



Election arrangements

For the election of the president (PRCP), clinical vice president (CVP) and members of Council in 2025

RCP Council has reviewed and approved the election material available to voters for the election of the president (PRCP), clinical vice president (CVP) and members of Council in 2025.

- > The three elections will run concurrently to increase engagement.
- > Guidance is provided to candidates regarding the positive opportunities for engagement, including the appropriate use of social media – Candidate Code of Practice for RCP elections. Fellows should be aware that this was introduced in 2023 and allows wider canvassing than in previous elections.
- > The entire process of the elections, from nomination to distribution of ballot papers and voting, will be digital only with the exception of the option to vote in person for the election of the president at College Day.
- > All fellows in good standing are encouraged to vote and ballot papers will be designed to enable a transferable voting procedure.
- > Please note that honorary fellows are ineligible to stand, nominate or vote in RCP elections.
- > A timetable of key dates is included at the end of this document.

President, clinical vice president and councillor elections 2025

Candidates should provide the following materials, all of which will be placed on the election website:

- > an election statement of 500 words and a photograph
- > a short CV, to a standardised format
- > a declaration of interests, to a standardised format
- > candidates for president will also be required to submit a video (of up to 3 minutes duration)

In addition a 50 word statement will be requested for use in RCP communications.

Rules governing election materials – held on the election website

- > The statement and other material must be used to communicate the qualities and suitability for election to the role.
- > Within the material, fellows may be asked to vote for a candidate by making that candidate a first choice only.

- > Blogs and websites can be linked to in the body of the statement provided the content adheres to the Codes listed below.

Bye-law 5.7 states:

No candidate shall canvass for votes directly or indirectly for membership, fellowship or any office, distinction, advancement or promotion in the College or in any Faculty or Joint Faculty of the College except as may be expressly permitted by the Council.

Guidance to candidates on canvassing and positive opportunities for engagement

The Candidate Code of Practice for RCP elections, recently approved by Council is designed to allow a level playing field in which the RCP encourages a fair promotion of candidates' views and profiles, giving each of them equity of access to resources and to the whole electorate using the election web platform. This provides a clear framework to candidates standing for election and a clear explanation to the electorate on the current rules regarding elections. Positive opportunities for engagement/ campaigning are also open to candidates to inform the electorate. The use of social media by candidates regarding the election is permissible, once the list of candidates is made public.

All social media activity should be in line with the following:

- > Candidate Code of Practice for RCP elections
- > RCP social media principles and code of conduct
- > RCP Code of Conduct

RCP Council wishes to emphasise the following:

- > The use of social media should conform to set standards of behaviour and be in line with RCP social media usage guidelines and other codes listed above.
- > There is a requirement to avoid negative comments about individuals or the RCP, in keeping with the RCP Code of Conduct for members and fellows.
- > Social media posts that breach the criteria of acceptability will be challenged and candidates will be asked to remove them.
- > Candidates who fail to conduct themselves accordingly will be subject to the established disciplinary mechanisms of the RCP.

Election timetable 2024/25

7 November 2024	Nominations open.
16 December 2024	Nominations close
29 January 2025	Council to review nominations received.
Early February 2025	Deadline for submission of election material to the RCP by candidates.

Early February 2025	Public announcement of candidates in all elections. Candidates may begin campaigning in line with guidance
February/March 2025 (date to be set)	Hustings for president to take place (format to be agreed)
17 March 2025	Voting opens, Civica Election Services to send voting invitation emails to all eligible voters
14 April 2025 (College Day)	Online voting closes at midday in all elections. An option exists for in person votes for president to be cast as part of the special general meeting. PRCP election result announced (successful candidate to take up post as soon as possible thereafter)
Late April 2025	Public announcement of results in CVP and councillor elections
1 August 2025	Successful CVP and councillor candidates to take up office

September 2024

Due to be reviewed: annually