

Rules for The Leadership Election 2026

1. Our Approach

- a. We will elect people in a free and fair manner.
- b. We will seek to create a 'level playing field' for all candidates. No candidate should be disadvantaged through access to support.
- c. Staff, including voluntary staff, student staff, and sabbatical staff are bound by the Leadership Election staff protocols.

2. Eligibility

- a. Candidates for the roles of President, Cambridge Officer, Education Officer, Welfare & Liberation Officer, or Chelmsford Officer must be a registered student at Anglia Ruskin University up to the point that balloting closes.
- b. Candidates for the roles of London Officer, Peterborough Officer, or Writtle Officer must be a registered student at Anglia Ruskin University at the relevant campus and must be registered for the period of the election and one full academic year following the election.
- c. Candidates may only apply and stand for one position.

3. Campaigning & Conduct

- a. Candidates and campaigners shall act in the interests of a free and fair election.
- b. Candidates are responsible for the behaviour of their campaigners.
- c. Candidates and campaigners shall abide by ARU Union policies and byelaws including the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, as well as the law.
- d. Candidates and campaigners should not undertake campaigns activity which others could not also reasonably do, including seeking support from staff of the Union.
- e. Campaign materials must not be defamatory and may not directly refer to other candidates aside from others in the same election team.
- f. Candidates and campaigners may only alter, move or remove their own campaign materials. They must not touch other candidate's materials.
- g. Candidates and campaigners must allow voters to cast their ballot freely and must not communicate with voters in any way once they have begun to complete their ballot.

4. Slates

- a. Candidates may form a slate, and this must be registered at the time of application.
- b. Slates must abide by all rules of the Election and must follow the Slate Guidelines.

5. Budget

- a. Candidates must not exceed their budget limits.
- b. Candidates must submit a list of campaign costs with corresponding receipts to the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) by 24 hours after the close of balloting.
- c. Candidates and campaigners must not fundraise or seek sponsorship for their campaign.
- d. Providing false or incomplete budget information is a breach of the election rules and may result in disqualification.

Further information, including information on complaints, can be found in:

Byelaw 4 – Elections, the Slates Guidance document, and the Elections Information Document.

Rules approved by: Mike Hill

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