

OUSA Executive 2026 Elections Information Sheet

We've put all the info in one place, so you know what to expect as a candidate for the 2026 OUSA Elections! If you have any other questions/queries/concerns, you can email Donna Jones at secretary@ousa.org.nz.

Step 0: Find out more about the role

You're on the right track if you're reading this! Maybe email the 2025 Exec who are currently in the role(s) that you're interested in! You could catch up with them to ask questions or find out more about what they actually get up to. You can email adminvp@ousa.org.nz with literally any questions to arrange this.

There will also be a chance for you to ask questions in person on the 10th of September at 11.00am in the Otago Room.

Step 1: Nominations

Nominations open at **9am on the 8th of September** and close at **4pm on the 11th of September 2025**. You just need to fill in a nomination form (find them on our Election page of the website <https://www.ousa.org.nz/executive/elections-information> or visit OUSA main reception for a copy), and have two people (who are current UoO students) 'move' and 'second' your nomination (aka people who reckon you'd be good for the job). All three of you need to come to OUSA with your student I.D. cards to see the Association Secretary or reception staff to verify your identity, confirm your nomination and ensure you are sure of all the information – EASY! Just needs to happen before the closing date and time.

Step 2: Putting your face out there (Part 1)

Exciting, you've confirmed your nomination!! Putting your face out there starts now! Critic plays an important part in covering the OUSA elections and you must do two things for this. The first is taking a photo and the second is providing a short, written blurb about who you are/why you're running and why people should vote for you!

- The photographer from Critic will take your photo which will be used for advertising purposes and promotional material. The photographer will be available from **2-4pm on the 12th of September 2025** at the Critic office on the first floor of the OUSA main offices, overlooking the balcony. You must attend this and if you can't for whatever reason, email secretary@ousa.org.nz

- **Blurbs are to be sent to Critic by the 12th of September 2025 by 4pm** the word limit is 150 words for the Presidential candidates and 100 words for the other positions (short and sweet but NO bullet points). The blurbs must not exceed the word count, **if you exceed the word count the blurb will be cut at the limit.** If you are late with your blurbs they will miss being printed in Critic. Email these to critic@critic.co.nz

Step 3: **Candidates meeting**

Once nominations have closed, all candidates **must** attend a rule briefing and meet the Returning Officer in the Executive bullpen office, upstairs building at **4.30pm 11th September 2025**. If you can't make it, you could send a friend along or contact Donna Jones on secretary@ousa.org.nz or the Returning Officer returningofficer@ousa.org.nz. It won't take too long but its important everyone knows what to expect and gets a chance to ask questions!

Step 4: **Putting your face out there (Part 2)**

OUSA promotes candidates by covering the bollards outside the Union Building with candidate posters. You must email a colour A3 (portrait) poster of yourself, along with your name and the position you are running for by 4.30pm on the 17th of September to the OUSA Marketing team at anna@ousa.org.nz. Make your poster eye-catching, colourful, and reflective of yourself and why you're running! **FYI – Do NOT use OUSA Green**

Here are some examples below:



Step 5: **Candidate Forums**

These forums are a relaxed interview style with Critic and Radio One where you'll be asked questions, and you'll get to speak to the audience about what you're passionate about and why you're running!

The dates for the forums are:

15th September at 12.00pm in the Main Common Room or outside on the Union Lawn if weather permits – President, Administrative Vice President, Finance and Strategy Officer.

16th September at 12.00pm in the Otago Room (OUSA Clubs and Socs) or outside on the Union Lawn if weather permits – Academic Representative, Welfare and Equity Representative, Political Representative.

17th September at 12.00pm in the Otago Room (OUSA Clubs and Socs) or outside on the Union Lawn if weather permits – Residential Representative, International Representative, Postgraduate Representative, Clubs and Societies Representative.

Step 6: **Campaigning**

How are you going to get people to vote for you? In the past people have put up posters or chalked across campus, they've gone into lectures to give a quick spiel about themselves, they've approached colleges to go visit during dinners and generally been super creative (there are rules around this though so check the **Election Policy** and if in doubt, email the Returning Officer to check returningofficer@ousa.org.nz. Please remember campaigning can only begin AFTER the closing of nominations.

You can have campaign volunteers, seek endorsements from Clubs and Societies and run giveaways to help promote yourself. You must read the OUSA Elections Policy updated August 2025, to make sure you're not breaching any rules (like how much you are allowed to spend and who can be a volunteer for you). **Posters on public pin board ONLY.**

Step 7: **Voting**

Voting will be online, opening from 9am on the 22nd of September and closes at 4pm on the 25th of September 2025. The link for voting will be: voting.ousa.org.nz OUSA will be promoting how to vote and encouraging students to follow through and vote (disclaimer: they can't and won't be endorsing anyone though).

The results will be announced around 4.30pm on 25th of September 2025 in the Main Common Room (MCR) opposite Auahi Ora. You're invited to be there (bring some friends along!)

That's it! If at any time you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Donna Jones, (Association Secretary) at secretary@ousa.org.nz or on 0210353407. Or contact Abby Bowmar (Returning Officer) at returningofficer@ousa.org.nz.

Good Luck! ●