

Code of conduct for and/or during University elections

This code of conduct is intended to provide guidelines regarding how students, staff and the parties should behave towards each other during University elections. A neutral and independent voting environment is important. However, a 'breach' of these agreements will not necessarily influence the outcome of the elections. The Central Electoral Committee must first establish, on the basis of the University of Groningen Electoral Regulations, whether irregularities have occurred during the elections which could have affected the result.

A. General code of conduct

It is important that University elections are conducted in a decent and fair manner.

Campaigning activities must be carried out with respect for others and their points of view.

- campaign materials and activities must not use indecent or unnecessarily hurtful expressions
- 'opponents' should be accorded respectful treatment

B. Campaigning during the campaign period and election period

Parties may in principle carry out promotional activities all year round. These activities will intensify during University elections with the specific aim of winning votes. Although the aim of an election campaign is to influence others ('How can I persuade my fellow students and/or colleagues to vote for my party?', 'How can I convince them of my point of view?'), there are limits to the ways in which parties may try to influence and persuade voters. If there is any question of coercion, a line has been crossed. Every eligible voter must ensure to cast his/her vote without being influenced by other voters, and must refrain from trying to directly influence other voters.

Together, we must ensure that information provision is sufficient. The goal of this information provision is to inform students of the importance of consultative participation and to call for them to participate in the digital elections taking place in the week of 13 May 2024. To this end, the University will use its many channels (website, Student Portal, Instagram, Facebook, slides in online lectures).

The Central Electoral Committee requests that the faculties join the efforts to establish alternative methods of campaigning.

C. Online guidelines

It is therefore important that the following rules are observed during the online elections:

- Candidates/parties must make sure that all eligible voters can vote without being influenced or coerced
- It is not permitted to invite voters to vote via a candidate's tablet or smartphone
- It is not permitted to send mass emails to large groups of eligible voters
- In consultation with the communications departments, online expressions will be given equal attention on the UG's central and faculty web pages, or on the UG's social media
- It is not permitted to engage in promotional activities in computer rooms, in lecture halls without prior permission from the lecturer, in rooms with silent work stations, in meeting rooms during meetings, and in exam halls during exams
- Promotional materials may only be displayed in designated areas. It is not permitted to display promotional materials on top of promotional materials put up by other candidates/parties, or to remove promotional materials by other candidates/parties
- Candidates/parties must leave the UG grounds where they conduct their campaign in a tidy condition

- In developing promotional materials, candidates/parties should take environmental considerations into account

If you have any doubts about whether a campaign activity is allowed, or if you believe that the rules listed above have been broken, you can contact the Central Electoral Committee via csb@rug.nl.

Central Electoral Committee, December 2023