Candidate Information Pack

Macquarie University Student-led Organisation Ltd (MQSLO)
2027 inaugural elections for up to four Student Directors of the MQSLO Board

This pack outlines your opportunity to serve as a Student Director on the Board of the new University student-led organisation that will formerly launch in 2027. It provides background on MQSLO's purpose, summary of the proposed funding arrangements, roles and responsibilities, eligibility requirements, and nomination and election process for Student Directors.

Your opportunity
Nominate for a Student Director on the inaugural Board of MQSLO for 2027. Help shape the strategic direction of the organisation and priorities during its pilot year.

Background
MQSLO is being established in response to a legislative requirement introduced in 2024 that universities distribute a proportion of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) to an independent student-led organisation. This independent student-led organisation must in turn use the funds allocated to it to support student services that meet the SSAF legislative requirements.

In June 2025, the Department of Education approved Macquarie University's three-year transition plan to establish an independent student-led organisation to meet these requirements. The final year of the transition plan is 2027, during which the University will establish a pilot MQSLO to prepare for a fully operational organisation that is independent of the University from 1 January 2028.

In 2027, the Board will focus on establishing the strategic direction and funding arrangements for 2028 and beyond.

About the MQSLO
The MQSLO's purpose includes to:

- enrich the educational experience of all Macquarie students;
- promote student wellbeing, improve the quality of student life to support participation in education and enhance the university experience;
- provide and maintain services and facilities that respond to student needs and align with SSAF requirements;

- provide an opportunity for members to develop skills and experience they can use in study, work and everyday life;
- create opportunities for members to build networks, make friends and have fun.

Under the approved transition plan, the University will allocate 15% of SSAF to the 2027 pilot MQSLO. This will increase to 40% from 1 January 2028 when MQSLO becomes independent from the University. The MQSLO Board, including its Student Directors, will determine its strategic direction including by participating in decision making regarding how its SSAF allocation will be used to support students in accordance with SSAF legislative requirements.

The transition to independence

During 2027, the pilot MQSLO will operate as a Controlled Entity of the University. This means the University will retain oversight and certain decision-making powers while the inaugural Board will help establish the independent organisation and shape its priorities from 1 January 2028. The Board will exercise its authority within the agreed governance arrangements, with some decisions requiring University approval. The 2027 Board will include up to four Student Directors.

From 1 January 2028, the MQSLO will become fully independent from Macquarie University with responsibility for its governance and decision-making moving to its independent Board, which will consist of a majority of Student Directors. It will remain accountable for how it uses SSAF funding, including through the agreed funding and reporting arrangements with the University.

Read the MQSLO Constitution for detail of the MQSLO's objects, membership structure, Board composition and transitional arrangements.

The role of MQSLO's 2027 Student Directors and your commitment

Board composition and available positions

The inaugural MQSLO Board for 2027 will include up to four elected Student Directors and three University Directors.

What you would contribute

As a Student Director, you will help establish MQSLO and prepare it for full independence from the University from 1 January 2028. You will bring student perspectives to Board discussions, help shape the organisation's priorities, and contribute to the governance arrangements, plans and oversight needed for it to operate independently from 2028 and beyond.

The Board will focus on governance and strategic direction, with MQSLO staff responsible for day-to-day operations.

Responsibilities during the 2027 transition

Directors will be expected to attend and prepare for Board meetings, comply with statutory and fiduciary director's duties, including by making informed decisions in the organisation's interests, exercising due care and diligence, declaring and managing conflicts of interest, and maintaining confidentiality.

The Board will operate within the agreed University oversight arrangements for the 2027 transition year. Further information about the Board composition, including during the 2027 transition can be found in the MQSLO Constitution. Further information about director duties and responsibilities will be provided to elected directors via an induction program and other professional development opportunities throughout the year.

Appointment term and eligibility throughout the term

The 2027 MQSLO Student Directors will be appointed for the period 1 January to 31 December 2027 and must continue to meet the eligibility requirements for a Student Director, as set out in the MQSLO Constitution throughout their term.

Appointments do not automatically continue into 2028. Elections for the 2028 MQSLO Student Directors will be held in October 2027.

Time commitment and participation

Directors should expect to attend up to eight Board meetings during 2027, each lasting for up to two hours in duration. Additional time will be required to read and prepare meeting papers, prepare for discussions, and contribute to work between meetings.

Student Directors will also participate in induction and training to support them in their role and prepare MQSLO to become fully operational and independent from the University from 1 January 2028.

