

Governing Council – Professional Group seat role description

June 2025

For the 2025 Governing Council elections, RICS is looking for engaged and passionate members who have expertise in the following practice areas: ·

- Building Surveying and Building Control
- Land and Natural resources
- Residential Property

You will be a chartered member (FRICS/MRICS) or AssocRICS, have credibility and expertise in one of the aforementioned practice areas, along with strong leadership skills, an understanding of governance, and a motivation to serve on Governing Council. Your energy will help shape the Institution's strategy and vision and as a key member of Governing Council you will support the delivery of that strategy. Working in partnership with RICS staff and Governing Council, the successful candidate will help RICS create confidence in markets and effect positive change in the built and natural environments.

We appreciate that some members may feel that they have less professional and/or governance experience than others applying for other roles on Governing Council. It is our hope that this will not deter those members from applying. It is just as important that members can demonstrate the potential and ambition to quickly develop these skills and expertise. We also hope that members are encouraged by RICS' commitment to elected members by providing them with the support they need in order to perform effectively in their role as a Governing Council member.

You may also feel that your skills and experience make you a suitable candidate for more than one of the available seats on Governing Council, whether that be a Geographic seat, a Professional Group seat, or the NextGen seat. If that is the case, you are permitted to apply to stand for election to up to two seats. Please note, whilst candidates are able to stand for election to up to two seats, they are not permitted to hold more than one seat on Governing Council. For more information on standing for election to more than one seat, please see our FAQs.

At RICS we consider diversity to be strength. We welcome applications from suitably qualified members from all backgrounds.

The Role

- To be a visible ambassador on Governing Council digitally, in writing and at conferences on their specialist subject / area of focus.
- To understand the strategic issues and emerging changes and trends affecting their special subject and how these have effect, if any, more widely across other markets/specialist areas and use this insight to contribute to the formulation of strategy.
- Seek to be a thought-leader and advocate of these issues for the wider benefit of Governing Council, and its decision making.
- To influence decision making through thought leadership and collaboration with others on Governing Council
- To encourage participation in all forms of RICS activities by helping create, and deliver, content that will appeal to our diverse membership
- To support continuous improvement across RICS, looking for opportunities to liaise with the executive and broader membership e.g. by joining relevant working groups, attendance at relevant Professional Group Panel meetings, etc.
- Participate in, and at times lead, member engagement on key initiatives.
- Review data on trends and monitor threats and opportunities for your specialist area.
- Help create and deliver content as part of our thought leadership programmes.

Personal attributes

- Ability to express a clear opinion, to collaborate in a positive manner, and be visible in their specialist subject.
- A clear vision on what will benefit RICS most going forward, setting priorities accordingly.
- A sense for the strategic, political and international context.
- Ability to bring people together and motivate them.
- Commitment to diversity, equality and inclusivity
- Self-confident, resilient, reflective, and self-critical.
- Ability to see the big picture, demonstrate leadership and focus on external matters
- Ability to communicate clearly and professionally.

Skills and experience

Seat specific knowledge and insight

- An awareness and understanding of issues and emerging trends affecting or likely to affect the profession in your specialist subject.
- Ability to bring deep insight from their specialist subject area and apply this insight on behalf of the global profession across all the markets in which RICS is involved.
- Experience of member/stakeholder engagement within their specialist areas on key initiatives.

Strategic capability

- Knowledge and experience of setting, or contributing to setting, strategy with demonstrable positive outcomes.
- Ability to understand strategic trends in our sector and in related sectors.
- Ability to monitor, review and where necessary challenge progress towards achieving strategy.
- Ability to exercise independent thought and to contribute to a vision and strategy to secure the future of the profession and the wider public interest.

Governance and oversight capability.

- An understanding of effective corporate governance and in particular the management of risks and risk assessment or the identification, assessment, and mitigation of key risks.
- Support Governing Council in monitoring, reviewing and where necessary challenging progress towards achieving RICS' strategy, thereby ensuring that RICS is well run and has a strategic vision which underpins its future.
- Contribute, and personally act, to deliver effective and high-quality governance through Governing Council in its debate, consideration of proposals and decision-making, including the manner of that decision-making.

Behaviours

- Respect, embrace, promote and exhibit the RICS core values of integrity, transparency, inclusion, collaboration, advocacy and passion, as set out in the RICS Values
- Recognise the potential of RICS and the profession, and commit the time, energy, ambition, enthusiasm and determination needed to help move RICS forward.
- Ability to listen and constructively probe, challenge and add value to the proposed strategic direction and relate it to operational requirements in their own area of expertise, acting as a 'critical friend'.
- Demonstrate integrity and accountability by upholding Governing Council decisions even where different from personal view.

- Ability to collaborate with colleagues, the executive, and all members of RICS staff in a collegiate manner.
- Demonstrate understanding of, and commitment to, equality, diversity and inclusivity.

It is expected that all members of Council:

- Understand that the role of a Governing Council member is not to represent any particular group, but to advance the value of RICS for the benefit of the public and the profession globally.
- Act in good faith in the way most likely to promote the success of RICS for the benefit of its members as a whole.
- Avoid a situation in which they have or could have a direct or indirect interest in any proposed or existing transaction or arrangement with RICS.
- Recognise that they have a fiduciary duty towards RICS and the profession.

Appointment terms

All seats are for a three year term and the term of office for successful candidates begins on 1 January 2026. There will be the possibility of standing for re-election at the end of the term subject to satisfying the eligibility criteria for candidates applicable at that time.

Time commitment

Governing Council members have to be prepared to commit approximately 20 days a year (excluding travel) to their role.

These commitments include:

- Attending all meetings of Governing Council. Annually, this will include two in-person meetings each held over two days in London, and four remote meetings each comprising two sessions of three hours duration held across two days.
- Participating in training and “deep dive” sessions held between meetings.
- Participating in discussions and decision-making outside of meetings.
- Participating in the annual evaluation process.
- Attending the Annual General Meeting.
- Attendance at relevant Professional Group Panel meetings.

Given the nature of the role, there is a need for a high level of ability at times to work flexibly from anywhere. Also, members of Council come from across the globe, therefore it is not possible to hold meetings that work in all members time-zones, and therefore some meetings may be held at unsociable hours for some members.

Remuneration

The elected roles on Governing Council are not remunerated, although all reasonable expenses will be reimbursed in line with the RICS Expenses Policy.