

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

Thank you for considering standing for election as President-Elect.

Council normally consists of 12 members. As President-Elect and then as President, you would be one of the Council Members and as President you would chair Council.

Council includes:

- (1) Officers: President, President-Elect*, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer
- (2) Non-Officer Council Members

Council Members are trustees of the Society and have collective responsibility for overseeing the Society's values, vision, and strategy. They take the big strategic decisions and make sure we are carrying out the Society's purposes for the public benefit, acting in the charity's best interests, managing our resources responsibly, being accountable, and acting in accordance with the rules.

The President leads the governance of the Society, and chairs Council and general meetings. It is normal for the President to attend the Finance & Planning Committee and they are entitled to attend other Standing Committees as an ex-officio member if they wish. The President is also an ambassador and representative for the Society, and on occasion will perform the role of host at Society events.

Time commitment

The President-Elect role is for one year (June 2027/28) followed by two years as President (June 2028-2030). The President may not stand for re-election.

Council normally meets five times a year, usually on a Wednesday afternoon between 14:00 and 17:00. Most meetings are virtual with one meeting per year normally held in person. In addition, there is a one-day in-person strategy meeting. Trustees may be consulted occasionally at other times in the year should a time sensitive matter arise.

The typical time commitment for President is 20-25 days per annum. The time commitment is less in the first year as President-Elect. The President-Elects attends Council (five per year) and is a member of the Finance & Planning Committee (five meetings per year chaired by the Treasurer).

Nominees for President-Elect are first reviewed by the Nominations Committee, which recommends a single nominee to be put forward by Council for election by Voting Members of the Society (Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and Student Members) through a ballot held each year, usually in March. See Nomination and Elections Process section for more information.

Who can apply

All Voting Members (Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and Student Members) can submit a Nomination Form to serve as President-Elect.

* The President-Elect is not formally an Officer until they assume office as President but is treated as an Officer for the purposes of nomination, selection, and election process.

Person Specification - required for all Council Members, including President-Elect

- Voting Member of the Geological Society (Fellow, Honorary Fellow, or Student Member) at the time of submission of their nomination statement.
- Ability to commit to the time needed for the role.
- Understanding the trustee role and responsibilities and willingness to accept its duties and liabilities (see details and link further below).
- Ability to maintain the confidentiality of all sensitive / confidential information received in the course of a Trustee's responsibilities.

Attributes required for all Council Members, including President-Elect

- Ability to work collaboratively to help develop the Society's vision and agree a strategic plan.
- Ability to think strategically across all areas of Council responsibility.
- Ability to listen and communicate, cooperate and be open to different viewpoints.
- Analytical skills, good judgment and ability to prioritise.
- Ability to digest information and ask relevant questions.
- Ability to hold management to account respectfully and collaboratively.

In addition. President-Elect nominees should demonstrate:

- Highly developed interpersonal skills – especially in active listening and collaborative decision making.
- Chairing and meeting management skills – including facilitation, inclusion, and relationship management; focus and time management; comprehension, prioritisation, and judgement.
- Ability to work effectively with key staff and volunteer contacts
- Public speaking skills
- Ability to engage effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Ability to see the big picture and prioritise
- Commitment to the role of professional organisations and designations.
- High level achievement in their field of science.
- Credibility and ability to work with a decision-formers at the highest level.

Trustee key role and responsibilities

- Ensure the Society is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- Ensure the Society acts in accordance with its objects, governing documents and the charity rules
- Ensure decisions are made in the Society's best interests
- Ensure the Society manages its resources responsibly
- Ensure you act with reasonable care and skill and are accountable
- Ensure the financial stability of the Society
- Approve the annual budget.
- Approve the annual accounts and financial statements

Read more about being a trustee: [Charity trustee: what's involved \(CC3a\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-what-s-involved)

President's key role and responsibilities

- The President shall chair Council and all General Meetings and shall be an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees.
- The President shall be responsible for the proper conduct of the Society's business and shall ensure that:
 - the provisions of the Charter and Byelaws of the Society are maintained;
 - the activities of the Society are consistent with its charitable status;
 - all Officers and members of Council and of Standing Committees perform the duties assigned to them properly;
 - reports are called for from Standing Committees/Other Committees, Working Groups, Specialist Groups, Regional Groups and staff;
 - extraordinary meetings of Council and of Committees are called when necessary; and
 - appropriate measures are proposed to Council for the good management of the Society.
- The President, when prevented from giving full attention to the current business of the Society, shall provide timely notice to an Officer in order that the responsibilities normally undertaken by the President are discharged.
- General engagement in some high-level Society business.

