Council members hold a key role as governors of the RCN. They:

- are accountable to the members for delivering the objects in the Royal Charter and Standing Orders and ensuring compliance with trade union and company law
- contribute strategic thinking and agree policy
- act as a critical friend to the RCN, providing overview and scrutiny
- act as an advocate for and voice of members in the constituency which elects them
- champion and promote the RCN as well as nursing and its contribution to health and wellbeing, wherever and whenever they can.

The role
This role is essential to the work of the College, both as a trade union and professional organisation. Council members are at the forefront of all activities and act in a way that strengthens the RCN and nursing as a profession.

Key responsibilities
- Upholding corporate decisions.
- Attending Council meetings, development sessions, the Annual General Meeting and Congress.
- Joining Council committees, governance committees and sub-committees as agreed.
- Advising on specific professional issues and providing a sounding board for staff.
- Lending their own expertise to the RCN and signposting to other experts who can help the RCN.
- Assisting with policy development and providing external reference points.
- Being a member of their constituency board or committee (for example, country or regional board, Student or Health Practitioner Committee) in line with the appropriate role descriptors; unless they are an ex-officio member of Council (President, Deputy President, Chair of Congress).
- Undertaking specific activity on behalf of the RCN as discussed and agreed with the Chair of Council and the Chief Executive & General Secretary.
- To actively foster good relations with members, stakeholders and staff of the RCN.
- To promote membership of, and engagement with, the RCN in every arena.
Could you be... an RCN Council member?

What we are looking for

• A sound understanding of nursing and health issues across the UK and internationally.
• An understanding of, and commitment to, the RCN, its purpose and its work.
• The ability to listen to and can speak up for RCN members.
• A passion for nursing and wanting to make a difference.
• Objectivity, fairness, independence of mind, integrity, wisdom, discretion, good judgement and the gravitas to be taken seriously at the highest levels UK-wide and internationally.
• Integrity and commitment to act in the best interests of the RCN without regard to your personal interest or benefit.
• Strategic vision and the ability to focus on practical issues.
• Awareness of how the world is changing politically, economically and socially.
• The ability to give direct and honest opinions, and add value to decision making by offering different perspectives and constructive suggestions.
• A readiness to take and be accountable for decisions.
• To be willing to abide by the RCN’s Dignity Charter.
• Commitment to the role and an understanding of the time required.
• Willingness and openness to undertake personal development and training to be able to carry out an effective governance role.

How to become an RCN Council member

• Council elections take place every two years.
• Candidates must meet the criteria which is set out in the election procedure document published when nominations open.
• Candidates should complete a nomination form and provide biographical information and an election statement.

All forms and full details of the elections can be found at: www.rcn.org.uk/elections

Find out more

www.rcn.org.uk/elections
www.rcn.org.uk/rcncouncil

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The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies.

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