

HWUMSA Elections
2026/27
Voting Protocols

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Date: 12 November 2025

PART I PRELIMINARY

A. SHORT TITLE

This protocol document may be cited as the Voting Protocols.

B. INTERPRETATION

In this document, unless otherwise stated –

- “Candidates” refers to shortlisted candidates who have received confirmation emails from hwum.iec@hw.ac.uk;
- “Elections” refers to HWUMSA Elections;
- “HWUMSA” refers to HWUM Student Association;
- “IEC” refers to Independent Election Commission;
- “Students” or “Student body” refers to students studying at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia;
- “University” refers to Heriot-Watt University Malaysia (HWUM);
- “Voting period” refers to a period where eligible voters can cast their votes in any HWUMSA elections.

PART II GENERAL

C. AUTHORITY OF INDEPENDENT ELECTION COMMISSION

1. The IEC has the authority to make amendments to the Voting Protocols. Shall amendments be made; candidates and students will be notified before the amendment takes effect.
2. The IEC has the authority to certify the results for all HWUMSA elections.

PART III VOTING

D. VOTING ELIGIBILITY

3. Students are entitled to vote in any election to the HWUMSA elected executives provided they are studying at the University during the semester where the election takes place.

E. VOTING PROCESS

4. The voting period shall commence from 9th March 2026 (12:00AM MYT) to 12th March 2026 (4:59PM MYT). Election results will be announced on 13 March 2026 (4:00PM MYT).
5. The official ballot for the 2026/27 Election will be conducted via Microsoft Forms.
6. The ballot may only be accessed by eligible voters as defined under Clause 3 access to the ballot. To ascertain eligibility, students will be required to login to their university account before casting their votes.
7. Only IEC will have access to the ballot for the purpose of vote tabulation. The anonymity of voters shall be observed throughout the entire voting process.

F. VOTING MECHANISM

8. The election shall adopt a preferential voting system, which will be further described in Clause 9 and 10.

9. During the voting process, voters will be required to rank candidates in their order of preference.

10. Candidates will only be elected if they obtain a clear majority (i.e., more than half of the votes). In the event where no candidate receives a clear majority, the least voted candidate will be eliminated. Votes that were cast to the eliminated candidate will be transferred to the next preferred candidate. This process shall be repeated until one candidate obtains a clear majority.

11. In addition to the candidates running for the position, voters may also choose to Re-Open Nominations (R.O.N). If R.O.N receives a clear majority, then no candidate will be elected for that position. The nomination for said position will be reopened, with a separate election to be held on a later date.