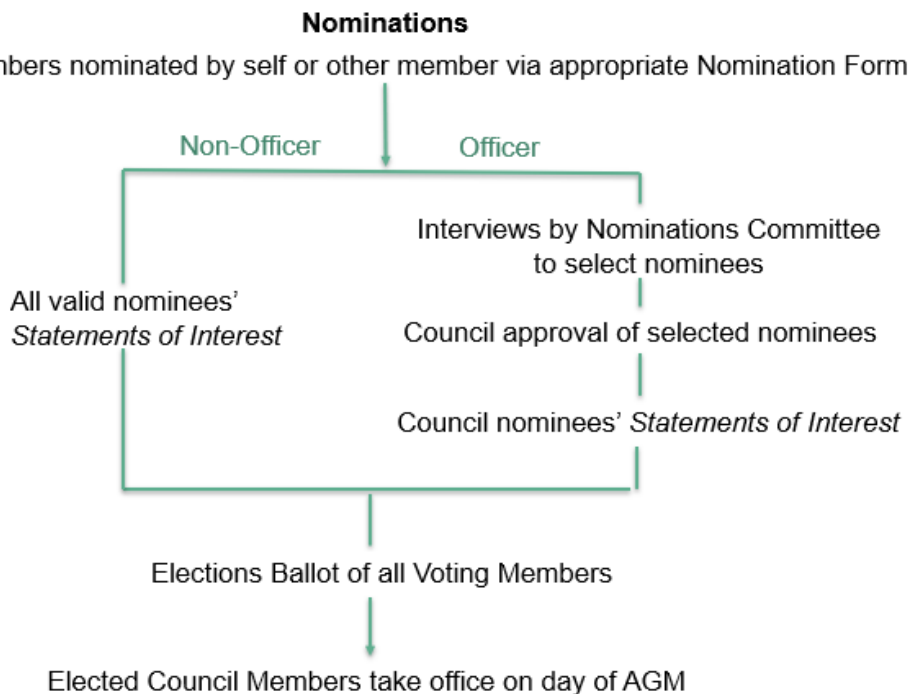
See Regulation [R-G-04-Officers](#)

If you would like more information or guidance in regards the role and/or your nomination, we'd be happy to help. Please get in touch via secretary@geolsoc.org.uk.

Nominations and Election Process

1. All nomination forms should be submitted by 15 January.
2. Any Voting Member may submit nominations or self-nominate.
3. All nominations should be submitted on the appropriate form and be supported by a Voting Member (The Proposer) and two other Voting Members (Seconders).
4. The nominee must sign an assent to be nominated and confirm that there are no reasons under charity law that would exclude them from holding office as a Trustee, or other grounds for disqualification.
 - A Voting Member proposed for election as a Trustee shall be excluded if they are disqualified by law.
5. All valid Officer nominations will go forward to the Nominations Committee.
6. The Nominations Committee shall consider all nominations received for Officer roles and all suitable nominees would normally be interviewed by a Selection Panel.
7. The Nominations Committee will put forward a suitable candidate to go forward for approval by Council as the ballot Nominee.
8. The Council approved nominee for each Officer role will go forward to the ballot for election by Voting Members. There is one nominee for each Officer vacancy.
9. A list of Voting Members proposed as Trustees shall be circulated to all Voting Members to vote via a ballot for election to Council.
10. The Council Members selected through the ballot will take up their role following the next Annual General Meeting.

See diagram below:



Nomination and Elections Timeline

Sep- Dec 2026: Call for nomination forms.

11 Sep - 11 Dec 2026: Guidance available for candidates preparing nominations.

15 Jan 2027: Nominations deadline.

25 Jan – 15 Feb 2027: Interviews for Officer roles. One selected candidate per Officer role will go forward to the Ballot. All candidates will be informed prior to the Ballot.

Mar 2027: Council Election – Ballot of Voting Members via an independent ballot*.

31 March (23:59 GMT): Voting closes.

April 2027: Nominees informed of ballot results.

May 2027: Election results announced via Society Newsletter and Geoscientist.

June 2027: New Council Members take up role following June AGM.

* Postal ballot only available on request via secretary@geolsoc.org.uk or 020 7434 9944

How to apply: Nominations

All Voting Members wishing to go forward to the election process must complete the appropriate Nomination Form. Forms can be downloaded from the [Council Elections](#) page of the website.

This includes a statement of interest which will be included with the Council Elections ballot and should ideally cover:

- What you will bring to the role of President (please consider the Society's [Purposes and Objects](#), [Values and Strategy](#) in preparing your statement).
- Current and background information about yourself, such as your experience of studying or working in geoscience, your professional interests, etc.
- Details about your involvement with the Society, including whether you have previously served on Council, or its committees, or been a volunteer for the Society in any other contexts.
- Other relevant experience, if any, of volunteer or committee work.
- If applicable, your membership of any relevant Society or other geoscience groups or organisations.
- Qualifications e.g. Chartered Geologist, Chartered Scientist or other professional designations.
- Any conflict of interest.

All nominations forms must be signed to assent to be nominated and confirm that there are no reasons under charity law that would exclude them from holding office as a Trustee, or other grounds for disqualification.

All nominations shall be submitted on the appropriate form and be supported by a Voting Member (The Proposer) and two other Voting Members (Seconders). Alternatively, a nomination may be supported by the Nominations Committee or by Council.

If you have difficulty identifying proposers and seconders then please contact the Nominations Committee via secretary@geolsoc.org.uk who can assist.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA)

We are committed to supporting diversity amongst our staff and Fellowship, and have made it a priority to help encourage and celebrate equity and inclusion in geoscience education and professions.

As the UK professional body for geoscientists, we believe that everybody should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of disability, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or other diversity characteristic. We believe that making the geosciences more inclusive will benefit individuals, the science, and society.

Improving diversity, equity and inclusion in geoscience education and professions, and in the Geological Society itself, is a long term goal which will involve generational change.

In September 2014 we formalised this commitment by becoming a signatory to the Science Council's Declaration on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This Declaration sets out our ambition to improve diversity, equity and inclusion across geoscience communities.

[Read more on our EDIA page](#)