FAQs for student elections

What are the functions of Faculty Boards and Student Representative Committee (SRC), and the involvement of student members?

Faculty Boards
Faculty Boards form a critical component of the University's academic governance framework. Each Faculty Board considers and endorses the curriculum for that faculty’s programs and makes recommendations to the Executive Dean on the academic governance of the faculty.

Student Representative Committee (SRC)
The SRC is the University's peak consultative body for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Committee includes elected members and appointed members and, collectively, represents the voice of students.

Where can I find more information about Faculty Boards and Student Representative Committee?
Check out the following MQ webpages:
- Faculty Boards
- Student Representative Committee

When are the elections?
The nominations and voting periods for the current University Council and SRC elections are:
- Nominations period: Wednesday 8 September until Wednesday 6 October at 3.00 pm
- Voting and campaigning period: Wednesday 20 October at 3.00 pm until Wednesday 3 November at 3.00 pm.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all physical campaigning activities on campus are prohibited.

Can I run for more than one position?
A candidate can only run for one SRC position. However, we are also running an election for student members to Faculty Boards, so you may apply for this position as well if you are eligible.

Where can I find the eligibility criteria for the position I am interested in?
The eligibility criteria for each position are listed on the relevant nomination forms. Contact election@mq.edu.au if you have any questions about these.

Is it possible to hold a position and live outside Sydney?
As long as you meet the eligibility criteria which are listed on the Notice of Election or nomination forms, you can participate in any student elections.

However, you must take into account that should you be successfully elected to the position, you will also be expected to attend some face-to-face meetings on campus; which might be challenging for you. If you are an international student who is not able to be in Australia because of COVID-19 border restrictions, you may be able to attend meetings by Zoom but please consider the time zone difference. Committees are unable to change their meeting times to suit overseas attendees.

I don’t want to participate in the student elections, can I be removed from the mailing list?
We understand that this may be frustrating but according to the Student Election Rules, the University must deliver a notice of election to the email address of each person entitled to vote at that election. As such, we cannot remove you from the mailing list.

Having your say about your student representatives is important and so you are encouraged to vote.

What are the election rules I must follow?
- Faculty Board elections are conducted in accordance with the Faculty Rules; and
- SRC elections are conducted in accordance with the SRC Constitution, Schedule 5, and SRC Election Rules.
Who can be my proposer and seconder?
Students can only be nominated, or act as a proposer or seconder for the electorate in which they are enrolled. For example, a student seeking nomination as a Postgraduate Representative from the Faculty of Arts must be enrolled in a postgraduate course owned by the Faculty of Arts, as does their proposer and seconder. Faculty of enrolment will be based on which Faculty a student’s course belongs to, or the first major a student has enrolled in – if you are not sure, please contact election@mq.edu.au for confirmation of your faculty.

To find out your home Faculty, go to the https://coursehandbook.mq.edu.au/ or Handbook Archive, select the year of your commencement and enter your course name on the search bar.

Examples below:
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What should I include in my candidate statement?
Your candidate statement should outline your capabilities, skills, and experience in relation to the position you are applying for and why you believe you would be successful in the position.

What are the rules of campaigning?
Student candidates must attend a compulsory Election Conduct Briefing session on Wednesday 13 October 2021 from 4.30 pm and adhere to the campaigning rules which will be provided at the Briefing. Due to the physical distancing requirements, this session will be conducted online.

Note that these rules also apply to campaigners and scrutineers. Contact election@mq.edu.au if you have any questions about the rules.

What is the definition of ‘Serious Misconduct’ outlined on one of the eligibility criteria?
The Definition of “Serious Student Misconduct” in the Student Discipline Procedure is:

a) any Misconduct which involves substantial harm or threat of substantial harm to the health of or safety of any person;
b) any Misconduct which involves substantial damage or threat of substantial damage to the property of any person; or
c) any Misconduct which has or may have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of the University; or
d) repeated Misconduct of any kind, which indicates an unwillingness to comply with University Regulations generally or with a particular University Regulation.

Who can vote in this election?
You can vote for the electorate you are enrolled into. For example, if you are enrolled in a postgraduate course owned by the Faculty of Arts, you can vote for the following positions:

- Student Members to the Faculty of Arts Faculty Board; and
- Postgraduate Student Representative from the Faculty of Arts to the SRC.

Where and how do I vote?
The voting is conducted electronically. Students who are eligible to vote will receive an invitation email via their University email address with a personalised voting link to the online ballot.

You must not forward this personalised voting link to anyone as it may invalidate the link.

How is voting counted?
Where there is one elected position to be filled, the candidate who has received the highest number of first preference votes will be declared elected.

Where there is more than one position to be filled the result of the ballot will be determined in accordance with the procedures set out in the Proportional Representation Manual: Rules for Conducting Elections by the Quota Preferential Method.

What do I have to do?
- Attend the meetings which are held at regular intervals through the year. If you are unable to attend, you are required to request a leave of absence (in writing) from the Chair of the relevant Committee/Board. You will be sent the agendas, minutes, and other related documentation prior to each meeting.
- Familiarise yourself with the business of the meetings. This means pre-reading the agenda, minutes, and other documentation ahead of the meeting.
- If there is a standing student item on the agenda, this provides you with the opportunity to report on an issue or concern from the student body.
- Don’t forget to report back to the student body on non-confidential items.

How much time commitment is required?
Allow 2 hours for each meeting, as well as 2 hours of pre-reading and any follow up. There may be other committees and activities you may be invited to engage with which will require additional time commitment. If you can’t afford the time – don’t put your hand up. It’s better to not offer than to offer and not deliver.
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What are my responsibilities and duties?
- Attending meetings is the priority.
- Be prepared for the meeting – be on time having read and familiarised yourself with the agenda and minutes.
- Contribute to discussion and express views representing the student body.
- Report back to the student body using a variety of forums and platforms.

What skills do I need to participate on Faculty Board and/or SRC?
- Communication and participation at meetings.
- Collaboration and engagement with colleagues.
- Team work and a can do attitude.
- Time management, organisational skills, and goal setting.

Who will support me?
- The relevant Committee/Board Secretary will provide organisational support to help you meet the requirements of your role. They send the agendas, minutes and papers, and keep you informed of what you need to do and when.
- For Faculty Board student members, you will be assigned a mentor by your Faculty. Together you will develop a mentoring plan and have regular catch ups before meetings to discuss items and ensure you are achieving your goals.
- The Chair of the relevant Committee/Board can also provide you with advice if needed.

What will I learn from my involvement?
All the skills listed will be further enhanced and developed through your participation. The skills and experience gained may be a real asset on your resume and as part of building your career.

Is my involvement acknowledged?
Yes. You will receive acknowledgment of your participation as an extra-curricular activity on your AHEGS – this will be based on an assessment of your contribution to Faculty Board or SRC (i.e., attendance at meetings).

Do I get paid?
No. But this may provide a terrific advantage to your resume and in career building.