THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Frequently Asked Questions for Nominees – Election of Rector

Role of Rector

1. **What does the Rector do?**
   The Rector is a member of the University's governing body, known as the University Court or Court and presides at Court meetings.

   The Rector works closely with the University community particularly the Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA). The Rector may assist students or staff with difficulties or issues, as an independent observer.

   The role of the Rector is different to that of the Principal & Vice-Chancellor (who is the executive leader of the University) and any external invitations received by the Rector should be checked with appropriate staff before acceptance to confirm that they are not intended for the Principal & Vice-Chancellor. The role of the Rector is also different from the role of the Senior Lay Member of Court, who has a role similar to that of Chair of institution in many other universities and chairs discussion of the business items at Court meetings

   The Rector also presides at meetings of the General Council in the absence of the University Chancellor.

2. **What is the role of the University Court?**
   The University Court is the final decision-making body for the University, which sets the University's strategy and mission, is broadly responsible for ensuring the University's assets, estates and its long-term sustainability and for appointing the Principal and senior management and ensuring effective corporate governance. The University Court is also the University's legal authority and is the employer of staff. University Court Members are the trustees of the University.

   There are normally twenty three up to a maximum of twenty five members of the University Court who are from a range of backgrounds including: students, staff, alumni, senior business and public sector professionals and the City of Edinburgh Council.

   More information can be found here:
   Membership of Court | Governance and Strategic Planning | Governance and Strategic Planning

3. **How much time does being a Rector involve?**
   The Rector presides at 5 half-day Court meetings and attends 2 half-day seminars.

   Also, if the Chancellor is not available, the Rector will be asked to preside at the General Council – which holds 2 statutory meetings each year. The General Council meetings take place on a Saturday in February (in the centre

of Edinburgh) and June (at various locations, this can be overseas). The meetings are normally two hours in length, followed by a lunch.

The Rector will also be invited to attend other meetings, University events and often will undertake an ambassadorial role at official ceremonies, including graduations.

4. **Will I get paid?**
   The position of Rector is not remunerated (i.e. is unpaid), although reasonable expenses will be paid (such as travel). Some administrative support will be provided by the University to help the Rector make appointments, manage diary and deal with correspondence etc.

   Training is also available for all members of the University Court.

5. **What does the Rector's Assessor do?**
   The Rector is also supported by an Assessor, who is appointed by the Rector, following consultation with EUSA. The Assessor is invited to all Court meetings as an attendee and will also receive all Court papers.

Elections

6. **How do I go about getting elected for the role of Rector?**
   To be elected to the role of Rector, you must first submit a Nomination Form by noon on Monday 11 January 2027 to the Deputy Returning Officer at Court@ed.ac.uk together with an Acceptance of Nomination Form. To be able to submit an eligible Nomination Form you must be nominated by at least 60 current University of Edinburgh staff or students and provide their staff or student numbers and an email address for them. Your supporters will receive an email to confirm they have nominated you. Students must be fully matriculated for study at the University. It is beneficial to collect 70 nominations, in case any staff or student numbers cannot be confirmed.

7. **Are there any restrictions on who can stand for the role of Rector?**
   Yes. Staff or students of the University of Edinburgh **cannot** stand as a Rector. In addition, Nominees **cannot** stand if they have previously been excluded or dismissed by the University while a student or member of staff at the University.

   The Rector must also be able to attend meetings in Edinburgh and cannot be barred from being a trustee of the University. Information about who may be disqualified from acting as a trustee can be found in the relevant extracts from the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

8. **What happens after nominations?**
   After your nomination form has been submitted, it will be checked to ensure that you are eligible to stand and have the necessary number of supporters.

The University will then put your candidate statement and photo on the election website.

You will then be invited to a presentation on campaigning rules and able to start campaigning. An online hustings event will also be held, which you may wish to participate in to meet with students and staff.

9. Are there any rules on campaigning?

Yes. You and your supporters can't spend any more than £450 on campaigning (that includes hiring of venues, posters, leaflets etc.). You must return evidence of this (an account of expenditure) together with receipts to the Deputy Returning Officer by 5pm on Friday 19 February 2027. The University cannot reimburse any election or campaign expenses.

All candidates, students and staff engaging in the election in any form must follow existing University codes, policies and regulations such as the Code of Student Conduct, the Staff Disciplinary Policy, the Dignity and Respect Policy, the University Computing Acceptable Use Policy, Data Protection Policy, Policy on Employee Use of Social Media and any other policies as appropriate.

10. When will the election take place?

The election starts at 9am Monday 8 February 2027 and finishes at 1pm on Friday 12 February 2027.

11. Who can vote in the election?

Fully matriculated students and staff. These are fully matriculated students and staff who are either on the student or staff record at 11 January 2027. A step-by-step guide to matriculation, the process by which you are formally admitted as a student to the University of Edinburgh, is available on our website. If you are registered as both a fully matriculated student and staff member, you are only eligible to vote once and this should be done online using your student details.

12. What happens on election day?

The electronic results will be counted using an electronic counting system and the winner of the election will then be announced.