RHSU

leadership elections

a candidates guide to standing

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A candidates guide to standing

Deciding on standing in the elections can be a difficult decision: Which role suits you best? What's involved in running? How do you write a candidate statement?

But you can rest assured that taking the plunge and putting your name forward for a role will be both a rewarding and exciting experience.

And this short guide covers everything you need to know about the elections. From the roles available through to the key dates for your diary, you'll come out at the end fully prepared to launch your campaign for elected office.

Who can stand?

All current Royal Holloway students and sabbatical officers in their first year of office are eligible to stand in the SU Elections. It doesn't matter if you're partway through your studies (you can take a year out) or graduating this year, nor does it matter what course you're studying. This opportunity is open to all international students as well - an extension to a visa can be obtained, and we will help you do this.

The Students' Union is here to represent all students at Royal Holloway so we're searching for students from all walks of life and all areas of study.

Full-time positions

Full-time positions require you to take a year out from your studies if you aren't in your final year. You will receive a salary (found on the individual Job Descriptions) and have 22 days holiday, plus bank holidays and extra discretionary leave during the winter period. These positions are:

- President
- Vice President Education
- Vice President Wellbeing & Diversity
- Vice President Societies & Sport

Is there anyone who can't stand?

Most of the positions available in the SU Elections are open to all Royal Holloway students. However, Sabbatical Officers have additional criteria which is stipulated in charity law due to the trustee aspect of the roles. Students with the following circumstances may not stand for any position:

- Students who have previously been disqualified from any Union election
- Students who have previously been removed as an Officer
- Students who have previously had their employment terminated by RHSU
- Students who are banned from Union or University spaces

How do I nominate myself?

Nominating yourself is really easy. Simply head over to the online nomination form on the Students' Union website, fill it in and hit the submit button to join the election.

You'll need the following when filling in the form:

- Name (the one you'd like displayed on the ballot)
- Student number
- Email address
- Mobile number
- Current year of study
- Position(s) you wish to run for
- How you heard about the SU Elections

Key Dates	
Nominations open	12:00, Monday 7 December 2026
Nominations close	23:59, Sunday 31 January 2027

What is a Candidate Statement?

You're required to submit a Candidate Statement as part of the nomination process. This is an opportunity to state why you should be elected, and your statement will be visible to voters online, both on the website and the ballot.

You should consider including the following:

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

Want to know more about writing your Candidate Statement? Attend a 121 with the Change and Insight Manager, email the Student Voice Team at voice@su.rhul.ac.uk, or attend the RHSU Candidate Statement & Campaigns training session in February.

Key Dates	
Candidate Statement Deadline	23:59, 7 February 2027

Is there support available?

To help you plan your campaign there's a number of workshops and meeting slots available aimed at developing your ideas and giving you further context on the Students' Union. Workshops:

- Candidate Statement & Campaigns training session: TBC. This session will help you plan out your campaign and give you some top tips to make the most out of your election experience.

121 Support:

If you have any questions, you can drop us an email at voice@su.rhul.ac.uk and we'll get in touch when we return to the office on 4 January or you can book a 121 with the Change and Insight Manager, Lauryn Fleming.

As well as this, during the week commencing 18 January, on the following days, you can book in time with one of our current Sabbs to chat about their experience in the role and ask them any questions you might have to gain more insight into life as a Sabb. We'll be in touch in the new year with booking links so keep an eye out for those!

- Meet with the President - Tues 19 (PM) & Thurs 21 (AM) Jan '27 - Book Here
- Meet with the VP Education - Wed 20 (PM) & Fri 22 (PM) Jan '27 - Book Here
- Meet with the VP Wellbeing & Diversity - Mon 18 (AM) & Thurs 21 (PM) Jan '27 - Book Here
- Meet with the VP Societies & Sport - Wed 20 (AM) & Thurs 21 (PM) Jan '27 - Book Here

Accessibility:

We are committed to ensuring our elections process are fully accessible.

If you have any accessibility requirements or need extra support, then please email Lauryn.Fleming@su.rhul.ac.uk.

Campaigning:

During voting, there will be breakfast available for each of the candidates in the morning. We'll also be offering specific drop in slots for you to meet with the Elections Team to ask any questions or offer support throughout the process.

Resources:

Check out the candidate hub where you find resources on writing a candidate statement, social media top tips, campaign planning and loads more.

Key dates:	
Change & Insight Manager 121s	5 January - 5 March
SMT 121s for Sabbatical Officer candidates	25 January - 5 February
Sabb 121s	18 - 22 January
Candidate statement submission compulsory*	7 Feb
Candidate photos	w/c 1 February (date tbc)
Candidate Statement & Campaigns training session - compulsory*	TBC
Candidate briefing	18 February
Campaigning begins	22 February 12pm
Voting period	(10am Tuesday 2 March - 2pm Thursday 4 March)
Results	4 March evening

Is there a budget?

To ensure that the SU Elections are fair, all candidates must adhere to set budgets. At the end of the campaign period, you need to submit your budget along with receipts for all the costs you have incurred using the official budget form. You can find this in the online Candidate Hub.

Candidates for sabbatical officer positions are allowed to spend up to £50 of their own money on campaign resources (non-refundable).

It's worth thinking about your campaign expenditure early on so that you can plan your main areas of spend but also remember that it's not always the candidate who spends the most that wins – so use your budget effectively and use the mantra, quality over quantity.

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