



## **Student Group Endorsement Process**

### **What are the Elections?**

Your Students' Union (Your SU) is the representative body for all students studying across the Coventry University Group. We are a student-led, democratic organisation that is overseen every academic year by a new team of student leaders.

These student leaders are elected by the student body every year to be their representatives in the following academic year. We have full-time and part-time student leadership roles that run campaigns and sit on boards and committees within the Union and University's governance structures. These roles are important in both Your SU and Coventry University as a key mechanism of student engagement and enhancing the student experience.

## **Endorsement Process:**

Here is the process which Student Groups need to follow, in order to endorse a candidate(s).

### **Who can seek an endorsement?**

Candidates, committee members and student group members can request candidates to be endorsed by a student group. They must approach committee members to formally request a candidate be endorsed by the student group.

### **What is the process Student Groups must follow to endorse the candidate?**

**Step 1.** Committee members of a Student Group must decide who their preferred candidates are to endorse, this must be done via an election. All Committee members have the right to bring candidates to the table to be considered for endorsement. All Committee members must be notified of all individuals being considered for endorsement.

**Step 2.** Committee members must conduct a democratic vote, including all elected members of the committee, to decide who will be endorsed. It is at the discretion of the Committee as to how this vote is conducted, however this must be recorded so that SU staff can check that a vote has taken place in a democratic manner. As with all Elections, Committee members have the right to abstain from voting (not cast a vote), or choose RON (re-open nominations, meaning that they feel that no Candidates put forward should be endorsed).

For this step, it is recommended that you use your Student Groups Teams channel, or similar, to host a discussion about endorsements which can then be shared directly with your SU staff member.

**Step 3.** Once the vote has been conducted, and candidate(s) (where applicable) have been chosen for endorsement, you must then notify their relevant coordinator of this, including the details of the individuals alongside what date it was decided that these candidates would be endorsed. Your SU staff member must approve the decision, and agree that the endorsement was completed by a democratic vote. Once this is complete, you can then begin promoting the candidate(s) you have endorsed.

## **Endorsement FAQ's and Guidance:**

### **Can any Sport or Society club endorse a candidate?**

Any active sport or society can choose to endorse candidates as part of the Election.

### **Can we endorse one, or multiple, candidates?**

You can choose to endorse one, or multiple, candidates for election as an individual student. Equally, you may endorse one or multiple candidates, as a sport or society club.

### **What does endorsing a candidate consist of?**

If you endorse a candidate through your student group, you will need to do this democratically, by vote. It is at the committees discretion as to how this vote takes place, however it must be evidenced and shared with their relevant SU staff member.

Alternatively, if you wish to endorse as an individual you can simply choose which candidate/s you wish to support.

Once you have chosen to endorse a candidate, it is then upto the Student Group or the individual to act upon this. For example, you might want to share their materials on social media, or promote their manifesto aims.

Please note that endorsements will not be published or promoted by the Students' Union. It is the sole responsibility of the individual or student group, to act upon their endorsement(s) once chosen/approved.

### **Does a Candidate have to be part of my student group, in order to endorse them?**

No- you can choose to endorse any candidate(s) who is running in the Election.

### **What if a Student Group do not wish to endorse a candidate?**

Groups that have not endorsed a specific candidate should allow all candidates to promote to their members without favouritism towards a single candidate.

### **Can I endorse separately to my student group?**

Yes, you can choose to endorse candidates as an individual, outside of your Student Group.

### **Can I choose to endorse a different candidate, to the one my Student Group chose?**

Yes, you can choose to support other candidates outside of the ones that your Student Group have chosen. However, what you cannot do is conduct any smear or negative campaigning against the individual(s) chosen by your Student Group. It is important to note that your Student Group may also still choose to endorse this person on the Student Groups behalf, so content may be shared via the Groups social media etc.

### **When can Candidate Endorsement take place?**

Candidate Endorsement can begin as soon as the eligible list of candidates is released.

### **Can any candidate be endorsed?**

Any Full-time or Part-time Officer candidate can be endorsed, once they have been listed as an eligible candidate.

### **What is the difference between individual student endorsement, and group endorsement from a sports or society club?**

There is no real difference, it is just that endorsement by a Student Group is done on behalf of a group of people, and an endorsement by an individual is backed by one student.

### **How will endorsements be advertised?**

Endorsements will not be advertised by the Students' Union - it is the responsibility of the individual, or student group as a collective, to act upon their endorsement accordingly.

### **Can Candidates be endorsed by SU or University staff, or externals?**

No, Candidates can only be endorsed by current students studying at Coventry University Group.

### **Once we've endorsed a candidate, can we gift them items?**

No, Student Groups cannot gift items to Candidates, nor can individuals, as this is seen to be giving them an unfair advantage in the Election.

Candidates can only use materials that are seen to be accessible or readily available to all students, or utilise their Candidate Budget to purchase items, as per Rule one of the Elections regulations.