

UC Student Regent Recruitment Frequently Asked Questions

ELIGIBILITY

Q: Can an international student/STEM major/undocumented student/out-of-state student be a student regent?

A: Yes, all currently enrolled students are eligible.

Q: Are current high school seniors/future transfer students/prospective students eligible?

A: No, you must be enrolled at a UC campus at the time of application.

Q: I am a UC senior and planning on going to graduate school at UC. Can I apply?

A: Yes, because you will know if you have been accepted into a UC graduate program while the selection process is still underway. If you are not admitted, your application will not be considered further.

Q: I'm a junior and am interested in applying, however the term is two years. Can I still try to go for the position?

A: You are correct that this is a two-year commitment. In the coming academic year, the person selected will serve as Regent-designate. In the following year, they will be a voting Regent. That said, in the past, we have had student regents who applied when they were juniors, but they planned from the outset to take additional time to graduate so that they could serve one year as Regent-designate and one year as a voting Regent. If you are interested in doing this, please discuss with an academic advisor.

Q: Are undergraduates at a disadvantage when applying?

A: Not at all — we encourage you to apply! The selection panels evaluate the applications on their merits.

Q: Is there a reason why students from UCLA and UC Berkeley are mostly chosen? Does being from another campus put me at a disadvantage?

A: No, it does not place you at a disadvantage. The selection panels evaluate the applications on their merits.

Q: If we are currently in student government but are willing to not continue in student government if accepted, is that okay? What counts as student body position? Can we participate in extracurricular activities?

A: You can participate in leadership of any clubs or extracurricular activities. As student Regent-designate, you can serve in an appointed (but not elected) student government position. Once you become the voting Regent, you may not hold any student government office. Contact the Regents office to get advice on any particular situations.

APPLICATION

Q: Can you describe the application process? Who reviews the applications?

A: Submit an application, along with a resume and personal statement, by Monday, March 10. A panel of students nominated by the campus student association presidents will review the applications and select 6 to 8 candidates to be interviewed by the external vice presidents of the UC Student Association (UCSA) and the University of California Graduate and Professional Council (UCGPC) in early May. They will select 3 to 4 students to be interviewed by a special committee of the Regents later in May, which will choose one nominee to recommend to the full Board of Regents. The entire Board votes to confirm the candidate in July and the term as student Regent-designate begins immediately.

Q: How many applicants get an interview?

A: Per Regents Policy, between 6 and 8 students are selected for initial interviews. Subsequent interviews narrow it down to one candidate.

Q: What is the timeline after you submit your application?

A: You will hear in mid-April about whether or not you were selected for an interview. The first round of interviews is in early May. The interviews with the Regents will likely be later in May.

Q: What are they specifically looking for in applicants/the application?

A: The application should describe the skills and experience that you have that would make you effective in the position. It should demonstrate knowledge of the issues facing the University and convey your passion and commitment to those issues. There are no right answers; past student regents have had a range of backgrounds and interests.

Q: Is participation in other clubs/organizations required in order to apply?

A: No, but strong candidates have an understanding of major issues facing students and the University and a record of advocacy and demonstrated commitment to the welfare of fellow students.

Q: Do you have an equal chance of being accepted no matter what school you're from?

A: Yes — it is based on the strength of your application and interviews.

Q: If I am currently a senior, but going into a master's program at my same campus, does my application need supplemental information to support this?

A: No supplemental information is needed, but it would be good to mention it so that we know you will be able to fulfill the two-year commitment.

Q: Who would you recommend we should ask to be our recommenders? Would an employer or coach be okay? And do you have to know them from an educational environment?

A: You should ask anyone who can speak to your strengths, skills, experience, and passion. Letters can be from an employer, a faculty member, TA, high school teacher, peer, someone you worked with in a volunteer capacity, etc.

Q: What would you like to hear from the references?

A: What skills you have that would make you an effective advocate and communicator on a high-level Board.

Q: When is the deadline for the letters of reference?

A: If you are selected for an interview, which will be known in mid-April, the Regents office will reach out to the people you listed as references to ask them to submit a letter by the end of April.

Q: What part of your application matters the most?

A: The written statement.

Q: Should you demonstrate that you have knowledge about California and the UC system in your written statement?

A: Yes. This is very important to the selection committees.

Q: Do you (current student Regent and Regent-designate) serve on the selection committee?

A: The student body presidents and EVPs of UCSA/UCGPC do the initial application evaluation and interviews. The outgoing student regent serves on the subcommittee of Regents who do the final interviews.

Q: What is the page limit for our resume?

A: There is no page limit.

Q: If we don't get selected can we apply again next year?

A: Absolutely — we encourage you to apply again. Applying helps you think more deeply about the position and what you could bring to it. If you get an interview, it's a very good professional development experience and you will have a better sense of what the panels are looking for. Finally, the selection committees are different each year.

Q: Is the application for student Regent on a yearly basis?

A: Yes, applications are due in the spring of every year.

ROLE

Q: What will the responsibilities be?

A: The student regent is a trustee of the University for all Californians. Like all Regents, the student regent must prepare for and attend Board and Committee meetings, visit campuses, and participate in working groups when needed. In addition, the student regents meet with the student associations and other student groups in order to gather information to reflect the broad range of student experience.

Q: Is there any additional training during the summer for this position?

A: There is usually an orientation for new members of the Board in August. It will be scheduled based on your availability.

TUITION WAIVER/STIPEND

Q: If I qualify for the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan, would I be able to receive any other type of financial aid such as help with loans for housing or would this only cover tuition costs?

A: The Office of the Regents provides tuition and fees and a stipend that will equal the total cost of attendance for the program the student is enrolled in, as estimated by the campus. The amount will vary depending on whether the student is an undergraduate, graduate, or professional student and on whether the student receives financial aid. The purpose of the tuition and stipend is to ensure that the opportunity is open to all students, regardless of socioeconomic status.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Q: Is this the same as the Regents Scholarship?

A: No. The Regents Scholarship is a regular scholarship. The student regent is a full, participating member of the Board of Regents, UC's governing board.

Q: How many people are chosen for the position?

A: One person from the entire pool is chosen (not per campus).

Q: In the history of UC student regents, how many have been grad students vs undergrad? Has a first-year undergraduate ever been chosen?

A: Historically, it's been about half grad students and half undergrads. There has never been anyone chosen during their first year. However, sophomores have been chosen to serve in junior/senior years.

Q: Where do meetings take place?

A: Usually either UCLA or UCSF, but sometimes at other campuses.

Q: How else can I get involved in university governance?

A: You can apply to be a Student Advocate to the Regents (StAR) or Student Observer to a Regents committee. StARs are selected for each Board meeting. To apply, go to UCSA's website: <https://ucsa.org/get-involved/stars/> or UCGPC's website: <https://www.ucgpc501c3.org/stars>. In August, UCSA/UCGPC opens applications to be student observer to a particular Regents committee for the entire year. You attend that committee and are given time to address the committee about topics on its agenda. There are also many opportunities through student government. Finally, both the systemwide and local campus Academic Senates have student representatives on some of their committees.

Q: Has a health professional student such as a medical or veterinary student ever been a Student Regent?

A: Yes, there have been three student regents from health professional programs.

Q: Has an international student every been selected?

A: The records are unclear. International students are eligible to apply, however.

Q: If we plan to intern with a state representative, are we expected to not work with any representatives as a Regent?

A: No, it would not limit your advocacy activities. However, all Regents must abide by policies on conflicts of interest and ethical conduct.