RHSU

leadership elections

the good voters guide

su.rhul.ac.uk/elections

Good Voting Guide

Firstly, thank you for deciding to vote in the Leadership Elections! It's great to see students having their say in who will represent them for the coming year.

This guide is all about how to vote, things to be aware of and what to do if you have any issues.

How to Vote

You can come along to one of our in-person polling booths across the voting period 5-7 March. We'll be at the library and the SU each day, and all you need is your student ID number, and it takes a few minutes! There is a five-metre no-campaigning zone placed around any voting station so don't worry, you can vote in private.

Or you can vote online. Just head to su.rhul.ac.uk/elections/2026/vote and make sure you are logged into the SU website. If you're voting online, make sure you still vote in private or allow any candidates or campaign team members to view your phone as you vote. You have a right to cast your votes without prying eyes so remember that!

I can't vote?

First of all you need to check that you are a member of the Students' Union. You can look through our login guide or contact the Assistant Returning Officer at voice@su.rhul.ac.uk.

What do my votes mean?

We adopt the Single Transferable Vote system at RHSU. This means that you vote in order of preference. So, for example, you may select Candidate A as your top preference for the position of President, then Candidate B as your second and Candidate C as your third. Every position in the election also has an extra candidate which we add called Re-Open Nominations (RON). A vote for this candidate is your way of telling us that you feel that candidates ranked below RON are not suitable for the role or deserving of your vote.

Once all votes for a position have been cast the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes is eliminated. We then take the votes cast for that candidate and count their second preference. After another count of the votes, again the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated. This continues until one candidate gets enough votes so that they can't be beaten, and the winner is announced.

So all in all, who you put as your second and third preferences, and so on – is just as important as your first-preference!

How do I know who to vote for?

Well, that's what candidate statements are for! They tell you what they intend to do if elected, so if your interests, passions and values align with a statement then – they might be the candidate for you. You can check out all of the manifestos here.

What else do I need to be aware of?

During the voting period, candidates and their campaign teams will be out and about on campus, engaging with you about why you should vote for them. Whilst we are encouraging campaigning, we also want to ensure that all students are respected whilst on campus and are also not pressured to vote. There are a series of rules and regulations that candidates (and their campaign teams) must follow otherwise they risk consequences including being disqualified from the election. It's worth familiarizing yourself with them but some of the rules include:

- Candidates are responsible for the actions of their campaign team
- Candidates are not permitted to campaign inside the library, beyond the barriers. Only the atrium is permitted. They also cannot campaign in computer rooms, the chaplaincy and associated spaces, or use mass email lists.
- Candidates cannot campaign as a slate – this means a candidate cannot tell you to vote for another candidate in a different role.
- Candidates and members of their campaign team must allow voters the opportunity to cast their vote in private, and under no circumstances must votes be cast on a voter's behalf. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes touching personal devices that voters may use to cast their vote.

What do I do if a rule has been broken?

If you have been engaging with a candidate and feel that they have broken a rule, then you are within your rights to submit a complaint. You can do this by using the online complaints form, and the deputy returning officer will investigate.

If you're not sure but have concerns that you would like to discuss, then please reach out to the elections team at voice@su.rhul.ac.uk

All complaints must be submitted within 24 hours of the alleged incident and no later than 1 hour after voting closes, via the official online complaints form, and will include the following information:

- Name and contact details of person making complainant (anonymous complaints will not be considered)
- Name of person being complained about
- Details of incident (including time and date)
- Details of any witnesses
- Details of which rules have been broken
- Details of the action requested

Any evidence submitted should be provided by the impacted party only.

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