

Code of Conduct UM elections

Elections should be free and fair. Previous Covid-19 editions, which were forced to run only online campaigns, showed once again that in order for there to be free and fair conduct of the Elections, the privacy and freedom of choice of the voter must be guaranteed at all times. This guarantee is without prejudice for the right of parties and candidates to profile themselves within the UM community. That is exactly what this Code of Conduct is trying to achieve. An important responsibility is also placed on both the parties and candidates to promote compliance and thus contribute to the respectful conduct of the Elections.

The Code of Conduct was adopted by the Executive Board after advice from the University Council in its meeting on 15 March 2022 and is a supplement to the following UM legislation and regulations:

- The Electoral Regulations
- The Integrity Code of Conduct
- The Student Charter
- The Complaints regulation on Inappropriate Behaviour
- House rules and Codes of Conduct at faculty and service centre level
- The Rules of Conduct of the University

Article 1: Scope

1. The Code of Conduct applies to all promotional activities and materials from candidates and parties prior to and during the elections.

Article 2: General rules of conduct

1. Candidates and parties must comply with applicable laws and regulations during promotional activities and in their promotional materials.

2. In promotional activities and in materials, it is not permitted to use in any way offensive, demonstrably incorrect or unnecessarily offensive texts, images or other expressions.

3. Candidates and parties are equally supported and are all given the opportunity to present themselves to the UM-community.

Article 3: Online promotional activities

1. When publishing information online, whether on social media or not, candidates and parties must comply with privacy-related laws and regulations.

2. It is not permitted to send large numbers of unwanted and unrequested messages (unrequested commercial or charitable e-mails etc., also referred to as spamming) via any (e-mail) system.

It is not permitted for a user to send e-mails to the entire UM community without explicit permission from an information official. If you send large numbers of campaigning emails and ICTS marks these mails as SPAM, ICTS is allowed to take measures against you, like the temporary closure of your email box. So please be sensible and only use emails for campaigning purposes within reason.

For students and staff members the Code of Conduct of Maastricht University applies.

3. Candidates and parties refrain from unethical behavior, including, but not limited to, dissemination of information to discourage votes, disinformation about the voting process or other parties or candidates, use of fake accounts, trolling, cyberbullying, use of distorted audiovisual messages, including deep fakes, incitement to violence or hate speech, etc.

Article 4: On-campus promotional activities and materials

1. Promotional activities may, in prior consultation with the relevant building manager, take place on the entire site and in the university buildings, with the exception of the following locations:

- the lecture halls
- teaching areas
- conference rooms
- learning spaces
- any other areas currently in use where the promotional activities may have a disruptive effect.

2. Candidates and parties shall ensure that during the promotional activities they do not cause any inconvenience to the university, its staff, students and/or third parties who use the buildings, grounds and/or other university facilities.

3. Candidates and parties are responsible for arranging and using facilities, such as banners and stands, to support their promotional activities. On request, the secretary of the Central Electoral Committee can facilitate this. Candidates and parties are treated equally from both UM central and the faculties and the service centers.

4. Material that is handed out during promotional activities and whatever is left behind or displayed, must be removed and cleaned as soon as these activities are finished.

Article 5: Voting

1. Candidates and parties shall refrain from exercising any form of coercion against those entitled to vote and are not allowed to cast a vote on behalf of the person entitled to vote.

2. Candidates and parties may not engage in any activities during the casting of the votes which is aimed at influencing the choice of the voter.

Article 6: Sanctions

1. If candidates and/or parties act contrary to the Code of Conduct, the central electoral committee may decide, with due observance of Article 5 of the Election Regulations, to reduce the party or parties involved in its election budget.

Article 7: Final provisions

1. For all other matters not expressly provided for in this Contract, the Central Electoral Committee will decide.

2. The Code of Conduct is translated into English. In case of discrepancy between the Dutch and English version, the Dutch text will prevail.