

Ruling (4) of the Returning Officer – late postal vote applications

Electoral Regulation 31.6 gives the Returning Officer discretion to accept late postal votes in defined circumstances.

The purpose of postal votes is to enable students who would not, because of inability to attend campus, be able to vote.

Therefore, I rule:

1. Late postal votes will be accepted for only these reasons:
 - (a) Illness or injury preventing attendance on campus during polling hours (or which made it impossible to apply for a postal vote prior to the deadline); or
 - (b) Circumstances which, through no fault of the applicant, emerged only after 5pm Thursday that make attendance on campus during polling hours impossible; or
 - (c) Found to not be on roll (or listed on roll under the wrong category) when presenting to vote at a polling place; or
 - (d) Exceptional circumstances documented to the Returning Officer's satisfaction.
2. Applications for reasons (a) and (b) are to be made via the election website. Applications for reason (c) are to be made to a polling official at a polling place. Applications for reason (d) are to be made by email to returningofficer@union.unimelb.edu.au.
3. Because of the logistics of postal vote applications, all late applications will be batched and dispatched on a "best effort" basis, in order of application within each reason.
4. We will open applications for late postal votes on Sunday 6 September.
5. We expect to close late postal vote applications, except not on roll and exceptional circumstances applications, at 5pm on Wednesday 9 September.

Stephen Luntz
Returning Officer

6 September 2026