

University and College Union

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To	Branch and local association secretaries
Topic	Call for nominations: UK officer and National Executive Committee elections 2025-26, by-election vice-president (becoming President in 2029-30)
Action	Draw to the attention of members the current call for nominations
Summary	Nominations for UK officer and NEC members are now open. Deadline for nominations: 17:00, Tuesday 11 November 2025
Contact	Catherine Wilkinson, head of democratic services (cwilkinson@ucu.org.uk); Anna Costi, democratic services officer (acosti@ucu.org.uk)

UCU UK ELECTIONS 2025-26

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

- **VICE-PRESIDENT (becoming President in 2028-29) FROM THE FURTHER EDUCATION SECTOR**
- **BY-ELECTION: VICE-PRESIDENT (becoming President in 2029-30) FROM THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR**
- **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

This circular contains the formal notice which calls for nominations to UK officer and National Executive Committee vacancies that will exist in 2026. Please draw this to the attention of members. Nominations are now open.

The following vacancies will exist from the close of UCU's Congress meeting on 26 May, 2026.

National officers

- Vice-President becoming president in 2028-29, who is a member of the further education sector (who, as the position of President-Elect will be vacant from the close of Congress 2026, will serve as President-Elect for 2026-27 and 2027-28, President for 2028-29, and Immediate Past President for 2029-30)
- Following the resignation of David Hunter from the role of President Elect, a casual vacancy now exists and is also included in this notice. In accordance with rules

21.1 and 21.2 a by-election must be held. This by-election is for a Vice-President, who is a member of the higher education sector. The successful candidate will serve as Vice-President for two years in 2026-27 and 2027-28; as President-Elect in 2028-29; and as President from 2029-30. This will complete the four-year term of office under the rules. The successful candidate will not serve as Immediate Past-President.

National Executive Committee

- Fourteen vacancies for geographically-elected members of the National Executive Committee (10 from the higher education sector, four from the further education sector)
- Eight vacancies for UK-elected members of the National Executive Committee (five from the higher education sector, three from the further education sector)
- Five vacancies for representatives of women members, three from the higher education sector and two from the further education sector

All nomination material for these positions, as described in the calling notice, must be received by **17:00 on Tuesday 11 November**.

The full text of this notice plus nomination forms and related information can be found at <http://www.ucu.org.uk/elections>. Paper copies of these documents, including large print or other formats, can be requested from the democratic services team, demservices@ucu.org.uk.

Branch and local association secretaries are asked to draw this notice to the attention of members. Anyone with queries about the nomination or election process should contact the democratic services team.

Yours sincerely

Maria Chondrogianni
President and returning officer

ELECTIONS 2025-26 – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

- **Vice-President, becoming president 2028-29**
- **By-election: Vice-President, becoming President in 2029-30**
- **National Executive Committee members**

In respect of the vacancies described in this election notice:

- All terms of office begin following the close of UCU's Congress meeting on 29 May 2026. All NEC positions, unless otherwise stated in this notice, are for a term of two years.
- Nomination forms and related information are available at <http://www.ucu.org.uk/elections>, or on request from the democratic services team at UCU Head Office (demservices@ucu.org.uk).
- The deadline for receipt of nominations to all vacancies in this election notice is **17:00 on Tuesday 11 November 2025**, including the receipt of all supporting information. Nominations should be made on the appropriate form, and should be formally addressed to the President and emailed to the democratic services team, demservices@ucu.org.uk. Nominations can also be sent in hard copy to Democratic Services, UCU, Carlow St, London NW1 7LH. Receipt of all nominations will be acknowledged.
- All candidates who submit their completed nomination not less than ten working days before the closing date for nominations, shall be informed, not less than five working days before the closing date for nominations, whether there is any defect in their nomination, including any discrepancy in the membership standing of persons providing supporting signatures.
- The date on which this notice will be regarded as having been issued to members is 26 September 2025. Any person not in membership of the union on 26 September 2025 is not eligible for nomination to the positions described in this notice.
- Eligible candidates may be nominated to more than one of the positions listed in this notice. Nomination to each position will require a separate nomination to be submitted. Ballots to positions in this notice will be counted in the following order:
 - i. Vice-President
 - ii. By-election Vice-President
 - iii. Geographically-elected HE and FE members
 - iv. UK-elected HE and FE members
 - v. Representatives of women members for HE and FE

and after a candidate is successfully elected, votes for that candidate will be disregarded in subsequent elections.

