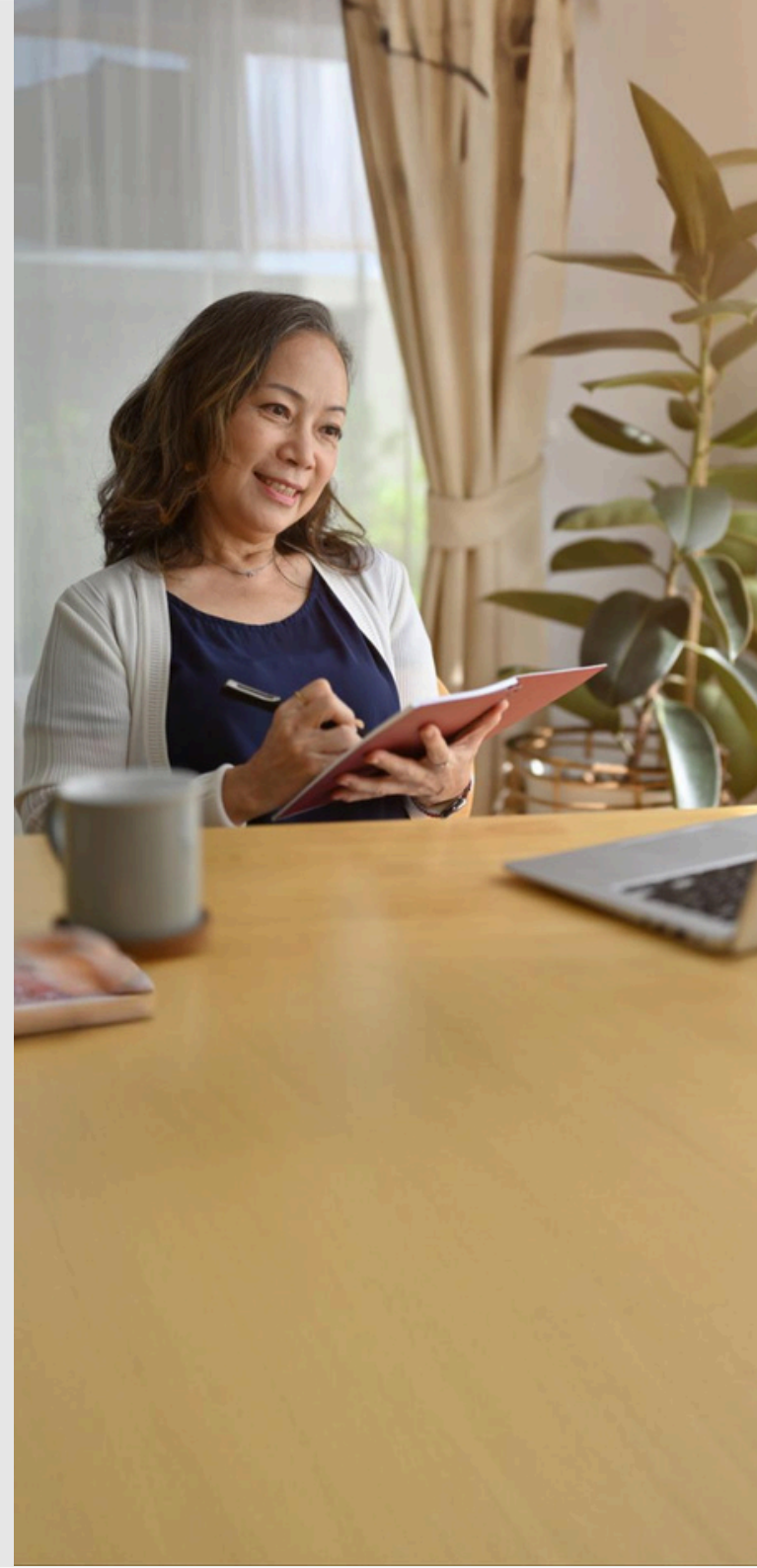


# Senior volunteer role

Deputy President  
2026 – 2027



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

### Office of the President

BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, champions the global IT profession, and the interests of individuals engaged in that profession, for the benefit of society.

BCS is a complex international organisation that relies on a combination of volunteers. At the very highest level, a group of elected members, the Trustee Board, is legally responsible for the Institute's direction and strategy. The BCS Advisory Council, a representative body of the membership, elects the individual members of the Trustee Board. The Trustee Board is made up of Honorary Officers elected by Council and members of Council elected from within Council.

The Office of the President (OoP) is a three-year role — subject to final election by Council, it is expected that the Deputy President progresses, after one year, to take on the Institute's Presidency for one year, then moves to Immediate Past President for the third year. The three roles work together to ensure there is appropriate continuity throughout a three-year period and the required skills and competencies to help lead the Trustee Board.

