

Could
you be...?

RCN elections and appointments



Could you be...?

- president
- deputy president
- chair of Congress
- vice chair of Congress.

Or could you be a member on one of the following committees, boards or Council:

- agenda committee
 - branch committee
 - Council
 - Council sub-committee
 - country or regional board
 - forum steering committee
 - health practitioner committee
 - student committee
 - UK learning representatives' committee
 - UK safety representatives' committee
 - UK stewards' committee.
- 

Council and board members are responsible for the overall governance of the RCN whilst our committee members ensure our members' voices are heard and influence policy and decisions that affect both members and nursing itself.

“Nursing and health face some of the biggest challenges for decades as constant change and ongoing pay concerns have an impact on our profession. By becoming more involved with the RCN, you could bring a different perspective to the way we work and the issues we tackle.”

Andrea Spyropoulos, RCN President (2014)

Putting yourself forward for a role offers you unique learning and networking opportunities.

Whatever your specialty, this is an opportunity to be an essential part of the RCN. You can be a voice for members and for the RCN, whilst extending your expertise and experience in a broad range of areas.

Whether you're the next RCN President or a UK Student Committee member, it's a fulfilling and rewarding role.



Why get involved?

By taking on a governance role, you will have the opportunity to get involved with the RCN on matters relevant to members and the wider nursing profession.

In return for your commitment to one of our committees, boards, or to Council itself, you will be able to champion causes, and act on behalf of our members whilst expanding your own skills, knowledge and experience.

Put yourself forward and:

- gain support from a close network of RCN staff and representatives
- access development and continuing learning opportunities
- have the opportunity to put your views forward
- attend high profile meetings and events.

*Please note that council, committee and board members are able to claim expenses but they are not paid roles.



“The RCN takes good governance and representing members in its governance processes very seriously – since that’s how we ensure the RCN stays a true membership organisation, led by and accountable to its members.”

Michael Brown, Chair of RCN Council (2014)

How much time is needed?

Most roles require attendance at a certain number of meetings per year as a minimum, as well as some commitment and time in between meetings. However, as our technology continues to improve, we are increasingly using teleconference and online ways of working.

For more details, please read the individual role descriptor of the role you are interested in at **www.rcn.org.uk/elections** or **www.rcn.org.uk/appointments** or email **elections@rcn.org.uk**

What about my employer?

Being more involved in the RCN will not only benefit you and members, but it will also enhance your skills and expertise and expose you to wider nursing issues affecting your organisation. All of which can be shared with your workplace to help you deliver your role more effectively.

You will be the eyes and ears of your organisation making sure our members are represented and supported at all times.



Before you put yourself forward for an RCN role, we do ask you to speak with your manager and seek their support. Our staff will also speak to your manager if it helps.

“With Linda being an RCN board member, we have an excellent opportunity to continue to develop our partnership with the RCN in our mutual aim to improve services for staff and patients. This relationship ensures members’ views are represented at corporate level so the RCN can be assured change is not only effective but relevant to today’s nursing issues.”

Employer of Linda, West Midlands Board Member

Election or appointment?

The RCN is a Royal Charter body and a trade union and has to meet certain legal requirements. For some roles elections are held but for others, in particular, forum steering committees and other expert committees, we have an appointment process.

Eligibility requirements depend on the role but the most important thing is to be a passionate, committed team player and an ambassador for nursing.

If you think that is you – please put yourself forward.

The importance of voting in an election

Not sure you want to stand? We still need your votes when it comes to elections.

Voting is crucial to ensure the best candidates are elected. Please spread the word when you hear about an election – the more who vote the fairer and more representative the election.

Information about candidates will be on the RCN website prior to and during the voting period to help you make an informed choice and decide, for yourself, who will carry out the role most effectively.

Voting is simple

You will be asked to vote in one of two ways – by post (if it is a Council member election) or electronically via a link from an email (all other elections).

Where possible, postal ballot papers will be included in the circulation of existing mailings such as the *RCN Bulletin*. So watch out for these when they arrive on your doormat.

Make a difference

By taking on an RCN role or by voting, you can really make a difference. The RCN is run by members, for members, and there are so many other ways that you can ensure it stays that way.

Telephone: 020 7647 3644

Email: elections@rcn.org.uk

Website: www.rcn.org.uk/getinvolved

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"I can't emphasise enough how important these roles are. They are the voice of the membership. Stand for election, apply for a role; we need people like you on board."

Dr Peter Carter OBE, Chief Executive & General Secretary

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

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