

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

VICE-PRESIDENT, PROFESSIONAL MATTERS CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

Thank you for considering standing as Vice-President, Professional Matters.

Council normally consists of 12 members. As Vice-President, Professional Matters, you would be one of the 12 Council Members.

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 Vice-President, Professional Matters, is responsible for the general supervision of all matters relating to the professional activities of the Society

Time commitment

Council Members term of service is normally three years with the option to re-stand for election to serve a second term.

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.

All members of Council are invited to serve on a Standing Committee— External Relations, Finance & Planning, Professional & Chartership, Publications & Information and Science. Standing committees usually meet three or four times a year virtually. As Vice-President, Professional Matters, you would be Chair of the Professional and Chartership Committee.

The typical time commitment is around fifteen day per annum.

New Council Members are selected by all 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 on Council.

* 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

- Voting Member of the Geological Society (a 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 Vice-Presidents.

- 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, Vice-President nominees should demonstrate:

- Ability to engage and work effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders
- Chairing and meeting management skills
- Commitment to the role of professional organisations and designations
- High level achievement in their field of science
- A good reputation for their collaborative leadership skills
- Networking skills with an ability to foster consensus, collaboration and collective action.

The Vice-President, Professional Matters, shall be a Chartered Geologist (Regulation R/G/7).

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Vice-President, Professional Matters - Key role and responsibilities

- Responsible for the general supervision of all matters relating to the professional activities of the Society as Council may require, including:
 - validation of Fellows as Chartered Geologists and Chartered Scientists;
 - election of Fellows as European Geologists; and
 - Continuing Professional Development.
- Chair the Professional and Chartership Committee
- A Vice-President or other Officer shall normally chair Council or other meetings when the President is absent, or when the President is unable to give full attention to the current business of the Society.

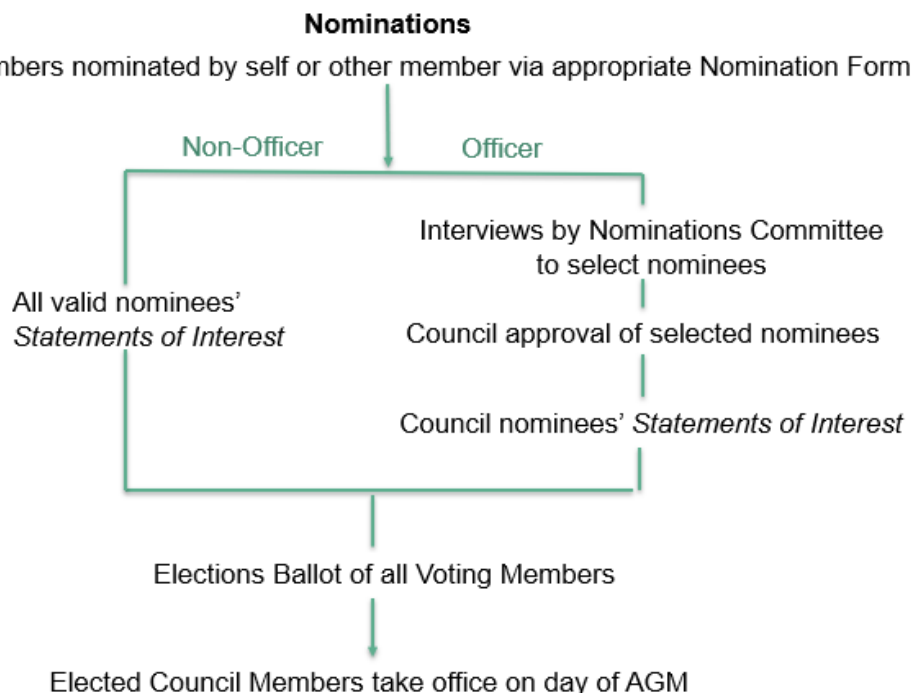
See Regulation [R-G-04-Officers](#)

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 the most 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 further 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.

How to apply: Nominations Forms

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 Vice-President, Professional Matters? (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.
- Number of years as a Fellow and if you have previously served on Council or its committees
- 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.

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

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](#)