



Frequently Asked Questions about University Elections

What do a University Council, Faculty Council, Staff Council and Programme Committee do?

University Council: the central participation council, comprising eight students and eight members of staff, critically monitors the Executive Board, provides advice (both on request and unsolicited) and has a role in making decisions on important issues.

Faculty Council: the faculty participation council, comprising students and staff, critically monitors the Faculty Board, provides advice (on request and unsolicited) and has a role in making decisions on important issues.

Staff Council: the council within a central department, comprising staff of the relevant department, critically monitors the department management, provides advice (both on request and unsolicited) and has a role in making decisions on important issues.

Programme Committee: the committee at programme level, comprising students and staff, critically monitors the Programme Board, provides advice (on request and unsolicited) and has a role in making decisions on important issues

Why should I stand for election?

A role in staff and student participation not only offers you the opportunity to represent students and staff, it also contributes to good management and offers a stimulating challenge. Working in a participation council develops such skills at networking, negotiation, argumentation, and evaluating policy. Another benefit is that you are always among the first to hear about the latest developments!

How much time does it take up?

This varies according to the particular council. If you are part of the University Council, this will take up between 0.2 FTE (up to 0.3 FTE if you are the chair of a political group or a committee). In general, no set amount of time is agreed in advance for the Faculty and Staff Councils, but it is in the region of +/- 2 hours a week.

Is there any compensation for council membership?

Staff and student members of the University Council respectively are exempted from their normal work or they receive a monthly allowance, in line with the [Regulation on Facilities relating to the University Council](#). Members of the Faculty Councils and Staff Councils can claim their expense costs in accordance with the [Regulation on Compensation relating to the Faculty and Staff Councils](#).

Can I play an active role for part of the term of office?

It is, of course, preferable if members of the participation bodies complete the full term of office. However, there can be reasons why this is not possible. It would be a pity to stand as a candidate simply with this idea in mind. In the case of a list system, a candidate can make



agreements with other candidates on the list to alternate with one another. There are also often arrangements for interim vacancies and elections.

For staff members: how do I arrange this with my manager?

In principle, managers have to support staff who want to stand for election to a participation body. It is advisable to agree in advance how the different activities can be combined. For example: a lecturer who has a 60% teaching responsibility and a 40% research responsibility and who becomes a member of the University Council can agree a ratio of, say, 20% University Council, 40% teaching and 40% research.

For students: how do I arrange this with my studies?

In principle, lecturers have to support students who want to stand for election to a participation body. It is advisable to agree in advance how your studies can be combined with your activities for the participation body. If, for example, there is a compulsory subject at the same time as a council meeting, you can request an exemption. You have to consult the relevant lecturer on this in advance.

How do I put myself forward for election?

You can fill in the relevant forms and send them to the Central Electoral Office. The forms can be found on [this website](#).

Can I start a new party myself?

Yes, you can, if the election in question uses the list system. Read more [here](#).

Why should I vote?

Staff and student participation have an important function within the University. Participation ensures that, in a large organisation like the University, students and staff have a say in how the University is run. This, in turn, makes for better decision-making.

Which councils can I vote for?

This differs according to the election year. Visit the [website for an overview](#).

I have not received an invitation to vote. Why is that?

Everyone who is eligible to vote should, in principle, receive an invitation via his or her U-mail address. If you have not received an invitation, you should notify the secretary of the [Central Electoral Office](#). Even if you have not received an invitation, you can still vote via universiteitleiden.nl/stemmen.

I will be abroad during the election period. Can I still vote?

Yes, the voting application is accessible online from abroad.



What are the levels of turnout for elections for the University Council?

	Staff	Students
2014	33.1%	21.5%
2015	-	21%
2016	25.1%	19.7%
2017	-	23.6%
2018	23.4%	18%

When are the results of University elections announced?

The results are announced after the election by the chair of the University Council. Check the University's calendar of events for the exact time and place. The result is also published on the website: universiteit.leiden.nl/verkiezingen.