

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](#) from the 1st-21st February. 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. If you want to stand for a liberation Part-Time Officer, you need to self-identify within that group e.g., if you want to stand as LGBT+ Officer you need to self-identify as part of that community.

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

The campaign period begins on 8th March from 10am and ends on 15th March at midday. The spending limit is £80 for Full-Time Officer candidates and £40 for Part-Time Officer candidates.

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 an afternoon/evening of workshops where you can find out all information. All candidates must attend the candidate briefing session, which will include the rules. The details for the sessions can be found below:

Upcoming Workshops:

21st February

- 1:30pm** - Rules and regulations
- 2:30pm** - Campaigning
- 4pm** - Manifestos and public speaking

22nd February

- 5pm** - Rules and regulations
- 6pm** - Campaigning
- 7:30pm** - Manifestos and public speaking



Find out more at:
leicesterunion.com/elections



Can I apply for to be an officer again?

If you have already been elected as an officer, you can decide to 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 all Full and Part-Time Officer roles on [this webpage](#). 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](#).

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

If you would like to learn how to campaign, come to the campaigning workshop on either 2:30pm 21st Feb or 6pm 22nd Feb. The session will include what campaigning is, how to build your campaign team, and it will give plenty of tips to help you build your own campaign.

What are the elections like?

The elections span across February and March, with the majority of work involving building your campaign and campaigning to get votes during voting week.

Voting week is a very busy time for candidates, as they will spend hours on campus talking to students and leafletting to get votes. There are plenty of opportunities to have breaks with the Liberation Room being open during the campaigning period for students who want to rest. The elections team will be available during working hours to help with concerns, and we will give you lunch vouchers during voting week.

The election will finish on 15th March midday and the results will be announced in person at the results event on 15th March 6pm.

The elections period can be stressful for candidates, which is why we encourage candidates to get in touch with the Advice service or their staff buddy if they need to talk to someone. The elections team will regularly be in touch to let candidates know what is expected for each day, and will be able to answer questions.

How long does the role run for?

The handover period begins in June for Full-Time Officers, with the officers fully starting from July. For Part-Time Officers, they usually start in September, but can begin working from June/July once the handover period has been completed. The roles last until the following June and so will last one year in total.

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.

For Full-Time Officer candidates, you must be willing to pause your studies for one academic year (June 2024- June 2025) or be a graduate by the time you would start the role. You can apply for these roles in any year of your studies as long as you intercalate or graduate this summer.

Part-Time Officers can be from any academic year and can include Distance learning students and Part-Time students. If you want to stand for a liberation Part-Time Officer, you need to self-identify within that group e.g., if you want to stand as LGBT+ Officer you need to self-identify as part of that community.

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.

Part-Time Officer working hours can vary significantly. A dedicated officer might spend 3-5 hours on their work each week, but quieter periods can be expected during the role. With this being a part-time role, you decide how much you want to work, but what you put into the role, you tend to get out: how much you work depends on what you want to achieve. Part-Time Officers receive a bursary at the end of their role if the Scrutiny Committee are satisfied with the progress of the officer.

Can International students nominate themselves in the elections?

Of course! As long as you will still be a registered student next academic year to be a Part Time Officer, or 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 in the sessions on 21st and 22nd February. The sessions will be the same on each day, but it is recommended you attend at least one session for campaigning and creating your manifesto.