

# Senior volunteer role

Vice-President / Chair, Academy of  
Computing Board  
2026 – 2029



Making IT good for society



# 01

## The organisation

BCS is an international organisation run by dedicated volunteers and employees.

BCS is governed by its Trustee Board which is elected by the BCS Council, a representative body of the membership. The Trustee Board is responsible for the Institute's annual direction and strategy.

### Membership

We promote and support the growing and diverse community of IT and digital professionals committed to making IT good for society. Our members are at the heart of our community.

### Inspiration

We influence and improve computing education in all its forms to improve opportunities for young people, society and the economy.

### Progression

We provide opportunities for learning and development to support people's career progression and raise standards of competence in our profession.

### Influence

We tackle the big issues facing our digital lives, connecting industry, education and government to shape and bring about impactful change on society and our profession.



# 02

## The appointment

### Vice-President Academy of Computing

#### Role and candidate specification

The Vice-President Academy of Computing is an Honorary Officer, as described in the Royal Charter and Bye-laws. They are elected by Council and can serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms of three years each.

The Vice-President Academy chairs the Academy of Computing Board and is an ex-officio member of the Trustee Board and Council. They are responsible to the Trustee Board.

Vice-President / Chair, Academy Board



# 03

## Responsibilities

### Context

The BCS Academy of Computing Board is a partnership between BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing (CPHC), and the UK Computing Research Committee (UKCRC). The Academy of Computing Board reports to the Institute's Trustee Board.

The remit of the BCS Academy of Computing Board is consistent with the BCS Royal Charter aim to advance the study, use and application of computing for the benefit of society.

### Mission

To advance the creation, study and application of knowledge in computing

### Principal aims of the Board:

- To develop and galvanise a grassroots community inclusive of scholars, researchers and professionals with a shared commitment to the advancement of computing education and research
- Endeavour to ensure the relevance of computing knowledge throughout the education, business and research communities, including through accreditation of university degree courses
- To contribute to raising awareness among the public, in order to inform and facilitate appreciation of the successes and challenges of computing, and promote informed debate about the roles computing should play in society at large

### Key areas of Academy activity:

- Degree accreditation
- Academic and student membership
- Education communities of practice, including Computing At School (CAS)
- Learned publications, including The Computer Journal
- Promotion of computing as an engineering and science discipline
- Public affairs and policy activity, including with policy makers and their influencers, employers, other learned societies, education leaders and educators
- Reward and recognition

### Academy communities include:

- Computing lecturers and researchers in further and higher education
- Computing students in further and higher education
- Computing teachers in schools, including with pupils where appropriate
- IT professionals committed to advancing computing in education and research
- The public (indirectly through public affairs activities)



# 04

## Person specification

Preference will be given to candidates who meet as many of the following criteria as possible. It's recognised that no candidate is likely to satisfy all these criteria.

### Specific requirements

#### As Chair of the Academy of Computing Board, the person appointed should:

- understand the diverse nature of computing in UK education (from schools to further and higher education) and the various key stakeholders in the landscape, with a willingness to engage with them on their terms
- have the expertise and experience to speak authoritatively on the challenges facing academic computing in the UK by having held a major role in a computer science department
- promote BCS, specifically the Academy of Computing Board, among the various academic, professional and policy stakeholders, and feed back information to the Board, and to Trustee Board and BCS Council.

### Person specification

- Knowledge and experience of higher education
- Knowledge and experience of one or more of the Academy communities (other than HE)
- Internationally renowned in the field of computer science (in academia, industry or both)
- A strategic thinker
- Knowledge of strategic planning and financial management
- Board-level leadership and interpersonal skills, including the ability to contribute positively and to challenge constructively
- A skilled communicator with strong interpersonal skills and the ability to debate Academy issues and draw succinct conclusions to express the views of the majority
- Extensive personal network of senior practitioners in influential employer organisations
- Good knowledge and contacts with other learned societies and relevant bodies
- Excellent communication skills including public speaking
- A track record commanding respect for achievement within the engineering community
- Knowledge of academic accreditation
- Willingness to commit the time required for preparation and board participation
- Professional member of BCS

Also desirable for candidates to hold Chartered status

# 05

## Other details

### Process and 2025 timescales

- This role is subject to a shortlisting process and interviews will take place in June/July.
- Nominations Committee recommends candidates in September.
- Council elects candidates in October and successful candidates are required to attend and present to Council.

## Further information

### Confidentiality notice

Any information you provide regarding yourself will be reviewed by the BCS Nominations Committee/Trustee Board and Council for the purposes of this application process.

### Striving for equality and diversity

BCS is committed to improving equality and diversity in the profession. We welcome applications from candidates who are under-represented such as women, ethnic minority groups, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community and people who are neurodiverse.

### Registrar contact details

Please contact our Registrar team for more details: [registrar@bcs.uk](mailto:registrar@bcs.uk).

**The role of Trustee Board**

**The essential trustee:  
what you need to know**

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