



# University Council

## Students' Union Report: Officer Election

April 2025

### Introduction

Sheffield SU is an independent charitable incorporated association, regulated by the Charity Commission relative to the Charities Act, and University of Sheffield Council relative to the Education Act. As of the 1st August 2024, Sheffield SU shall be further regulated by the Office for Students relative to the recently passed Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act.

It is a requirement of the [Education Act \(1994\) Part II](#), that the Governing Body of the University of Sheffield ensures Sheffield SU's compliance with certain conditions provided by The Act, including ensuring that the SU is operated in a fair and democratic manner and is accountable for its finances. The primary mechanism for this undertaking is the development and monitoring of a Code of Practice, which was reviewed as recently as Summer 2023 and is provided within the [University Calendar](#) (pg 134).

In this update we focus on the results of the recent SU Officer election and share the Returning Officer's Report.

### SU Elections Results

Between **19th and 20th March 2025** votes for the following were held concurrently:

- 6 Full Time Students' Union Officers
- 1 Elected Student Trustee
- 2 Referenda Questions

The final results of these elections were:

#### Full Time Officers

- SU President (Democracy & Community) [9 Candidates, 3,535 votes]: **Daisy Watson** (she/her), with 1,564 votes
- Education Officer [5 Candidates, 3,135 votes]: **Sam Omondi** (she/they), with 1,479 votes
- Liberation & Activities Officer [9 Candidates, 2,553 votes]: **Laura Edwards** (they/them), with 899 votes
- Wellbeing & Sports Officer [2 Candidates, 2,697 votes]: **Amelia Desouza** (she/her), with 1,810 votes
- Sustainability & Development Officer [9 Candidates, 2,597 votes]: **Anna James** (she/her), with 869 votes



- International & Welfare Officer [10 Candidates, 2,728 votes]: **Kia Delgado Derteano** (she/they), with 902 votes

### Elected Student Trustee

- Elected Student Trustee [3 Candidates, 2,450 votes]: **Nina Thyr** (she/her), with 1,532 votes

## Voter Turnout

‘Voter turnout’ refers to the total number of eligible students who voted in the elections. Voter turnout in these elections was **5,728 voters, 19.2% of the student population**. This is a decrease of 2 percentage points from 2022 [where the turnout was 6,979, 21%], however this turnout was achieved with two fewer days of voting and half the number of roles available for members to vote for.

Voter turnout and student population during the past 5 SU Officer Elections are given below:

Year	Voter Pop.	Voter Turnout	% Turnout
2020/21 (FTO Only)	32,013	5,479	17%
2020/21 (PTO Only)	32,013	1,159	4%
2021/22	30,129	4,614	16%
2022/23	32,982	6,860	20.70%
2023/24	33,377	6,979	21%
2024/25*	29,871	5,728	19.20%

One of the concerns heading into the election was that the reduction in the number of positions (including all of the Part-Time roles which saw significant turnout in 2024) married to the reduced number of voting days would see both a drastic drop in overall turnout as well as a per-role turnout.

Though reductions in both were seen, this was ultimately by small margins - 1.8% reduction in turnout and a per position decrease of only 60 votes (with some positions in fact recording higher voter turnouts than 2024).

## Candidates

As with voting, there was a concern that we would see a significant reduction in candidate numbers (beyond simply the reduction caused by fewer roles being available).



Whilst an overall reduction in the number of candidates did occur (as anticipated and indeed planned for), we saw an increase in the average number of candidates per positions. In broad terms this is perhaps an early illustration that the new FTO positions feel relevant to members, and are understood.

Across all roles we saw a good demographic spread - with international and postgraduate candidates for all of the roles (except Wellbeing & Sport), and candidates from across all five Faculties. SU President saw a predominantly male field (albeit with a female winner), whilst all other roles were split relatively evenly in terms of gender (45% of the candidature identifying as male).

A standard objective for all-student elections is that each position is contested (has more candidates standing than there are vacancies). This objective was achieved for all elections.

### External Returning Officer's Report

The elections were agreed by the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer to be fair and properly conducted.

A copy of the External Returning Officer report from the National Union of Students is included in full below.

# Returning Officer's Report

## The University of Sheffield Students Union

<b>Election</b>	SU Officer Elections 2025
<b>Returning Officer</b>	Peter Robertson, NUS Charity Director
<b>Deputy Returning Officer</b>	Mems Ayinla, Director of Student Influence

<b>Dates of Nominations:</b>	10/01/2025 to 28/02/2025
<b>Dates of Voting:</b>	19/03/2025 to 20/03/2025
<b>Number of Candidates:</b>	47
<b>Number of Votes:</b>	5,728
<b>Percentage of Voter Turnout:</b>	19%
<b>Number of Complaints/Appeals:</b>	11 Complaints & 0 Appeals Received
<b>Number of Complaints/Appeals Upheld:</b>	0 Complaints Upheld

### Returning Officer's Comments/Recommendations

There are no further comments or recommendations.

### Confirmation of Fair Election

I hereby declare that this election was run in a fair and democratic manner which satisfies the stipulations as laid out within the 1994 Education Act.

### Returning Officer Signature and Date

Signed:   
NUS Charity Director and National Returning Officer

Date: 26/03/2025