**Executive Elections- Frequently asked questions**

**Could you give more information on the entire process of standing in the election?**

To stand in the elections, all you need to do is nominate yourself on the election’s portal on the [elections page](https://www.leicesterunion.com/voice/democracy/elections/) from the 5th to 8th August. This only takes a few minutes and you can edit your nomination until the voting period opens. You can add a photo of yourself and a 200-word manifesto to explain why people should vote for you and what you would like to achieve. For the SU President role, there are no requirements for candidates, other than the role only being available for currently registered students who are able to take a year out to pause their studies to work in the role full-time. If you have recently graduated, you are unable to run for this position.

**How long is the campaigning period and what is the spending limit?**

The campaign period begins on 13th August from 10am and ends on 16th August at 2pm. The spending limit is £20.

**Where can I learn more about the election and campaigning rules?**

To find out more about the election and campaigning rules, all candidates are invited to a candidate briefing on Friday 9th August where you can find out all information. All candidates must attend the candidate briefing session, which will include the rules and important deadlines. The details for the sessions can be found below. The information to join this session will be sent once you have nominated yourself.

**Can I apply for to be an officer again?**

If you have already been elected as an officer before, you can run again if you wish. However, you can only be an officer for two academic years.

**Where can I find out more about the role?**

You can find more information about the role on [this webpage](https://www.leicesterunion.com/voice/democracy/elections/executiveofficers/roledescriptions/). You will receive a full handover once elected where you can find out exactly what is expected within your role.

**What are the benefits of being an elected officer?**

You can find the [benefits of being an elected officer here](https://www.leicesterunion.com/voice/democracy/elections/benefits/).

**How do you campaign and win and can you give tips on how to campaign?**

If you would like to learn how to campaign, you are able to find a range of helpful resources on [this webpage](https://www.leicesterunion.com/voice/democracy/elections/electionresources/). You will also be sent pre-recorded sessions on campaigning if you nominate yourself.

**What are the elections like?**

The majority of work during elections involves building your campaign and campaigning to get votes during voting week.

Voting week is a busy time for candidates, as they will spend time engaging with students. The elections team will be available during working hours to help with concerns. You can email them at su-elections@le.ac.uk.

The election will finish on 16th August 2pm and the results will be announced via email to candidates from 4:30pm.

The elections period can be stressful for candidates, which is why we encourage candidates to get in touch with the Advice service if they need to talk to someone. The elections team will regularly be in touch and will be able to answer questions.

**How long does the role run for?**

As this is a by-election, the handover period is slightly later than usual. Handover will commence immediately after the election so that the President is able to settle into the role full-time before the academic year commences. The role will run until the end of June 2025.

**How do I know if I am eligible for these elections?**

To stand in the elections, you must be a current student at the University of Leicester. You can stand if you are part of a committee or have other commitments that don’t clash. You cannot stand if you have recently graduated.

For the President role, you must be willing to pause your studies for one academic year (August 2024- June 2025). You can apply for this role as long as you intercalate.

**Do we need any sort of prior experience to run?**

Any student can stand in the elections if they are passionate to make change! If you have previous work experience, that can be beneficial, but it is not a requirement. You will be upskilled during the role, and will have a handover period with the previous officers as well as plenty of learning opportunities during the role. If elected, you will have staff support so you will not be left to learn on your own!

Here are some skills that might be helpful during your time as an officer:

* Project management
* Organisation skills
* Excellent communication skills (public speaking, emailing, talking to staff and students)
* Able to meet deadlines
* Proactive
* Creative
* Negotiation
* Event planning
* Persuasion

**What would my working hours be?**

A Full-Time Officer works 7 hours a day (9-4:30pm usually), but this can be flexible. Most work is conducted in person in the Students’ Union Office. The full details about working and the salary at the Students’ Union will be explained once you are elected.

**Can International students nominate themselves in the elections?**

Of course! As long as you will still be a registered student next academic year and are willing to live in Leicester for additional year to work as an Executive Officer, there should be no issues. If you would like to learn more about visas etc, please email su-elections@leicester.ac.uk to learn more.

**How do I set up a campaign?**

To set up your campaign, you will need to create your own manifesto, which is a poster telling people why they should vote for you. You can learn more about how to create your campaign and manifesto after you have nominated yourself.