

NUS Delegate Election – USASA/UniSA Delegation

Frequently Asked Questions (2021)

Questions about the Role and Conference

What is the NUS?

- The NUS is the National Union of Students. From [its website](#): "The NUS was founded in 1987 to represent all post school students in Australia. We are a peak representative and advocacy body for almost 1 Million students. The NUS is established on the principles of student unionism and our primary objectives include working for the interest of students in improving quality of education, academic freedom, access to education, social security, health and welfare."

What is the NUS National Conference?

- Also known as "NatCon", each December the NUS holds a national conference in Melbourne, Australia. This conference usually goes for 5 days and is attended by students from all over Australia to vote on the following year's office bearers and policy platform.

What is an NUS Delegate?

- An NUS delegate is a person that has been elected by a University's student population to attend the conference on behalf of that University or student association. USASA/UniSA are entitled to elect 7 NUS Delegates to perform this function.

What happens if I'm elected, but I can't physically attend the conference?

- You will need to either proxy your vote to someone to attend on your behalf (or someone who is already attending), or your vote will not be counted.

Is there a cost associated with the role and do I have to pay for it myself?

- There is a cost associated with the conference and the schedule of fees is usually released around November. In 2020/2019 the cost was around \$550 for delegates to attend the conference; this does not include flights or accommodation.
- You will need to pay for the conference at your own expense, however if you are organised you might be able to apply for a USASA Leadership Grant to cover some or all of the cost. Leadership Grants are judged on the merit of each individual application within a competitive grant pool, so it is recommended that you lodge your applications early to give yourself time to resubmit or self-fundraise if unsuccessful. You should consider applying for the grant before the outcome of the election is known to ensure that grant round deadlines can be met.
- Find out more about USASA Leadership grants at <http://USASA.sa.edu.au/grants#leader>

What happens if I'm elected, but there's a lockdown or COVID travel restrictions?

- You will need to follow the health and travel advice of the University and relevant State Government Health body(ies). Any questions beyond that, e.g. conference cancellations, should be directed to the General Secretary of the NUS at gensec@nus.asn.au

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Questions about Election Process

What are the key dates for this election?

- Nominations Open: Monday 6th September at 9am
- Nominations Close: Friday 17th September at 4pm
- Voting Opens: Monday 11th October at 9am
- Voting Closes: Friday 15th October at 4pm
- Provisional Result Announced: Friday 15th October at 5pm

How do I nominate to be an NUS Delegate?

- The process for nominating to be an NUS Delegate is the same as nominating to be a member of the USASA Board, however the only eligibility requirement is that you are a UniSA Student

Do I need to nominate as a member of the USASA Board to nominate as an NUS Delegate?

- No, you don't. You also don't need to nominate as an NUS Delegate to nominate as a member of the USASA Board. These are two separate elections being run through the same platform and timeline.

Do I need to attend the Compulsory Candidate Briefing mentioned on the nomination form?

- Yes, you will. This session will cover the rules for the election and campaigning, so you must attend.
- Please note: you must attend the entire Candidate Briefing to meet the compulsory requirement. People arriving late will not be admitted, so make sure you are on time or early.

What are the rules governing this election and campaigning?

- Per section 2.1.2, the USASA Election Regulations that also govern the Board election, will cover the election of NUS Delegates.

More Info

Who do I contact if I want more information?

- If you want more information about the **NUS Delegate Role**, you will need to get in touch with the NUS State Branch President at sa.pres@nus.asn.au
- If you want to find out more about the **NUS National Conference**, you will need to get in touch with the General Secretary of the NUS at gensec@nus.asn.au
- If you want to find out more about the **process of nominating** or the election itself, you will need to get in touch with USASA.StudentVoice@unisa.edu.au