

Role Descriptor: RCN Students Committee Member

Reporting To: Council

Basis: In accordance with the RCN Standing Orders, Students Committee Members are elected for two-year terms and half of the members refresh every year.

Time commitment (including meetings): The estimated time commitment for Students Committee Members is approximately one day per month on average, including some regional activity. This includes formal planned and ad hoc meetings, attending events, reading papers and engaging with student members.

The Students Committee meets at least 5 times per year, alternating between hybrid meetings at RCN HQ Cavendish Square and online. Students Committee members are also expected, and are funded, to attend the annual RCN Congress. Ad hoc meetings of Students Committee may be required between planned meetings for timely discussion and/or urgent decision making.

There are also opportunities for Students Committee members to be involved with other committees and working groups, such as the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Congress Learning and Wellbeing Working Group.

Expenses: Members of the Students Committee may reclaim travelling and similar expenses that are in accordance with the RCN Expenses Policy.

Eligibility: The eligibility requirements applicable to the Students Committee are set out in the RCN Elections Policy and Processes document.

Purpose of the role

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Students Committee plays a vital role in providing a voice for the student members of the RCN within the context of wider health and social care developments impacting upon nursing and patient care.

Students Committee Members act in a representative capacity. They represent and champion the views of student members in the work that they do.

Students Committee members should not involve themselves in the day-to-day operations of the RCN, but may, from time to time, work with RCN staff members to achieve results. When representing the RCN in a public space in their capacity as a Students Committee member, Students Committee members should ensure that their actions do not bring the RCN and profession into disrepute, and they should take care not to take public positions contrary to those of the RCN.

Key responsibilities of the role include:

- Ensuring that the voice of students is heard in the development of RCN policy.
- Advising, and being consulted on, the development of RCN student related strategies.
- Working closely with RCN boards on activity relating to students
- Liaising and communicating with students in the countries and regions and putting forward their views, ideas and concerns.
- Ensuring that students in the countries and regions are embedded in the activities of the RCN at all levels: local, national, and international
- Contributing to the committee to encourage, promote, facilitate and support the advancement of nursing in relation to students.
- Demonstrating a strong commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI).
- Meeting with key members of staff and other committees/groups to feedback on the student experience in the workplace and in the RCN.
- Upholding the decisions made by the Committee and undertaking specific activity on behalf of the RCN including speaking at or chairing events.
- Attending Students Committee meetings as set out in the calendar of meetings, reading meeting papers in advance and participating constructively in debates.
- Acting as an advocate and ambassador for the RCN and nursing among members, the wider public and a broad range of stakeholder organisations including formally representing the College at stakeholder and other events and meetings which are held in furtherance of the RCN's strategic aims.
- Bringing impartiality and objectivity to meetings and decision-making, as well as contributing to the creation and maintenance of an inclusive and open culture.
- Upholding the values, decisions and policies of the RCN, acting with integrity and committing to the highest standards of behaviour as set out in the RCN Respect Charter and Code of Conduct.
- Maintaining up-to-date declaration of interests for publication on the website.
- Attending the RCN's annual Congress and other General Meetings, as required.

Person specification:

All Students Committee members should be able to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and values.

1. a strong interest in the experience of students in the nursing profession and the issues affecting them.
2. an understanding of nursing and health issues across the UK.
3. an understanding of and commitment to the RCN, its purpose and its work and its role as a Trade Union and a professional membership body and Royal College.
4. an active commitment to the RCN Respect Charter, EDI and the Nolan Principles.
5. the ability to listen to and advocate for student members in the relevant region or country
6. a willingness and ability to devote the necessary time and effort.
7. a readiness to take and be accountable for decisions.
8. integrity and commitment to act in the best interests of the RCN without regard to your personal interest or benefit
9. objectivity, fairness, independence of mind, integrity, wisdom, discretion and good judgement.
10. the ability to give direct and honest opinions and add value to decision making by offering different perspectives and constructive suggestions.