



The voting systems used for university elections

Leiden University uses both the list system and the individual candidate system for its elections. Participation councils are free to decide which system they want to use. An overview of which voting system is used by the various participation councils can be found on [this website](#). An explanation of each of these systems is given below.

You can also find more detailed information in the electoral regulations:

- [Electoral Regulations on the University Council](#)
- [Electoral Regulations on Faculty and Employee Councils](#)

The list system

In the list system, candidates are grouped together into lists (often referred to as parties).

How does voting work?

Each voter is entitled to cast one vote. Voters cast their votes for the candidate list (party) of their choice – and within that list, for one of the candidates.

How are the available seats allocated?

As far as possible, the available seats are allocated according to the proportion of the total number of (valid) votes cast for each list. Blank votes and votes not cast only affect the turnout rate, not the allocation process.

Seats are allocated as follows: the electoral quota is calculated by dividing the number of seats by the number of valid, non-blank votes. Each candidate list is allocated a number of seats equal to the number of votes cast for that list, divided by the electoral quota.

How are the remaining seats distributed?

The seats left over are called remaining seats and are allocated according to the system of largest averages. The remaining seats are successively allocated to lists of which the total vote (the number of votes received by a list) divided by the electoral quota have the largest averages. With this method, the party with the largest average gets the first remaining seat, the party with the second largest average gets the second, and so on, until all the seats are allocated. Parties that were not initially allocated a seat are also included in this process.

How are the seats allocated to candidates?

In order to allocate seats won by a list to candidates on that list, a new candidate ranking is determined:

- At the top of the list are all the candidates who won more (preferential) votes than half the electoral quota, in order of the number of votes won,
- followed by the remaining candidates in the order in which they appear on the list.

The seats that have been allocated to a list are then allocated to candidates in that order. This order, which may not be the same as the order in which the names appeared on the list, is also the order used for interim succession, although candidates who have previously stepped down always have the right to be reconsidered if they wish to do so and in that case take



precedence. If, when allocating the remaining seats, candidates received the same number of votes, the decision will be made by drawing lots. And if, when determining the order of candidates, candidates received the same number of preferential votes, the order in which their names appeared in the original list is decisive.

The individual candidate system

In this system, individuals can put themselves forward as candidates and they can also be elected as individuals.

How does voting work?

At Leiden University, the individual candidate system is based on the principle of multiple votes. The voters then cast their vote by ranking one or more candidates in the order of their preference (up to a maximum of the number of seats available).

How are the available seats allocated?

The order is important for determining the vote value. A vote value is assigned to the candidate on the list indicated as the highest preference by multiplication by the number of available seats. A vote value is assigned to the second-preference candidate by multiplication by the number of available seats minus one. A vote value is assigned to the third-preference candidate by multiplication by the number of available seats minus two, and so on.

The vote values obtained in this way are added together for each candidate to produce a 'vote value total'.

The result is determined by declaring as many candidates elected as there are seats available, starting with the candidate with the highest vote value total, and then the next highest vote value total, until all the seats are filled.

If more than one candidate is eligible to fill the last available seat, the decision will be made by drawing lots.

In the event of interim succession, candidates who have previously stepped down always have the right to be re-considered if they wish to do so and in that case take precedence (in the order in which they stepped down). In the absence of such persons, the first non-sitting candidate with the highest vote value shall be declared elected.