

UMSU International Annual General Election 2024

**Prospective candidates'
information session**

Wednesday 17 April 2024

Housekeeping

- This session is being recorded and we'll upload it to the website
- Feel free to ask a question at any time
- Election website:

umsu.unimelb.edu.au/make-difference/elections/umsuinternational/

Agenda

- The Returning Officer
- Timetable
- Nominations, policy speeches, photos
- Voting
- Campaigning
- Miscellaneous matters

Who we are

- The **Returning Officer** is responsible for running the election, from start of nominations to declaration of results



Patrick Clearwater

Returning Officer

pclearwater@abovequota.com.au

Stephen Luntz

Deputy Returning Officer

sluntz@abovequota.com.au



(full contact details on website)

What we do

- We run the elections logistically, including handling nominations, send out voting links, and helping voters
- We make decisions and rulings
- We manage campaign behaviour and complaints
- We are a point of contact if you have questions

What we aren't

- We are not employees of UMSU, UMSU International or the University
- We're not on your side, or anyone else's — we act impartially
- We will help as much as we can, but it's your responsibility to comply with rules & deadlines

Timetable

- 8th April — nominations opened
- 17th April — this info session
- 5pm, 22nd April — publish a *provisional* list of nominations (48 hours before close of nominations)
- 5pm, 24th April — close of nominations
- TBA — Policy Speech Session
- 9am, 6th May — Voting opens
- 5pm, 10th May — Voting closes

Regulations

- We follow the UMSU International Regulations, and the UMSU International Electoral Regulations, in administering the election
- We don't set the Regulations
- They are both on the website. Read them

Positions for election

- There are 20 positions, to which 33 people will be elected
- Website has full list

Eligibility

- Main rules:
 - International students can run for anything
 - You can only win **one** position
 - You can't run for more than **two** positions

Eligibility

- More specific rules:
 - Planning to go on exchange? → Not eligible
 - Course expected completion date before end of term? → Not eligible
 - Graduate positions → must be graduate student
- See Regulations for full details
 - Including eligibility for NZ citizens/Aust PRs/Aust citizens

Nominations

- Nomination form is online:

Anyone is welcome to attend — you don't need to make a booking.

Nomination form

Nomination form

[Complete the online nomination form here.](#)

The deadline for nominations is **5pm** (Melbourne time) **Wednesday 24th April**

See also information for candidates

Nomination form for 2024 Umsu International election

This form is to nominate for the 2024 University of Melbourne Student Union International (UMSU Intl) Annual General Election.

The deadline for nominations is **5pm** (Melbourne time), **Wednesday 24th April**. We will publish a preliminary list of nominations received 48 hours before the close of nominations (Monday 22nd April).

- **STRICT** deadline: 5pm (Melb time) Weds 24 April

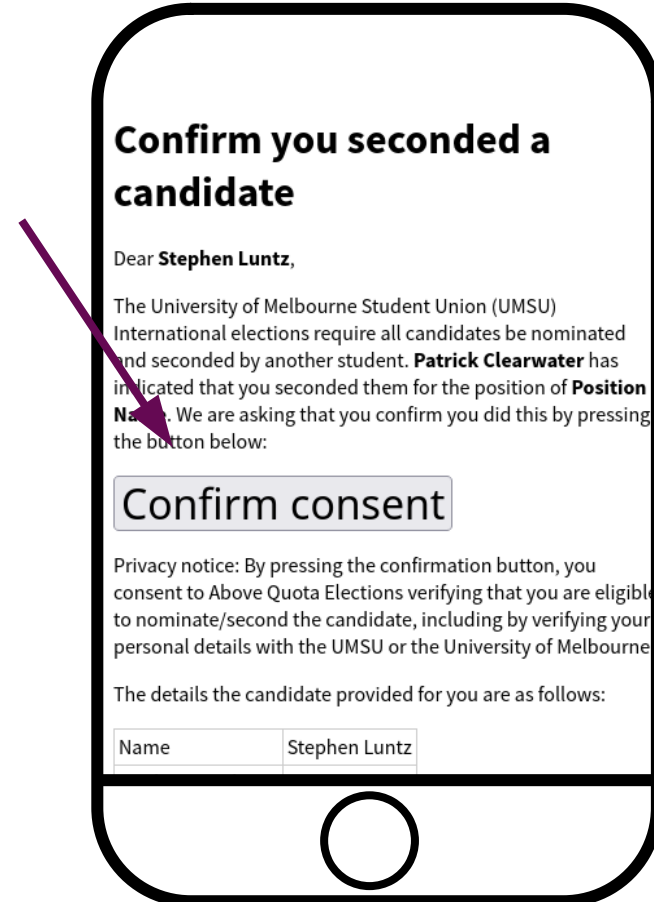
Nomination form

There are five pages:

