RHSU

leadership elections

candidate statement guide

su.rhul.ac.uk/elections

Candidate Statement Guide

What is a Candidate Statement?

A Candidate Statement is a requirement for all nominees running in the Leadership Elections, and will be visible to voters online, both on the website and the ballot. This is an opportunity for you to state why you should be elected, and when submitting your statement, you will be asked to answer the following:

- Brief outline of why you're running for the position, and any skills/experience you possess which would enable you to be successful if elected (150 words).
- Your Top 8 Priorities out of the proposed 20. For your top 3 Priorities, you should identify 2 actions you would like to achieve to address the issue (75 words per issue).

The deadline for your Candidate Statement submission is 23:59 7 February 2027.

RHSU Priority 8 and What Matters to Students

Using data collected through surveys, Rate your Union, Speak Week, NSS feedback and Staff-Student Action Meetings, we have collated 20 key themes and concerns which are particularly relevant and important to you. These vary from improving campus facilities, supporting mental health services, enhancing academic experiences, or tacking sustainability.

During the Leadership Elections, the student population will have the opportunity to vote which 8 of these 20 issues matter most to them. The elected sabbatical officers and the Students' Union will then focus efforts and resources on these chosen issues, thus ensuring the actions of the SU are truly-led.

When selecting your Top 8 Priorities in your Candidate Statement, you have the opportunity to outline what issues you think are most important, and how you would approach tackling them. By showing you are in touch with topics students think are important, students will see you as a good person to represent their needs!

What to avoid...

It's important to be realistic in your approach to tackle the top RHSU Priority 8 issues. Over-promising infeasible ideas will only set you up to fail if elected. Whilst promising free drinks and cheap chips to tackle the Cost of Living crisis sounds fantastic, it is unlikely to happen and you'll end up misleading voters on your agenda.

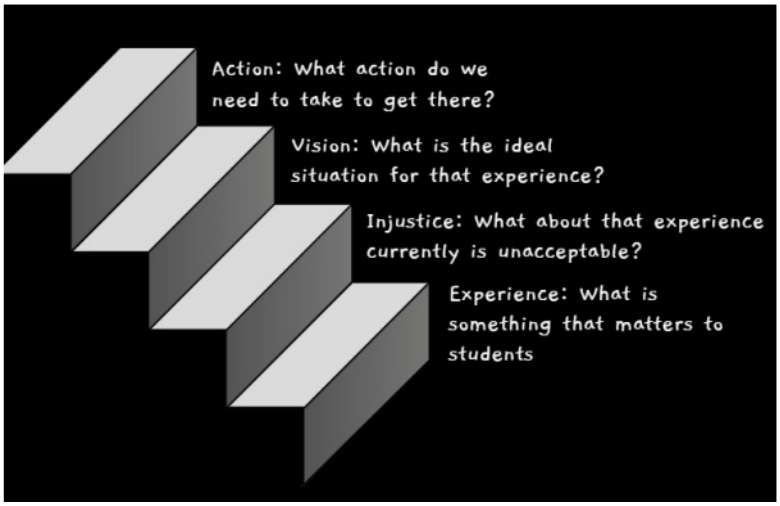
To help avoid this, making yourself aware of what the SU is already doing and its plans for the future will help you shape your Candidate Statement to ensure you're addressing what's important to students.

What does a candidate statement look like?

While your manifesto for the website has to be plain text, you may wish to design something more visually appealing to share elsewhere e.g. digital posters on social media (printed not allowed). The guidance for this is one page of A4 and a 400-word limit. It is good to make the manifesto eye-catching and interesting, but remember: what you stand for and how you say it is more important.

Apathy Staircase

When you're shaping your candidate statement about what you are hoping to achieve, you should use the apathy staircase. This will get people invested in your aims because they will understand why what you are hoping to achieve is so important.



Incorporating the RHSU Priority 8 into the "Experience" and "Injustice" section of this structure is a great way of acknowledging what the student population thinks should be addressed, and how you suggest to "Action" this.

Support

Our staff are always on hand to help you throughout the elections process and it is worth having a chat with them if you are unsure or would like to ask questions. We have different forms of support you can access:

- Chat with a current Officer at Sabb Drop In on the following days:
  - » President candidates - Tuesday 19 (afternoon) and Thursday 21 (morning) January
  - » Vice President Education - Wednesday 20 (afternoon) & Friday 22 (afternoon) January
  - » Vice President Wellbeing & Diversity - Monday 18 (morning) & Thursday 21 (afternoon) January
  - » Vice President Societies & Sport - Wednesday 20 (morning) Thursday 21 (afternoon) January
- Arrange a chat with the Change and Insight Manager by booking onto a 121 here
- Book onto a compulsory SMT 121 (link sent via email)

Check out the candidate hub for more resources and workshops!

Submission

You'll need to submit your candidate statement by 23:59 7 February 2027

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