

CANDIDATE FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR ELECTIONS



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

What are the requirements for the candidate statement and photo?

Your candidate statement must be 150 words (or less) and outline why you are nominating and what you can bring to the role. The statement must not include any offensive, defamatory or inappropriate content that may breach the University's Code of Conduct. If the statement contains any inappropriate content or is longer than 150 words, the University Secretary reserves the right to request it be edited

It is not compulsory to provide a candidate statement and photo, although most nominees do include them.

How is the order of candidates on the candidate statement and ballot determined?

The *Governance Rule* states that the "ballot paper is to contain the names of the candidates in an order determined by lot". As such, candidate names are drawn at random and placed on both the candidate statements and the electronic ballot in that order.

Are there any requirements if I wish to campaign on campus?

There are [guidelines on campaigning and electioneering](#). The guideline covers things such as making sure candidates do not unduly influence or intimidate during polling, do not induce voters, and do not inappropriately use any mailing lists or staff information obtained from any source.

Freedom of expression and flow of information is supported, providing that the fabric of the campus is preserved and protected and the natural environment is not impaired.

How and who can vote?

The *Governance Rule* and the *University of Newcastle By-law 2017* states that all voting is electronic using an electronic ballot system.

Staff who are eligible to vote in an election will receive an email containing a link and instructions on how to access the electronic ballot during the voting period.

I am having technical issues during the voting period, how can I vote?

During the voting period, postal votes are available for those who request it via email from the Deputy Returning Officer

E: elections@newcastle.edu.au

For postal votes to be included in the ballot, they must be received by the Returning Officer by 5:00pm on the due date.

What is a scrutineer and what role do they have in the vote count?

Each candidate is entitled to nominate in writing to the Returning Officer one scrutineer to audit the counting process of the votes cast in their election. Guidelines are provided to all candidates and scrutineers which outline the conduct and requirements of their role.

I would like to find out how many people voted in the election and how many votes the successful candidate won by - is this information publicly available?

No – the vote count numbers are kept confidential, this is a long standing practice of the University.

My question is not here, who do I contact?

Please contact the Deputy Returning Officer, Council and Records Management:

E: elections@newcastle.edu.au