 5 times a year
- Student Council - twice a year
- Annual Members Meeting - once a year

What does a typical month look like?



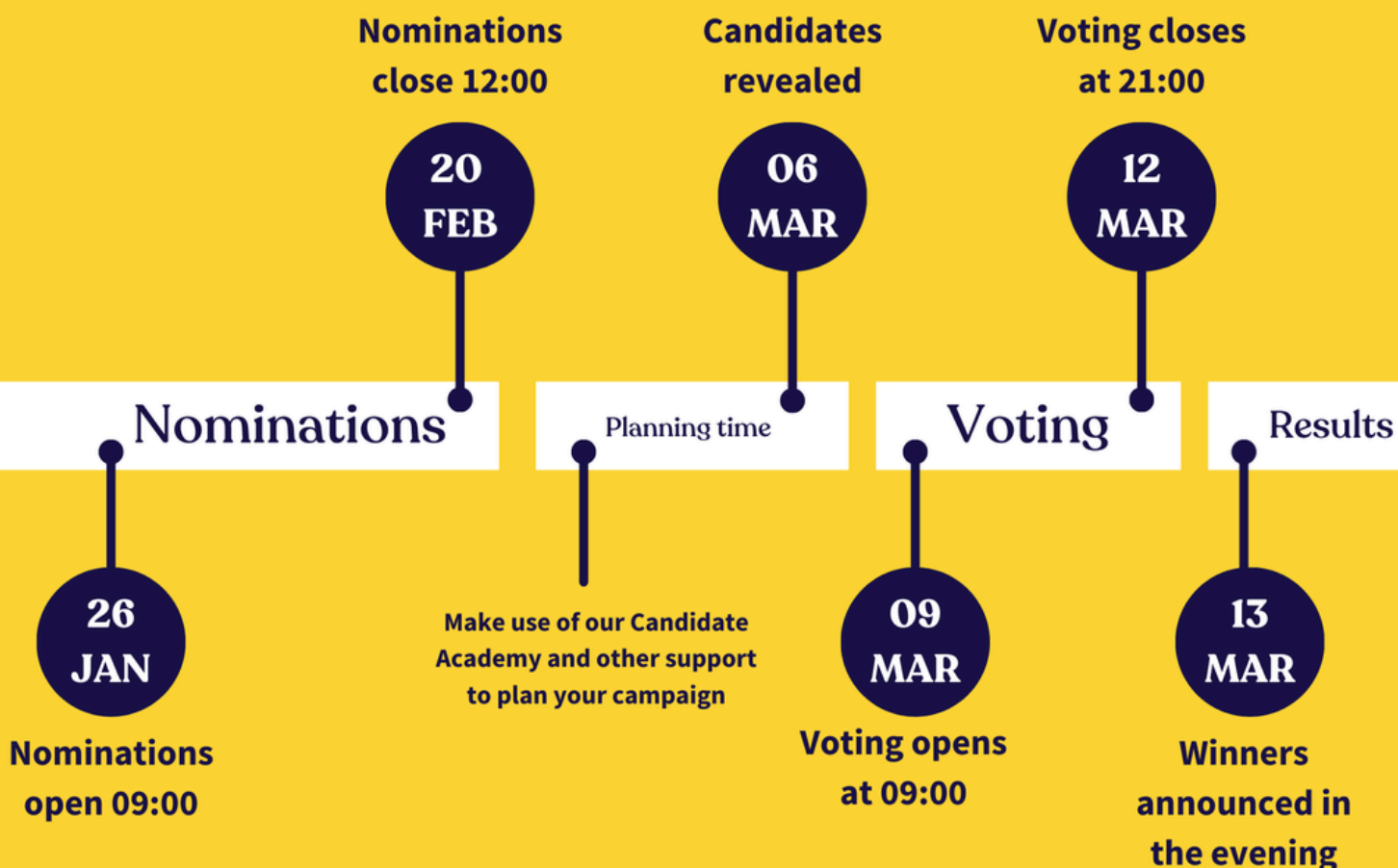
In a typical month as the Chair of Student Council, you would always attend and chair the monthly DSC meeting, where you discuss and assign Ideas from the Ideas Board to the appropriate avenue. You also would be chairing Student Representatives Assembly, making sure everyone is able to speak and contribute fairly to the discussions.

If it's a month with a democratic event, you would also have an Agenda setting meeting, deciding the order of the motions going to the democratic event. You also may be called in to weigh in on procedural issues and decisions. You'll also be preparing for chairing any upcoming meetings.



What support do you get running in an SU election?

- Sign making workshop to make your campaign materials, with free access to paint and other materials
- Access to the [Candidate SharePoint](#) containing useful resources
- Candidate 1:1 calls to find out more information and answer any questions you may have
- Exclusive series of candidate academy sessions to support you with preparing your elections campaign
- Candidate Breakfasts – during voting week you'll get free breakfast in Senate House every day. This is also a chance for you to talk to other candidates as well as SU staff (if you want!)
- Calm space during voting week
- Candidate Results Night with celebration refreshments
- Budget for specific candidate expenses





What time commitments are there?

To help you get your voice heard by the University and other students, you'll need to commit some time ahead of the election. This could be because you're training or campaigning to become a student leader; it's an exciting and rewarding period!

The Important Stuff

You'll need to write a personal statement, which is your chance to tell students who you are, why you are standing for elections, what your plans are in the role, and why you should get elected. It's time to show them why you're the best person for the role. Please submit this personal statement by **12pm 27 February 2026**.

This year, we are running two Rules Briefings on **Weds 25 Feb 12.30-15.00** and **Tues 3 Mar 12.00-14.30** and we will ask which one you're attending once you've put in your nomination. It's a compulsory session and you won't be able to run in the election if you miss it! But why would you want to miss it?

Voting week runs from **9 March 2026 to 12 March 2026** and this is also your time to campaign. We highly recommend you go out there, show your face, and chat with as many students as possible. As a Faculty Rep, you'll be giving student voices a platform and helping to make positive changes to student's academic experience. Telling them what you hope to do will enhance your chances of winning!

We will be letting you know the results on **13 March 2026** in the SU Living Room. You're welcome to bring your friends/campaign team along with you, and there will be SU staff to offer support should you need it.

Extra Time Commitments Include:

- 1 day of in person training in June 2026
- Team building activity in early September (date TBC)

Candidate Academy



We want to make sure you feel supported if you decide to run in the elections and run a series of sessions to give you more information about the role and how to campaign, such as:

Democracy & Governance: Info Session

How to Build a Successful Campaign

You can see the whole programme by clicking here or scanning the QR code below!