Student Directors will be expected to commit up to 10 hours per month on average, including meetings and preparation, as well as initial induction and professional development throughout the year. This may vary during the establishment phase and key planning and SSAF funding allocation periods, with meetings and other commitments planned around teaching periods, examinations and session breaks wherever possible.

Meetings will be held on campus at the MQSLO offices located at 10 Hadenfeld Avenue. Meeting dates and induction arrangements will be provided to successful candidates.

Remuneration and benefits
As a Student Director, you will have the opportunity to:

- Make a difference for students by helping shape MQSLO's strategic priorities and the future student experience at Macquarie.
- Gain Board experience by contributing to strategic discussions and decisions.
- Develop professionally through training in governance and fiduciary responsibilities.

Student Directors receive remuneration in recognition of their time and contribution as a director of the Board. Remuneration will need to support the charitable objects of the company.

Training and support
Student Directors will receive induction and support to help them understand their role and their statutory and fiduciary responsibilities as Board members. This is expected to include a directors' duties course or equivalent governance training, together with an introduction to MQSLO's governance arrangements, finances and SSAF funding responsibilities.

Details of the training and ongoing support will be provided to successful candidates.

Who can nominate
To be eligible to nominate as an MQSLO Board Student Director for 2027, you must:

- Have paid or will be levied the SSAF (Student Services and Amenity Fee) by the University for that Session;
- Not be in arrears in respect of the payment to the University of that SSAF;
- Be over 18 years of age;
- Not be ineligible to be a director under the *Corporations Act 2001* or the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*;
- Comply with the Election Rules and Campaign Rules in Schedules 2 and 3 of the MQSLO Constitution; and
- Consent to be a director of the MQSLO.

Election timetable and rules

The key election dates are outlined below.

Stage	Date or period
Nominations open	28 October 2026
Nominations close	11 November 2026 at 3:00pm AEDT
Candidate confirmation and ballot draw information	29 October 2026 – 13 November 2026
Ballot draw	17 November 2026
Campaign briefing email	25 November 2026
Examination pause	9 to 27 November 2026
Campaigning	From 30 November 2026
Voting opens	30 November 2026 at 3.00pm AEDT
Voting closes	14 December 2026 at 3.00pm AEDT
Vote count	15 December 2026
Election results announced	16 December 2026

Ballot draw

A draw to determine the order in which candidates' names will appear on the voting ballot will be held on Tuesday 17 November 2026. Candidates may nominate a scrutineer to attend and observe the draw.

How voting works

Eligible students will vote to elect up to four Student Directors to the MQSLO Board for 2027.

Students are eligible to vote if they have paid their SSAF for Session 2, 2026 or Term 4, 2026 and have no overdue SSAF payments owing to the University for that session/term.

Voting is preferential. Students must place a 1 beside their first-choice candidate. They may also rank any or all remaining candidates by numbering them consecutively from 2. Additional preferences are optional.

Candidates may nominate a scrutineer to attend and observe the vote count.

Read Schedule 2 – Election Rules (page 29) of the MQSLO Constitution for the full election procedures.

Campaigning and election conduct

Campaigning will take place after the examination period ends on 27 November 2026, during the dates specified in the election timetable.

Candidates must read and comply with Schedule 3 – Campaign Rules (Page 36) of the MQSLO Constitution, which sets out the requirements for campaigning and election conduct.

Questions about campaigning or election conduct should be directed to the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Dean of Students) at dos@mq.edu.au.

How to nominate

Submit your nomination

1. Read this pack, Schedule 2 – Election Rules (page 29) of the MQSLO Constitution and Schedule 3 – Campaign Rules (Page 36) of the MQSLO Constitution.
2. Check that you meet the eligibility requirements set out in the MQSLO Constitution.
3. Complete and submit the Nomination Form available on the University website at: https://www.goto.mq.edu.au/election-forms by 11 November 2026 at 3.00pm AEDT.

What happens after you submit

Your nomination will be reviewed to confirm you meet the eligibility requirements to stand for election. You may be contacted if further information is needed.

You will be notified of the outcome of your nomination between 29 October and 13 November 2026. Nominations will be assessed as they are received, and confirmed candidates will receive further information about the election and campaigning arrangements.

How your information will be used

The information you provide as part of your nomination will be shared across our communication channels as part of the campaigning process.

Questions and accessibility support

For questions about the election or the student director role, or to request information in an accessible format, please email the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Dean of Students) at dos@mq.edu.au.