



JCU **STUDENT
ASSOCIATION**

National Union of Students (NUS) Election Information Pack

Elections 2021

An election to elect JCU NUS Delegates

Further Information

If you have any further questions, contact the Electoral Officer Simon Walker via
simon.walker@jcu.edu.au

Townsville Student Association Office: studentassociation@jcu.edu.au or Cairns Student

Association Office: admin.ccsa@jcu.edu.au.

Alternatively, you are welcome to call into the Student Association Offices' in both Townsville and
Cairns

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1. Introduction

We hope this information pack will provide you with all the information you need for this year's JCU NUS Delegate elections for the following positions.

Standing for election to the National Union of Students is a big decision. As a Representative for all the students at JCU in our various campuses you will, if elected, have the responsibility speak for the students of JCU at the National Level. The National Union of Students is the peak representative body for students in Australia.

2. What is the National Union of Students

The National Union of Students (NUS) is the peak representative body fighting for the rights of students across Australia. It is a non-profit organization. The NUS makes real changes to the lives of students by campaigning for an accessible and equitable education and welfare system for all; regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or religion. The NUS recognises the investment of education in creating opportunities, expanding job prospects for young people, and in forging a more just society.

The National Union of Students is composed of member bodies (Student Unions, Associations and Guilds) from around Australia. Each member body may elect delegates to the NUS. The number of delegates that each member body may send is based on the number of Equivalent Full Time Study Loads (EFTSL) at the university that Member Body represents. In 2021 JCU is eligible to elect 6 delegates to the NUS.

The elected delegates are expected to attend the National Conference which occurs over four days in Early December. Due to the effects of COVID-19 the date and location of the 2020 National Conference was host online. At the Conferences, delegates from all member universities in Australia gather to determine policy, finances and the office bearers for the following year.

Delegates must cover their own costs for conferences, including travel and registration.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for election an NUS Delegate you must be a current Student. On Tuesday 28th September at 4pm the roll is closed. This then becomes the Electoral Roll for the purpose of the 2021 NUS Delegate Elections.

4. Term of Office

Under the provisions of the current NUS Constitution, delegates elected will hold office from the date of their election to the date of their successor's election inclusive.

5. Documents

Councillors should be aware of and read the following documents:

- a) NUS Constitution
- b) NUS Regulations
- c) NUS By-Laws

6. Election Timetable

Election timetable is as follows:

a) Nominations

Nominations open at 9am Friday 17th September 2021 and close at 4pm on Tuesday 28th September 2021.

Nomination forms are available from the Townsville Campus Student Association Office, the Cairns Campus Student Association Office, and the JCUSA 2021 electoral officer. Completed nomination forms must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer by 4.00pm on Tuesday 28th September 2021.

Late nominations will not be accepted under any circumstances.

b) Where to submit your nominations

Completed nomination forms and any other material must be submitted to the Electoral Officer in the manner prescribed.

c) Draw

Immediately following the close of nominations the draw for the order in which names will appear on the online ballot will be conducted at the Student Association Main Office in Townsville. The ballot will contain the names of the candidates in the order in which their names are drawn by the Electoral Officer by surname. The policy statements and photographs will be reproduced for a voter information pack in a special edition of The Bullsheet.

d) Ticket Registration

Should candidates elect to put together a group of nominees to run together on a "ticket", the Ticket Registrant (person responsible for the Ticket) is required to submit the Ticket Registration before 9am on Tuesday 28th September 2021.

e) Polling Days and Place

Polling

The elections will be held on Tuesday October 12th 2021 Wednesday 13th October 2021 and Thursday 14th October 2021.

Polling will be conducted online utilising optional preferential voting. The link will be emailed to each eligible students JCU email address.

f) Counting of Votes

Will take place electronically after the close of voting.

g) Declaration of the Results

The results will be announced, if possible on the evening of the 14th of October.

All candidates will be advised by email and the results will be posted on <https://www.jcusa.edu.au/tsv-about-jcusa/elections/> and <https://www.jcusa.edu.au/cns-about-jcusa/elections/> as soon as practicable after the result has been announced.

7. NUS Constitution, Regulation and By-laws

The NUS Constitution, Regulations and By-Laws set out all the requirements of how the elections are to be carried out. All candidates are directed to familiarise themselves fully with the NUS Constitution, Regulations and By-Laws before the close of nominations.

[NUS Constitution](#) which also contains the Regulations and By-Laws.

8. Conduct during the Election

Code of Conduct for Election Candidates

The purpose of the Code is:

- a) To maintain public confidence in the electoral process by promoting conditions conducive to the conduct of free and fair elections; and
- b) To provide general guidance to candidates on what fair and reasonable conduct in elections, thereby ensuring candidates know what is required of them.

The Code applies to all candidates for the JCU NUS Delegate elections (independents and candidates endorsed by political parties).

A “candidate” is any person who is publicly identified as a candidate in the election, either by the candidate’s party or group, or through the actions of the person in the case of independent candidates. The Code applies to candidates who are so publicly identified before they are formally nominated as a candidate under the Association Regulations and Constitution.

The Code binds candidates personally. Candidates are also expected to make all reasonable efforts to ensure their campaign workers are aware of and observe the standards of conduct set by the Code, and of the public interest in free and fair elections.

How Election Candidates Should Conduct Themselves

Candidates will conduct themselves and their campaigns so as to maintain and strengthen the members trust and confidence in the democratic election process, and promote integrity in our electoral system.

Candidates conduct should be fair and reasonable. This requires that a candidate will:

- a) Act honestly in making representations about the candidate's own claims for election, and their intention to represent the electorate;
- b) Refrain from knowingly acting dishonestly in making representations about the claims of other candidates for election;
- c) Avoid making public statements which the candidate knows, or ought to know, are untrue, about any matter and especially an opponent's personal affairs;
- d) Avoid making vexatious complaints against opponent during a campaign;
- e) Avoid conduct which is contrary to State or Commonwealth law including but not limited to:
 - Racial or religious vilification offences under the Anti-Discrimination Act;
 - Official misconduct under the Crime and Misconduct Act; and Criminal Code offences; and
 - Avoid conduct which would tend to compromise a free and fair election process.

Election Literature Including Posters, Flyers and How to Vote Cards

All election literature issued by a candidate must be approved by the Electoral Officer prior to distribution to ensure that it complies with the Code of Conduct. Election literature not authorised by the Electoral Officer will be removed from the University and has the discretion to impose penalties ranging from warnings to disqualification of the ticket/nominee.

Candidates must ensure that all election literature presented to the Electoral Officer carries the name of the candidate, or in the case of groups of candidates, the name of the Group and the name of the Presidential candidate of that group. This information must be displayed on all literature issued or posted.

No posters of any sort may be affixed to any windows of the Association or University. In addition, no chalk, paint or other type of writing should be used on any building or pathway within the University.