



Election of SAS member of Council 2026 Information Sheet

Background

College Council approved the proposal to have an SAS member of Council in September 2014. This decision followed wide consultation on the best way to facilitate the input of the College's affiliated SAS doctors to key College activities, including training, education and assessment. At its AGM in 2024, the College agreed to increase the number of SAS places on Council to two and to afford them full voting rights, thus making future SAS members of Council eligible to stand for higher-office and vote in the election of Office-Bearers.

This is an exciting and important role as part of the Council of the College which represents the professional interests of the College's membership. Decisions made by Council formulate policy and direct the College in its mission to promote the highest standards of surgical practice.

A second SAS Member was elected to Council in November 2025.

There is one SASL vacancy from November 2026. Please note, that in addition to becoming a member of the RCSEd Council, the SAS representatives are members of the SASL Committee, which meets three-times per year.

Timeline

- The call for nominations will open on Monday 20 July 2026
- Nominations will close on Friday 14 August 2026, 16.00 BST
- Voting will open online Tuesday 01 September 2026
- The closing date for receipt of votes is Friday 25 September 2026
- Successful candidates will be informed by Tuesday 29 September 2026
- Successful candidates will be formally announced at the Council meeting to be held on 16 October 2026 and will take their place on Council from Friday 20 November 2026.

Duties of Elected Council Members

It is essential that any Fellow considering standing for election gives careful attention to the duties and time commitment required of elected Members of Council.

Please see “Council Member Role” on the election homepage.

Eligibility to Stand for Election

Any candidate wishing to stand for election must:

- be a UK-based, holder of the MRCS or FRCS/MFDS or FDS affiliated to The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and be in good standing.¹
- not be under investigation by or facing disciplinary action of any kind from a regulatory or employing organisation, such as but not limited to the General Medical Council or an NHS Trust or Health Board;
- not be a trustee or member of the Council of any other surgical, medical or dental royal college
- be an SAS doctor or SAS dental surgeon.
- have the support of two Fellows of the College.
- be able to provide a letter of support from your primary employer confirming that you will be released, as required, to fulfil the role of a member of Council. Please note that non-Office-Bearer members of Council should serve for a maximum of two years beyond leaving NHS/Academic employment or active clinical practice. Candidates may be requested to provide additional evidence in this regard.

If the SAS member is unable to complete their term, then a new election process shall be initiated.

Term of Office

There is one vacancy. The successful candidate shall serve on Council for the period from 20 November 2026 to November 2029, demitting office at the AGM in that year.

Eligibility to Vote in the Election

SAS Council Members are elected by the College’s Fellows and Members. Being in good standing with the College is a pre-requisite of eligibility.

Composition of Council

Under the College’s Laws, Trustees have delegated responsibility to Council for all substantive matters relating to professional and public policy which upholds the mission and strategic aims of the College and supports members.

¹ Good Standing in respect of a Fellow or Member means they:

(i) are not in arrears with their subscriptions or fees to the College and/or a Faculty; and
(ii) have no restrictions on their practice from a regulatory body

As of November 2025, the composition of Council is now:

- The President elected by Council
- Four Vice Presidents elected by Council
- The Vice President (Dental) elected by Dental Council
- 17 Elected Members of Council elected by a vote of all Members and Fellows of the College
- A Dental Vice Dean, elected by Dental Council
- Two Trainee Members of Council
- Two SASL (Specialty Doctors, Associate Specialist, Specialist Grade & Locally employed surgeons') Members of Council (This role)
- Two Younger Fellows (those within 10 years of Fellowship); and
- The College's appointed Deans of Education, Examination and the International Postgraduate Deanery.

Diversity

The College welcomes and strongly encourages candidates from a broad and diverse range of backgrounds, perspectives and geographical areas.

We strongly encourage members to stand for Council and help shape the future of the profession.

Civica Election Services (CES)

The College has appointed CES to run the nomination process and voting for this election on behalf of the College. CES has assisted the College with their election processes for many years and has a vast knowledge and experience of running and administering elections, ballots and consultation processes and are the UK's leading provider of election services.

Election - Application Process

Those eligible should complete the online nomination form via the CES platform:

<https://secure.cesvotes.com/V3-4-0/RCSEdSASNoms26/>

Personal statements

Each prospective candidate will be asked to include in the application:

- A word-limited election statement (350 words) from the candidate outlining why they wish to stand for Council and their aspirations for the future of the College;
- A word-limited statement (250 words) from the candidate reflecting on their contribution to College activities to-date; and
- A recent high-resolution photograph.

This information shall form the basis of the ballot and voting pack that will be available to the electorate.

Please note that the College will not circulate any statement containing comments which the College's legal advisers regard as libellous. In such an event, the candidate will be advised and, provided the statement is received in time, the candidate will be given the opportunity to amend it.

The Council agreed in January 2025 that the canvassing of votes is prohibited.

Candidates and their supporters must not use their own communication channels or College branding (including the College Logo) to promote their candidacy. This includes using the communication channels of their Specialty Association, the press or their own social media. Please see the Election Code which governs this election.

Deadline for receipt of nominations

All completed nominations must be submitted online and received no later than 14 August 2026, 16.00 BST.

Confirmation of receipt of nomination forms will be acknowledged by CES within five working days of receipt. Any nominee who does not receive confirmation should contact CES via the details provided on the online nomination form.

Distribution of Ballot Papers

Voting will open online 01 September 2026. Every Fellow or Member whose email is registered at the College and who is eligible to vote*, will receive an email from CES advising of the opening of the voting window through an online portal; this will include the details of the candidates who have satisfied the application process outlined above.

You are requested to give notice, without delay, of any change of email to avoid misdirection of your ballot papers to the Membership Office of the College at membership@rcsed.ac.uk.

Members will be able to vote online through the portal only. There is no postal ballot.

We would urge any Member or Fellow who has not provided an email address to the College, to kindly do so to ensure that you receive communications electronically going forward. Please contact membership@rcsed.ac.uk to update your details.

**Please kindly note that Members or Fellows who are elected post-15 July 2026, will not be eligible to vote in this year's elections as all names must be approved by Council.*

Successful candidates

Successful candidates will be formally announced at the Council meeting to be held on 16 October 2026 and will be invited to join Council at the AGM to be held on Friday 20 November 2026.

Data Protection (UK GDPR)

Candidates' election statements and photographs will be reproduced and circulated to voters with the ballot paper and also used for the purpose of publicising the election via College communications to its membership under UK GDPR part. 6.1(f) legitimate interest. This will include College newsletters and its social media channels. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact dataprotection@rcsed.ac.uk

Enquiries

Enquiries concerning the election should be directed, in the first instance, as follows:

- Enquiries on eligibility to vote or stand for election should be directed to the Membership Department – membership@rcsed.ac.uk
- Enquiries on the election process should be directed to Civica Election services – support@cesvotes.com
- For any other enquiries, please contact Ms Anna Paisley, Vice President via the PA to the Office Bearers officebearerpa@rcsed.ac.uk