



Election of Trainee member of Council 2026 Information Sheet

Background

There shall be two Members of Council elected by the Members of the College who are surgical trainees to ensure input into key College activities, including training, education and assessment.

One shall be the Chair of the Trainees' Committee, and one shall be the Deputy Chair. The Trainees' Committee meets at least 4 times a year.

Timeline

- The call for nominations will open on: Monday 22 June 2026
- Nominations will close on Friday 17 July 2026, 16.00 BST
- Voting will open online on Friday 31 July 2026
- The closing date for receipt of votes is Friday 28 August 2026
- Successful candidates will be informed by Friday 04 September 2026 and will take their place on Council from Friday 20 November 2026.

Duties of Elected Council Members

It is essential that any Trainee 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 UK-based, affiliated to the Edinburgh College and be in good standing.¹
- Be a holder of the MRCS or FRCS, the latter of which must have been gained within the last 2 years.
- Be at least at ST3 (or equivalent if in an academic programme)

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

- Have a proposer and seconder, both of whom should be eligible to vote in this election (see below for criteria).
- Provide supporting documentation from their Training Director and employer granting appropriate leave or circumstance to fulfil the commitments of this role.

The Trainee member of Council will normally be permitted to remain on Council for up to 6 months after their CCT/CST date, provided that this does not exceed the 2-year term. Should a Trainee member be unable to complete their 2-year term then a new election process shall be initiated.

Term of Office

The successful candidates shall serve on Council for the period from 20 November 2026 to November 2028, demitting office at the AGM in that year.

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.

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 (*This role*)
- Two SASL (Specialty Doctors, Associate Specialist, Specialist Grade & Locally employed surgeons') Members of Council
- Two Younger Fellows (those within 10 years of Fellowship); and
- The College's appointed Deans of Education, Examination and the International Postgraduate Deanery.

Eligibility to Vote in the Election

All UK-based MRCS holders affiliated to this College and/or UK-based Fellows of this College who have gained their FRCS within the last 2 years and who are still holders of a Trainee number, are eligible to vote. Being in good standing with the College is a pre-requisite of eligibility.

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: www.cesvotes.com/RCSEdTraineeNoms26

Personal statements

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

- A written election statement of no more than 350 words outlining their Trainee History to Date and their suitability to stand as a Trainee Member on Council.
- A statement of no more than 250 outlining their aspirations for the future regarding Trainee involvement in the College.
- 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 17 July 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 31 August 2026. Every 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 after the 15 July ballot, 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 04 September 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