

Co-option Guidance

1. Permitted Co-option Period:

- i. Student groups are only permitted to carry out co-options within two weeks following the by-election dates.
- ii. All group members should be allowed to vote.
- iii. Co-options outside this period are not allowed, as they undermine the democratic purpose of elections. The SU will consider co-opting if the role is very much needed due to the activity of the group. The process for this is laid out in the below section.

2. Consequences of Unfilled Positions:

- i. If the core committee positions remain vacant beyond the two-week window, the group may be classified as inactive. However, co-options can take place under the following exceptions.

3. Exceptions for Co-option Committee Roles:

Co-options may be considered outside the permitted period only under the following circumstances:

- i. A core committee member (Chair or Treasurer) resigns or is otherwise unable to continue in their role.
- ii. If having the position vacant goes against SU policy and co-option is necessary for the effective functioning or continuity of the group.
- iii. In all cases above, the situation must be formally discussed with the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) before any co-option process can proceed.

4. Voting Procedure for Co-options:

- i. Co-option decisions must be made through an online poll open to the members of the relevant group.
- ii. The poll must include:
 1. All nominated candidates for the vacant position.
 2. A Re-Open Nominations (RON) option to ensure transparency and democratic choice.