- Any ballots held as a result of this call for nominations will be held in January - March 2026. The deadline for the submission of election addresses for any such elections will be 2 December 2025.
- For these elections, the independent scrutineer appointed by the University and College Union for the purposes described in Section 49 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (as amended) is Civica Election Services (formerly known as Electoral Reform Services), 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 0NW.

1 Officers

- 1.1 Vice-President (becoming president 2028-29) from the further education sector. The successful candidate will serve as President-Elect for 2026-27, President-Elect for 2027-28, President for 2028-29, and Immediate Past President for 2029-30
- 1.2 By-election Vice-President (becoming President in 2029-30) from the higher education sector. The successful candidate will serve as Vice-President for 2026-27 and 2027-28; as President-Elect for 2028-2029; and as President for 2029-30.

Support for officer nominations

Nominations for officer positions must be supported by:

- a. the signed consent of the candidate;
- b. a statement confirming the office to which the candidate wishes to stand, and their Sector;
- c. either (i) the identifiable signatures of twenty members of the union who are entitled to vote in any ballot held to fill that position, not more than ten of whom may be from the same branch/local association, or (ii) a statement signed by the Presiding Officer or Honorary Secretary of a branch/local association that the nomination has been adopted by a resolution at a quorate general meeting of that branch/local association;
- d. a statement confirming that, at the time of nomination, the candidate is in qualifying employment under rule 3.1.1, or has been in qualifying employment within the preceding 6 months, unless a pattern of casualised work in the post-16 education sector can be proven within the preceding 24 months, and shall provide proof of such qualifying employment, normally in the form of a payslip dated within the preceding 6 months, or as otherwise determined by the returning officer. If sectoral criteria apply, this should be reflected in the proof of qualifying employment.

2 Geographically elected NEC seats

Fourteen vacancies exist for geographically-elected members of the NEC.

2.1 From institutions in Northern Ireland:

One member from the higher education sector

One member from the further education sector

2.2 From institutions in Wales:

One member from the higher education sector (who will be Vice-President of UCU Cymru in 2026-27, and President of UCU Cymru in 2027-28)

2.3 From institutions in the North East (defined by the North East and Yorkshire and the Humber RDAs):

Three members from the higher education sector

One member from the further education sector

2.4 From institutions in London and the East (defined by the London and Eastern RDAs):

Five members from the higher education sector (at least two of whom must be women)

Two members from the further education sector

3 UK-elected members of the National Executive Committee

Eight vacancies exist for UK-elected members of the NEC.

3.1 Five NEC members from institutions in the higher education sector for a term of two years.

Of the five members elected:

- At least one will be employed, or, if unemployed, have been most recently employed, in a post-1992 institution;
- At least one will be employed, or, if unemployed, have been most recently employed, in an academic-related role;
- At least one must be a woman.

3.2 Three NEC members from institutions in the further education sector for a term of two years.

Of the three members elected:

- At least one will be employed, or, if unemployed, have been most recently employed, in adult continuing or community-based education (ACE);
- At least one must be a woman.

4 Equality Seats

Five vacancies exist for the following equality seats for a term of two years:

4.1 Representatives of women members

- Three representatives of women members in the higher education sector;
- Two representatives of women members in the further education sector.

Candidates standing for election to these seats must state that they are a woman in the relevant sector.

Support for National Executive Committee nominations

Nominations for National Executive Committee positions other than officer positions (all seats in sections 2-5 of this notice) must be supported by:

- a. the signed consent of the candidate;
- b. a statement confirming the position to which the candidate wishes to stand; their Sector; their gender; their region; any category described in paragraph 18.8.2i-18.8.2iii of the Rules that apply; and the category as described in Rule 18.8.5i if it applies;
- c. either (i) the identifiable signatures of ten members of the Union who are entitled to vote in any ballot held to fill that position, not more than five of whom may be from the same branch/local association, or (ii) a statement signed by the Presiding Officer or Honorary Secretary of a local association or branch that the nomination has been adopted by a resolution at a quorate general meeting of that branch/local association;
- d. a statement confirming that, at the time of nomination, the candidate is in qualifying employment under rule 3.1.1, or has been in qualifying employment within the preceding 6 months, unless a pattern of casualised work in the post-16 education sector can be proven within the preceding 24 months, and shall provide proof of such qualifying employment, normally in the form of a payslip dated within the preceding 6 months, or as otherwise determined by the returning officer. If geographical and/or sectoral criteria apply, these should be reflected in the proof of qualifying employment.