

Bluffers Guide to a Referendum

What is a Constitutional Referendum?

This is a change (Additions, variations, repeals) to the Articles of the DIT Students' Union Constitution, which was adopted by the DIT student body in 2012.

Who can vote in a referendum?

All students, including Full Time, Part Time, Apprentices or Block release are members of the DIT Students' Union, and are therefore eligible to vote. (You must be registered and hold a valid student card)

Initial Stages

1. A proposal shall be put into the Company Solicitors who will consider any technical and legal issues

Stage 1 (*Time Scale: ~ up to two years*)

2. A petition shall then be forwarded to the Chairperson of Student Council by either 1/3 of the total membership of Student Council, or 10% of the total membership of the Union.
3. The Chairperson of Student Council shall cause to have a committee set up to look at the technical and policy implications.
4. The Committee to report back to the Chairperson within a timescale as decided by Student Council.
5. A motion must be submitted to Student Council within the timescale set out, and must be called a "Motion to Amend the Constitution". This motion will lapse after a period of two years.
6. The Motion needs to receive the support of 50% of the total membership of the Student Council

Stage 2 (*Time Scale: 2 calendar months*)

7. The motion will then be forwarded to the Electoral Commission, who will decide the terms for the Referendum – and may take place no later than 2 calendar months from the proposals adoption by Student Council.
8. Voter turn-out must be 10% of the total Union membership
9. Voting must take place for no less than 9 hours, and no more than 3 continuous days

Stage 3

10. A copy of the amended Constitution must be signed by the President, the Chairperson to the Student Council and the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission. This shall be affixed with the Student Council seal and the date on which the amended Constitution came into force.

The Electoral Commission must issue information stating the pro's and con's of the Referendum, but may not advocate for a vote to be cast in a particular way.

The Student Council may issue information which encourages members to vote in a particular way.