Professional membership of BCS is required for all three roles and Fellowship is encouraged. Chartered status is desirable, although not necessarily CITP, and a track record of commitment as an active member of the Institute is also desirable.

Deputy President





# 03

## The roles

### The President

The **President** is a trustee and chairs the Trustee Board (similar to a non-executive Chair of a company board). The President assists the CEO in leading strategy and direction of the Institute and through consulting with the Council.

Ceremonial duties accompany the role. The range of activities includes: hosting an annual dinner; presiding over graduation ceremonies; visiting and speaking at branch and specialist group meetings; and chairing the Annual General Meeting.

The President will be one of the public faces of the Institute, speaking on its behalf in public and, where appropriate, using their personal standing to enhance the Institute's influence with the profession, academia, government, media, business and the public at large.

The role will work with the independent Chair of Council, and Vice-Presidents on the key challenges facing the Institute. In addition, they will link specifically with the Vice-Presidents: Influence, Community, and Academy Boards to build and manage a stakeholder engagement plan, and additionally with Vice-President Finance and Vice-President Registration and Standards.

The President will have oversight of the work of the Deputy President and the Immediate Past President.

### The Deputy President

The **Deputy President** is a trustee and deputy chair of the Trustee Board. The Deputy President shares the workload of the President, where required, and works with the CEO and appropriate senior executive(s) in taking up a strategic focus to lead throughout the term of the Presidential Office. The Deputy President will link with the vice-president community to formulate and manage a branch and specialist engagement programme for the Office of the President.

The Deputy President is involved in the sharing of Trustee Board meeting papers/minutes with Council and the general membership. The role requires being able to judge where redaction is genuinely justified and the competence to be able to clearly explain, and where necessary defend, redaction decisions.

The Deputy President will chair the public honours group, a sub-group of Nominations Committee. The group will lead the drive to bring appropriate candidates forward for nominations.

### The Immediate Past President

The **Immediate Past President** provides essential continuity to the Presidential team while remaining a Trustee and member of the Trustee Board. This position takes on the role of 'Senior Trustee' to offer advice and support confidentially to the Deputy President, President, Group Chief Executive and other Trustees, as required. This position is chair of the Group Nominations Committee and Remunerations Committee, organises the annual Trustee Board self-evaluation survey, and produces action points for the Trustee Board to take forward.

This role has responsibility for the development of senior volunteers through its position as Chair of Nominations Committee. The role has responsibility for liaising with appropriate groups, internal and external, to ensure the honorary officer pipeline is 'well stocked' with appropriate applicants and to ensure succession planning is in place. A handover to the Deputy President elect and President is required to ensure continuity.

The Immediate Past President may also be asked to take on special projects as these arise.

# 04

## Candidate 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.

### Skills and competencies

- Influencing, leadership and chairing skills
- Negotiation and conciliation
- Extracting the best performance from multi-disciplinary teams
- Strong communication skills and the ability to relate to audiences of widely differing levels of expertise
- A strong and positive personality, constructive/ progressive and collaborative in nature with an ability to develop positive working relationships within the Trustee Board, Executive, Council and individual Boards, and to challenge advice where appropriate
- An ability to advise, question, debate and challenge rigorously, decide dispassionately and follow up appropriately
- A strong communicator (both in speaking and listening), capable of successfully sharing the Board's agreed vision and objectives with all stakeholders

### Experience

#### Within the private, public, charitable or academic sectors:

- Holding a senior management role, such as the director or head of department within a complex, diverse and sizeable organisation (turnover >£20M), demonstrating an understanding of the unique challenges of working through a combination of both staff and volunteers
- A career anchor within the computing/IT field
- A strong track record in strategic leadership and policy development
- Management experience in the monitoring and evaluation of organisational performance, including establishing appropriate indicators
- Achievements in leading and delivering objectives in a peer collaborative environment (e.g. standards bodies)
- Financial experience in the management of major budgets (£1M+)
- Demonstrated ability to inspire and motivate a team
- Familiarity with public speaking and acting in an ambassadorial role
- An extensive network, with contacts across as much as possible of the private, public, governmental, trade body, charitable and academic sectors

### Knowledge and context of the Institute

- An understanding of the legal duties and responsibilities of Trustees in terms of charity and company law
- Experience with the governance environment of the Institute, including its Royal Charter obligations and charitable objectives
- Broad knowledge of the IT industry and professional development/training issues
- Understanding of the education sectors and the future direction of education

### Availability

- Availability to devote substantial time to furthering the work of the Institute, requiring an average time commitment of between 10–15 hours per week, through a range of day and evening work
- A core commitment to a required number of physical meetings, with the ability to provide further time if required by circumstances
- Attendance required at Trustee Board, Council and Nominations Committee, with other Board attendance required on an ad hoc basis

# 05

## Other details

### Process and 2025 timescales

- This role is subject to a shortlisting process each May.
- Interviews are expected to 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 about 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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A Chair's Compass**