

CHANCELLORIAN ELECTION RULES

Revised on Wednesday 10 December 2025 correcting paragraphs 5 and 16.

General rules

1. Candidates are eligible to stand for election as Chancellor provided they have been nominated by at least 25 members of the General Council and:
 - a. are not employed by or a matriculated student at the University of St Andrews
 - b. are not disqualified from being a charity trustee or barred from holding company directorships
 - c. do not have an unspent criminal conviction or an undischarged bankruptcy
 - d. are not engaged in activities that risk bringing the University into disrepute.
2. Candidates should be senior figures in public life, with outstanding achievements in their field and the ability to command respect across the University Community and beyond; a strong commitment to higher education; and a deep appreciation of the values, aims and objectives of the University of St Andrews.
3. The timetable for the election will be published on the [General Council webpages](#) on the day that nominations open. All nominations must be received by the Nomination Day in the published timetable.
4. The Returning Officer will announce those candidates eligible to stand for election as Chancellor in accordance with the published timetable. In the event of a single eligible candidate, that candidate shall be deemed to be elected unopposed.
5. In the event of a contested election, the University will make available on its website to all electors the names of the candidates. Each candidate should provide a photograph, a short biography, and a statement of up to 750 words, which will be made available to the electorate by the University. Statements will be approved by the Returning Officer prior to publication.
6. The following guiding principles will underpin the election: elections should be free and fair; campaigning should be positive and respectful; campaigns should not be intrusive; and rule breaches should be dealt with where possible by corrective rather than punitive measures.
7. Candidates are required to sign and abide by the code of conduct.
8. The University's Chief Legal Officer shall be the Returning Officer for the election. The Returning Officer is responsible for managing the electoral process,

including, but not limited to, the arranging of the announcement of candidates and their associated election statements, arrangements for voting and the electoral roll.

9. Any complaints concerning the conduct of the election or allegations of infringements of election rules should be referred, in the first instance, to the Returning Officer who will refer these to the Supervisory Panel for consideration where there is a prima facie case of breach of the rules.
10. There will be a Supervisory Panel consisting of the Returning Officer and two members of the General Council Business Committee's Ad Hoc Chancellorian Election Committee (AHCEC). It will operate on a majority basis. The Supervisory Panel shall take all decisions relating to the interpretation and application of election rules, including those with regard to the content of election statements and considering complaints or allegations of infringements of election rules raised in relation to the conduct of campaigning and the election. The Supervisory Panel shall also act as the arbiter of any disputes or complaints relating to the conduct of the election.
11. In the event of a complaint relating to the conduct of the Returning Officer, the Returning Officer will be replaced on the Supervisory Panel by the Registrar and Clerk or their designate for the sole purpose of considering such complaint.
12. The Supervisory Panel may impose sanctions up to and including candidate disqualification. It may also declare an election null and void, in which case a new election will be initiated.
13. A decision of the Supervisory Panel is final. There is no further route of appeal.

Conduct of Campaigns

14. Campaigning is understood as any public activity by a candidate relating to the elections, which is aimed at persuading someone to vote one way or another.
15. Campaigning may only be undertaken during the specified period from the announcement of the list of candidates on Monday 26 January 2026 until the close of polls on Sunday 22 February 2026.
16. Each candidate should provide a photograph, a short biography, and a statement of up to 750 words, which will be made available to the electorate by the University.
17. There will be no attempt to limit the kinds of media or campaign material that may be used in campaigning, but candidates should be aware that there may be legal constraints on the use of flyers and social media posts and other forms of publicity and that they alone will be responsible for any legal or other consequences relating to these.
18. Candidates commit to using social media responsibly, ensuring that any posts,

comments and interactions relating to the election are respectful, accurate and constructive. Candidates are responsible for any social media posts and any legal liabilities or consequences that are made by them or on their behalf.

19. Official or public endorsements of candidates by any organisation or group, or by individuals representing or perceived to be representing an organisation or group are not permitted. Specifically, this includes endorsements by the University or by its constituent parts (whether Schools, Directorates or other units and centres); by any of the recognised campus unions or similar organisations; by the Students' Association and its affiliated societies, or by the University Court. This does not prevent individual members of the University or its Court from supporting candidates in a personal capacity, or those members of the University or its Court who are members of the General Council from nominating candidates.
20. Candidates must comply with and not break the law.
21. Candidates must not act in such a way that risks bringing or brings the University into disrepute.
22. The use of University Buildings and the Students' Association for campaign purposes is not permitted other than with specific prior permission from the Supervisory Committee.
23. Use of pre-existing email, phone or mailing groups or lists by candidates for the purpose of promoting their campaign is not permitted. Harvesting data from any such lists for campaign purposes is also not permitted. Candidates will be responsible and liable for any legal consequences in connection with personal or other data used by candidates or on their behalf in respect of any campaigning activities.
24. Candidates may canvass individuals known to them. Unsolicited canvassing of other voters by email, mail or phone using University directories or resources is not permitted. The University will ensure that the candidate's statement is made available to voters.

Voting

25. All members of the General Council as defined in Ordinance 96 as of Friday 5 December 2025 shall be eligible to vote in the election subject to rule 13 below. The election will be conducted through electronic voting through a secure online voting system administered by election management professionals appointed by the University. In accordance with Ordinance 129, the Alternative Vote system will be used.
26. Members of the General Council must register their intention to vote and will be contacted by the election management professionals appointed by the University with instructions on how to do this. Any member of the General Council who has not given the University permission to contact them electronically must do so at

least a week before the closure of registration in order to be able to register to vote.

27. Proxy voting, in person voting, and postal voting are not permitted. In exceptional circumstances, where a member of the electorate is unable to vote electronically, the Returning Officer may, if requested and at their discretion, make reasonable arrangements for the elector to have access to facilities to cast their vote in a manner and timeframe approved by the Returning Officer.
28. Voting will be open for a prescribed period from 12 noon on Monday 16 February until 5pm on Sunday 22 February. Where a change of circumstances occurs which, in the opinion of the Supervisory Panel, renders the voting period insufficient to enable a representative vote to be obtained under the special conditions prevailing at the time, the AHCEC may agree to extend the said voting periods as they consider necessary.
29. Announcement of the election result will be made in accordance with the published timetable for the election.
30. The validity of any election shall not be affected by any defect in the procedure in carrying out such an election or infringement of these Election Rules unless:
 - a. on the application of a candidate or an individual designated as a candidate's representative made to the Returning Officer, or
 - b. at the instigation of the Supervisory Panel where they become aware of such a potential defect in the procedure or any potential infringement of these Election Rules, and after due enquiry, consider that a defect or infringement has had or may have an adverse impact on a fair and free election.
31. In those circumstances the Supervisory Panel will make such arrangements and/or apply such sanctions as it considers reasonable and proportionate to remedy and/or to provide redress for the harm caused by the procedural defect or infringement of these Election Rules. Such arrangements and sanctions may include, but are not limited to, permitting all or some candidates to provide additional materials to the electorate, pausing or suspending the election, extending the election period, rescheduling the election, disqualifying candidates and/or declaring the election to be invalid.

Approved by the Ad Hoc Chancellorian Election Committee of the General Council Business Committee, Thursday 27 November 2025.