



**RH  
SU**   
**leadership  
elections**



have you  
thought about?

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## **Leadership Elections: Have You Thought About...**

If you work with students, then you are in the best place to give a personal recommendation for them to run for a position during the Leadership Elections. This guide gives you all the information you need to know about encouraging students to nominate themselves for a leadership role.

### **>> Why would I encourage someone to nominate themselves?**

If you work with a student who is full of ideas, passionate about their education, is super engaged and wants to make a difference, then why not encourage them to nominate themselves! In these leadership roles, they have an opportunity to make a real difference on campus, get involved in important decisions, learn lots of skills and loads more. They work with us as staff as well as making changes for students. If you have the opportunity to engage with students, a recommendation from you might be the encouragement they need to take the first step in nominating themselves!

### **>> How can I recommend them for a role?**

You can either fill out the [recommend a student form](#), which means we will reach out to the student directly to say someone has recommended them for a particular role.

OR you can have the conversation yourself and then they can nominate themselves online.

### **>> What roles are available?**

#### *Part Time Officers*

We have 10 elected Community Officers and 6 elected School Reps who are student leaders alongside their studies. They are voluntary roles that contribute significantly to the student experience.

Community Officers get to run events and campaigns and represent underrepresented groups on campus. The Community Officer positions include Black & Global Majority, Disabled Students, International Students, LGBTQ+ Students, Mature, Carer & Parent Students, Students of Faith, Women Students, Commuting Students, PGR Students and PGT Students. (PGT Student Community Officer is elected in the autumn term).

School Reps play a key role in improving students' academic experience, working hard to ensure ideas and concerns are heard at the highest levels. They attend University meetings and support the senior course reps and course reps. There is a School Rep for each School including: School of Law & Social Sciences, School of Life Sciences & Environment, School of Humanities, School of Business & Management, School of Performing & Digital Arts and School of Engineering, Physical & Mathematical Sciences.

### *Full Time Sabbatical Officers*

We then have four full-time sabbatical officers who represent the entire student body and work full-time in the Students' Union for a year. They are either students who have interrupted their studies to take a year out of their course, or students who are undertaking the role in the year after they graduate. They get to work on a range of issues relating to student life, listening to your thoughts and opinions while running campaigns and working with the relevant people and bodies to implement positive policy changes. The roles include:

- President
- VP Education
- VP Wellbeing & Diversity
- VP Societies & Sport

### **>> What benefits are there for them that I can use to encourage them?**

Students may be wondering why they should run in the election and there are loads of reasons you can share with them:

- **Have a say** – as a student leader, they will have the opportunity to have a say in some big decisions that will impact university and student union life.
- **Employability** – it looks great on their CV! These roles allow them to learn lots of skills and gain a lot of experience that they can promote on your CV and help them secure jobs post-graduation.
- **Skills development** – they will have the opportunity to learn lots of new skills. Just to name a few; public speaking, advocacy, campaigning, project planning, communication and stakeholder engagement and loads more!
- **Professional Experience** – for the sabbatical officer roles, they will gain professional experience working in a charity and higher education. They also become trustees of the organisation which will be invaluable when looking for jobs in the future.
- **Leave a legacy** – they will have the opportunity to end their time at Royal Holloway having left a lasting impact. Through campaigns, events, representational activities and more, there are lots of things these leadership roles will be able to do that will leave a legacy.
- **Training & Development** – through their roles, they would get the opportunity to get access to various training and developmental support from the Students' Union and external bodies.
- **Make actual tangible change** – they will be in a position that will allow them to make real change on campus. A couple of examples of what's come before includes: the introduction of wellbeing focused roles on student group committees, ensuring financial hardship is included as a reason for extenuating circumstances, getting the university to divest from fossil fuels, ensure gender neutral toilets are marked on the university map – and there are loads more!

These are just a few reasons why someone should run for a leadership position!

### **>> They're interested! What do they need to know?**

Great! Here are some useful details that they may want to know about running in the election.

- Nominations are open from 12 January until the 4 February. They can submit their nomination [here](#).
- Candidates will need to submit their manifesto, outlining their ambitions if successful in the role, by 4 February
- Campaigning begins on the 27 February at 9am
- Voting runs from 5 March until 7 March with results being announced on 8 March.

**>> They've got more questions or are interested but feeling a little unsure**

No worries – we're here to help. Put them in touch with the Student Voice team at [voice@su.rhul.ac.uk](mailto:voice@su.rhul.ac.uk) and a member of the team can support them with any questions or concerns they have.



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