1. Position you're applying for
 - Submit form multiple times for multiple positions
 - Overall maximum of two
2. Your personal details
3. Policy statement & photo
4. Name and details of a **nominator** and **second**
5. Declaration of eligibility

Nominator and seconder

- You must have a nominator and seconder
 - Must be an international student who is *not* a candidate
- They'll be sent an email to confirm consent to nominate/seconder you
- They must follow the instructions in the email by **5pm 24th April**
- **Your responsibility** to ask them to do this



Confirm you seconded a candidate

Dear **Stephen Luntz**,

The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) International elections require all candidates be nominated and seconded by another student. **Patrick Clearwater** has indicated that you seconded them for the position of **Position Name**. We are asking that you confirm you did this by pressing the button below:

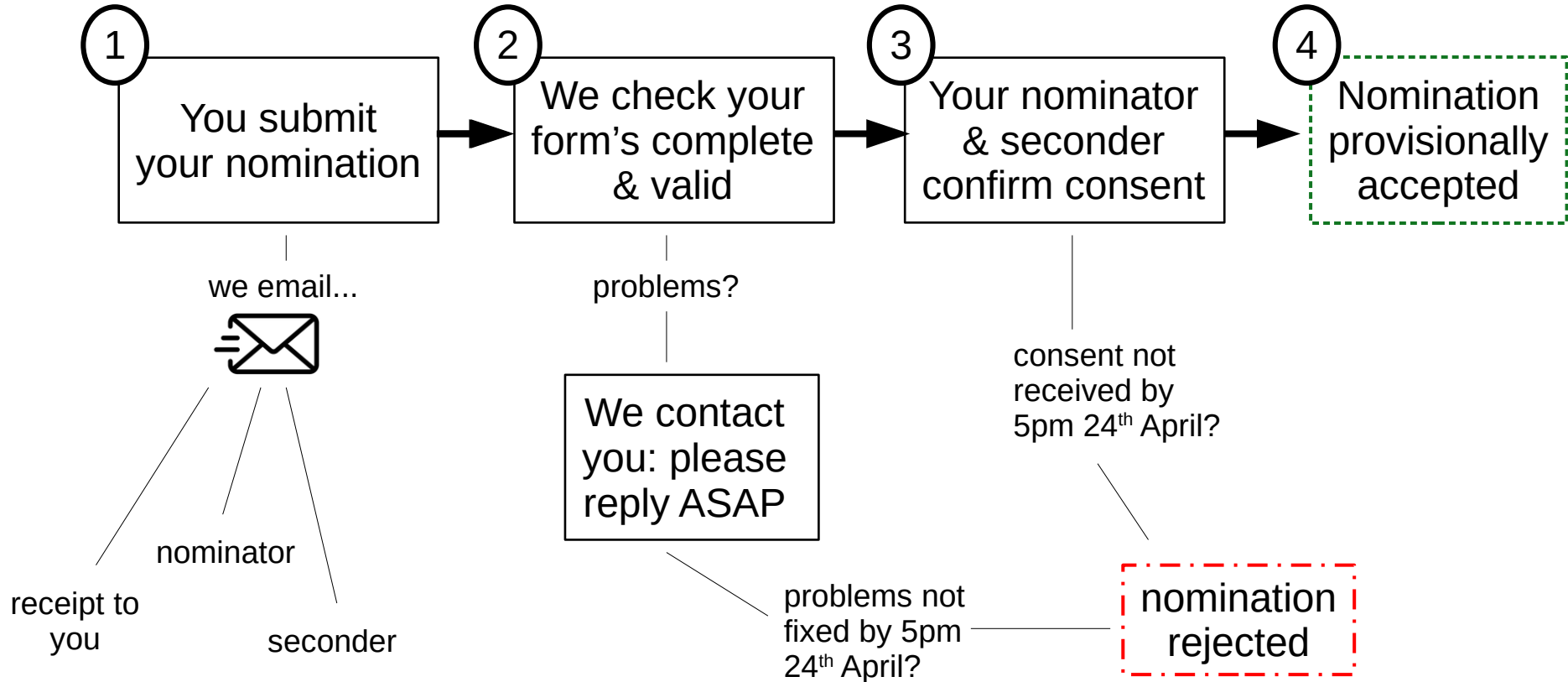
Confirm consent

Privacy notice: By pressing the confirmation button, you consent to Above Quota Elections verifying that you are eligible to nominate/seconder the candidate, including by verifying your personal details with the UMSU or the University of Melbourne.

The details the candidate provided for you are as follows:

Name	Stephen Luntz
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Nomination flowchart



Policy statement and photo

- New this year; optional
- Submitted with your nomination
 - Need to update? Email us but **before** close of nominations
- Will be included on ballot and published on website

Policy statement and photo

- Photo: must be clear, recent and faithful photo of you
- Policy statement: max 250 words
- We print Them exactly as received without fixing grammar, spelling, or fact checking
- Over 250 words? If you do this, then *[slide truncated]*

Policy speech session

- An UMSU International election institution
- All candidates required to attend
- Date and time to be confirmed
- Executive and Director positions present speeches
- All candidates participate in Q&A

Voting

- All international students eligible to vote
- Everyone eligible will be sent an email at 9am Monday 6th May
 - may take a few hours to arrive
 - link is to BigPulse secure voting platform
 - we will send all voters two reminder emails (Wed and Fri)
- Voting will be preferential (number 1, 2, 3, etc)

Results

- Voting closes 5pm Friday 10th May
 - The platform will not allow votes after this
- Expect to have interim results over the weekend (likely Friday night)
- One academic day for appeals/recount requests

Secrecy

- **IMPORTANT:** This is a secret ballot
- Voting links are unique to each student and can't be forwarded
