**2021 election for Disabilities Officer**

**Notice:**

To improve accessibility and representation for postgraduate students living with health, mental health, and disability conditions that impact their studies, notice is hereby given of the elections for the position of one (1) SUPRA Disabilities Officer for the 2020-2021 term and one (1) SUPRA Disabilities Officer for the 2021-2022 term. **Elections will be held from 2pm on Wednesday, 24 March 2021** (Sydney time) online.

**Use this**[**Zoom meeting link**](https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/89513686063)**to attend the elections.**

1 in 5 Australians live with visible and non-visible disabilities that impact daily activities, studies, communication and mobility in various ways, including:

* physical – affects mobility, dexterity; including migraine, endometriosis, EDS, PCOS
* mental illness – anxiety, depression, PTSD, bipolar and other conditions
* sensory – d/Deaf, hard of hearing, hyperacusis, blind, low vision
* neurological – MS, epilepsy, brain injury, conditions affecting brain & nervous system
* learning – cognitive and intellectual disability, memory, focus, neurodiversity
* immunological – autoimmune, ME/CFS, and other chronic multisystemic conditions.

**Nominations:**

Any currently enrolled postgraduate students who are living with disability and are members of SUPRA (or willing to [become a member](https://supra.net.au/join-us/)) are eligible to nominate themselves for the Disabilities Officer position, subject to the [SUPRA Constitution](https://supra.net.au/wp-content/uploads/SUPRA-Constitution-Approved-6-October-2020.pdf) and [SUPRA Electoral Regulations](https://supra.net.au/wp-content/uploads/SUPRA-Electoral-Regulations-2021.pdf).

**Nomination forms must be completed before 2pm on Tuesday, 23 March 2021** (Sydney time). [Complete the nomination form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=fuOzgnGBXUixCzja5-0UqMTTEDkzDOpNsUon6P591tlURDk3N1hITjZZVTZZOFJaWkY4S1ZaVDNGTS4u&wdLOR=c8197F48C-EB8C-E84D-8042-AC28289FFDA8).

**Voting in the elections:**

Currently enrolled postgraduate students who are living with disability and are members of SUPRA (or willing to [become a member](https://supra.net.au/join-us/)) are eligible to nominate and vote in the election of the Disabilities Officer. **Voting will take place 2 – 3pm on Wednesday, 24 March 2021** (Sydney time) at the online election.

**Use this**[**Zoom meeting link**](https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/89513686063)**to attend and vote in the elections.**

**Please note:**

Students do not need to be registered with Disability Services nor disclose their disability to be eligible to nominate or vote in the election. Please advise us if you have any accessibility requirements for the election by emailing: president@supra.usyd.edu.au.

**The role:**

The Disabilities Officer is an equity position and has a seat on the SUPRA Council. The duties and responsibilities of the role are defined by [SUPRA’s Constitution](https://supra.net.au/wp-content/uploads/SUPRA-Constitution-Approved-6-October-2020.pdf) and the [Duty Statement for the Disabilities Officer](https://supra.net.au/wp-content/uploads/27-SUPRA-Disabilities-Officer-Duty-Statement-2017.docx). The position is a volunteer position and includes a stipend of up to seven (7) hours per week.

**The election:**

The election will be conducted in accordance with the [SUPRA Constitution](https://supra.net.au/wp-content/uploads/SUPRA-Constitution-Approved-6-October-2020.pdf) and the [SUPRA Electoral Regulations](https://supra.net.au/wp-content/uploads/SUPRA-Electoral-Regulations-2021.pdf). The meeting schedule will be as follows:

1. Introduction & election of a Returning Officer
2. Explanation of the election procedure
3. Candidates’ statements/speeches
4. Casting of secret ballots
5. Appointment of scrutineers and counting of votes
6. Announcement of results by Returning Officer.

**Polling:**

The polling will be open after the candidate statements have been made and all eligible students must cast their votes during this time. The election is conducted in accordance with the [SUPRA Constitution](https://supra.net.au/wp-content/uploads/SUPRA-Constitution-Approved-6-October-2020.pdf) and the [SUPRA Electoral Regulations.](https://supra.net.au/wp-content/uploads/SUPRA-Electoral-Regulations-2021.pdf)