

Nomination form guidance

We've produced this guidance document to assist students with completing their nomination form for the CSU Autumn Elections. Students may vote for candidates based on these answers, so we understand that candidates will want them to be the best they can be.

The nomination form will ask you for:

- Your preferred name and pronouns
 - This can be the same as the data that the University holds about you, or a chosen name/pronoun that you'd prefer us to use.
- Your mobile number
 - This will only be used when we need an urgent response to you (for example, if there was a complaint that needed addressing quickly).
- The role you're nominating yourself for
 - There will be eligibility requirements in this section that you must fulfil in order to run for or be elected for the role, so please read those!
 - If you've selected to run for an Open Seat, you'll be asked what you'd like your focus and Officer title to be. If you're unsure, you can save this for when you meet with CSU's elections team.
- A photo of yourself.
 - This will appear on our website and the voting ballot. We will crop this photo into a 1:1 (square) if it isn't already that ratio.
 - This should be you on your own rather than in a group, and it should be high quality so you aren't pixelated.
- Three questions to ask why you're running in the election and what you want to achieve.
 - You'll use this space to convince students to vote for you and tell them why you're the best person to elect. There is more information about how to answer these below.
- A signature to declare the information you have provided is accurate and represents you
 - This is because we need to ensure that students know what exactly they are voting for.
- How you heard about the CSU Autumn Elections
 - This is for our own interest in how students find out about the things we do! You can select multiple options.

1. **Why do you want to represent students as a part time Officer?**

This is the reason(s) *why* you want to become a part-time Officer and/or sit on Union Assembly. Do you have a passion for making change, or think you'd be really good at gathering feedback? Perhaps you have a large network, or people see you as a leader. You don't need to go into detail about your experience or qualifications here. Students will just want to know the reasoning behind your nomination.

2. **What would you want to change or improve for students in your role, and why?**

If there are specific issues or problems that the students you'd represent are facing, mention them here. What would you like to improve, and what could you do as an Officer to help make that happen? You could also include testimonials from other students about the impact something is having, or some data/research. Make sure you don't overdo it - don't over-promise or overexaggerate. People will see through it! Truthfulness is key.

3. **How would you make sure you understand and represent the views of the students you are elected to represent?**

This question is asking you to tell students *how* you would plan to gather feedback from them and accurately represent them to CSU, whether that's through conversations with students, surveys, events, social media, campaigns, or other ways of gathering feedback. Is there anything you'd do to ensure you've understood the needs of students and will make sure that feedback loop is closed?

General guidance

- There is a word limit of 100 words per question, but that is an upper limit! It's better to say what you mean in as few words as possible. Be concise - don't use overly lengthy sentences and complicated language. The best voice is your voice - don't be tempted to use language that doesn't sound like the 'real you'.
- Students will be reading lots of these answers at once, so they'll appreciate simplicity in your writing. Keeping it simple also means no one will be confused about what you're offering or what your priorities are.
- AI can be useful for brainstorming or helping you think through your ideas, but your answers should be your own. Don't just copy and paste something AI has written for you. Students want to hear from you, and AI-generated answers can sound generic.
- You can get creative and come up with a slogan or interesting way to get your point across. We've had acrostic poems and newspaper article-style manifestos before!
- It's about what you offer, not what others are doing (or not doing). Make sure you focus on you, not the other candidates or Officers.
- Remember: you're trying to persuade people to vote for you! Make sure every word is chosen carefully and shows students why they should vote for you, as well as getting your enthusiasm and competence across.
- You can link to a social media page or webpage as part of your answers.
- You want to be as memorable as you can be. There are likely lots of candidates who are answering the same question, so you'll want to stand out from the crowd.
- You can only make edits to your answers and/or photo until 11pm on the 31st October. You can do this by emailing csuelections@chester.ac.uk with your new answers or photo.