- You must not observe anyone in the act of voting

Campaigning

- Campaigning is convincing people to vote for you (regardless of how it's done: in person, online, to your friends, or to the world at large)
- There are a number of rules that you must follow

Campaigning: main rules

- Who can campaign?
 - Candidates can campaign
 - Each candidate can have up to two student campaign representatives
 - You are responsible for what they do, so only pick people you trust
 - You must tell us who they are (there will be a form), and we will publish the list

Campaigning: main rules

- When can you campaign?
 - **Only** during election week

Campaigning: main rules

- Registration of material
 - All publicity materials must be **registered** with the Returning Officer before they can be distributed, posted, or made available to students
 - Register by emailing us with a copy
 - If unsure, wait for us to reply
- This includes posters, pamphlets, social media pages & status updates

Campaigning: main rules

- Group campaigning
 - You **cannot** form a group, ticket, team or party and campaign together
 - You can campaign for yourself, **but not others**

Campaigning: main rules

- Approaching students on campus
 - You **can** approach students and tell them about the election and yourself, and why they should vote for you
 - You **cannot** help a student vote
 - You **cannot** stand near a student, or engage with them *in any way*, while they are voting

Campaigning: main rules

- Approaching students on campus
 - Being near a student while voting violates the secrecy of the ballot and we take it very seriously
 - If a student has their phone out while you are telling them what to do it is **very obvious** to us you are breaking this rule

Campaigning: other rules

- Bulk emails, texts, use of mailing lists and direct messages are **not** permitted
- Bribery, including handing out anything (e.g. lollies) with your pamphlets is **not** permitted
- You can't use the UMSU International logo or motto on your material
- Any conduct that is dishonest, deceptive or misleading is prohibited
- Using resources of the University or UMSU (except those generally accessible to students) is **not** permitted

Campaigning: penalties

- If a complaint is made, or we discover a breach of the rules, we determine a penalty.
- Examples include:
 - A warning
 - Suspending you from campaigning, including requiring you to take down social media
 - Disabling your candidate statement from appear for a period of time
 - Disqualifying you from the election
 - Referral to the UMSU Electoral Tribunal for further action
 - Referral to the University under their Student Misconduct Policy

Questions

- We are not that scary, so feel free to email us