

# Positions on Council for election in June 2025

- Skills and expertise required
- Guidance for Fellows

## Elections June 2025

The following Council positions are to be elected in June 2025:

Vice President: Research and Higher Education

Councillor: Education

Councillor: Expeditions and Fieldwork

Taking note of the current knowledge, experience and skills on Council, and of the key skills/expertise that will be lost when Council members completing their terms stand down in June 2025, the following key skills/expertise areas are those that have been identified as being most helpful to fill in the 2025 Council elections.

### Research and Higher Education related position

- Internationally recognised scholar, with experience as Head of Department or more senior leadership role (Vice President).

### Education related position

- Practical expertise, skills and knowledge as an established geography teacher (with five or more years of classroom experience), head of geography or senior leader at secondary level (Councillor).

### Expeditions and Fieldwork related position

- Skills and knowledge to support expansion of our community of purposeful travellers and expeditioners drawn from, for example, the travel industry, media or arts, research or other professions (Councillor).

Consistent with the Society's protocol, Fellows will be provided with some additional guidance in relation to the elections, relevant both to those standing for election and to those voting, should they wish to use it. As previously, this will be a short paper on the Society's website and in the election packs that sets out, objectively, the Council's thinking as to the skills/expertise gaps that, at this time in 2025, are considered most in need of being filled and why.

This process does not, of course, preclude others from standing for election. Those standing for election will be invited to draft 75 words of short biography and 75 words setting out how they meet the guidance on skills and expertise. This approach has been well received by the Fellowship of the Society.

Consistent with previous years, and as recommended by the Charity Commission for governance and accountability, those standing for election will be required to confirm that they are not disqualified from being a trustee. As per Charity Commission recommendations, we will ask them to complete and submit a declaration of eligibility form and a Conflicts of Interest form, and to send this with their nomination details.

This form will confirm that they:

- are willing and eligible to act as a trustee (and are cognisant of the requirements and responsibilities that brings)
- understand and support the charity's purposes
- have undergone a Disclosure and Barring Service check (only if their role as a trustee brings them into direct contact with the children or vulnerable people the Society is working with)

### **Breadth of Council membership**

With regard to representation of the breadth of members, care has been taken in the interest/skills/expertise sought to include breadth from across the very wide range of communities in the Fellowship (including academic, expedition, field research, professional practitioner, regional interest, student, teacher, traveller) while also delivering the specific skills that the Council requires as a trustee and decision-making body for a geographical society. Most Council members also share a common interest in 'lay' sectors, such as travel.