

## ***Election FAQs***

### ***Can a student hold office for more than 1 year?***

Yes, under the DITSU Constitution, a student may be elected to hold two terms of office as an elected officer.

### ***How do I get nominated to these positions?***

You nominate yourself for these positions. Sabbatical nominees must get 100 students to sign their nomination form, 25 students for the Convenor nominations. Interested students need to complete and submit the nomination form by **5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 3pm**.

### ***How do I run an Election Campaign?***

There are a number of information sessions planned, info, docs, forms and rules and regs to download here for potential candidates. You need to choose a good reliable campaign manager and team and we will provide with all the assistance and advice you need to run a good, fair, legal campaign. You are issued with materials to run your campaign i.e. stationery, printing, design advice, web space etc. After that, the rest is up to you and your team so get creative.

### ***What are hustings?***

Due to the size of DIT it's not always possible for everyone to know each candidate. Hustings are where the candidates address their fellow students about their plans if elected & answer questions from students. Hustings will take place on all sites & will be advertised in advance.

### ***What is a nomination form?***

This is a form that any student interested in running for an officer positions must fill out and submit. Class mates or any DIT student must nominate them for the position. This does not mean the student is elected, it is merely a formality to ensure a student is serious about running for election.

### ***Can staff and students vote in these elections?***

Only registered students of the Dublin Institute of Technology are entitled to vote in the StudentsqUnion elections. No staff from either the DIT or the StudentsqUnion are entitled to vote.

***Will anyone know who I vote for?*** DIT StudentsqUnion elections are run by secret ballot. Nobody will know how you voted except you.

### ***How are the elections run?***

The elections are taken very seriously by the StudentsqUnion and are monitored very closely. Foul play or inappropriate behaviour that would diminish the reputation of DITSU or the candidates are not tolerated and such behaviour can lead to the disqualification of a candidate. An Electoral Commission (as per the StudentsqUnion Constitution) oversees the entire election process. The Commission is comprised of student and staff reps and is chaired

by an independent chairperson. The Electoral commission monitors everything from who is entitled to vote, to ensuring all candidates run a clean campaign.

***Is training provided for the elected officers?***

Yes, a comprehensive training and development programme is run each year for the elected officers. The StudentsqUnion provides training in areas such as presentation skills, public speaking, communication, conflict resolution. The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) also organises training for all elected officers from around the country.

***Who is a member of the Students Union?***

You are. All students of DIT are automatically members of the Students Union on payment of their registration fee, (even if it is by an external body), and have the right to access any service provided by DITSU and vote in our elections. The easy way to know is **if you have received your college ID card you are a member of the SU and YOU CAN VOTE.** ***How are the students represented?***

The registered students of the Dublin Institute of Technology elect interested students (sabbatical officers) on an annual basis to represent and defend them in various aspects of college life.

***Do you need to be studying any particular course or have been previously involved in the Students' Union to run for election?***

No . all registered students are entitled to run for election, this includes full-time, parttime, International, apprentice, European Students.

***How many positions are available for the students to run for?***

There are three full-time paid elected offices in the DIT StudentsqUnion, as per the Constitution of the StudentsqUnion. These are President, Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs and Vice President for Services & Trading. Sabbaticals.

There are also 6 part time Convenor positions available for Aungier St, Bolton St, Cathal Brugha St, Kevin St, Mountjoy Sq and Rathmines. All students of DIT register in one of these six sites whether they attend class in Temple Bar, Portland Row or Sherkin Island.

***What is a Sabbatical Officer?***

It is the term used to describe a student who takes a year out of college to hold an elected office in the StudentsqUnion. The sabbatical officer sits on all committees of the DIT for a whole year representing YOU so it's important that you vote. Full job description here

***What is a Class Rep Convenor?***

The Convenor work up to 10 hours per week on their local site. They run the Class Rep meetings and organise local events and activities and also sit on relevant committees of DIT. Full job description here

***How long is a term of office?***

The term of office starts on the July 01 of the year of election and runs until June 30 of the

following year.

***Do the sabbaticals have any support?***

Yes. There are experienced full-time members of staff employed by the Union to support and guide the elected officers during their term of office.

***Are Elected officers issued with Contracts of Employment and if so by whom?***

Yes, all sabbatical officers and Convenors are issued with Contracts of Employment for their term of office by DIT StudentsqUnion Ltd - the company established by the DITSU Constitution to manage the affairs of the StudentsqUnion.

***Who represents the students in this company?***

Like any other limited company, DITSU has a Board of Directors and the three elected sabbatical officers, automatically become Directors of the Company. Also two students are elected from the students Governing Council to sit on this Board.