

Council of King's College London Role of Council

As the College's governing body, the Council is collectively responsible for discharging the functions and duties assigned to the Council in the College's [Charter and Statutes](#) and [Ordinances](#).

In its simplest form, the role of Council can be expressed as: approving the university strategy, holding the executive to account, appointing the right President & Principal, and planning for succession. Beyond that, it is for the President & Principal and the executive team to manage the university and deliver the strategy. Council is there to govern, not to manage the University.

King's College London is a charity and members of Council serve as its Trustees. Members have a legal fiduciary duty and must ensure that the College's affairs are conducted in an effective, prudent, and financially viable and sustainable manner.

The College Statutes provide that Council "shall be responsible for ensuring that the objects of the College are fulfilled." In so doing, key functions of the Council include:

- defining and upholding the College's mission, vision and strategic direction
- monitoring the College's progress against agreed goals and holding the executive to account for delivery of the plan and strategy
- appointing and supporting the President & Principal
- ensuring efficient and effective use of the College's resources to maintain the College's long-term academic and financial viability
- ensuring that the College has effective risk management and internal controls
- overseeing the effective and prudent operation of the College
- approving and monitoring significant financial and commercial undertakings
- ensuring compliance with regulatory and legislative requirements in place from time to time

Council of King's College London Responsibilities of Members

The role of Fiduciary requires that members of Council act in the interests of the College and not as representatives of any part of the College, or of any interest, faction or group.

It is expected that members will:

- conduct themselves in accordance with the seven principles of public life identified by the [Committee on Standards in Public Life](#): selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership
- act at all times in accordance with the College's [Charter and Statutes](#), [Ordinances](#), Regulations and policies and procedures;
- play an active role in the Council and/or any committees to which they are appointed, attending meetings regularly, and ensuring that business is conducted efficiently and effectively;
- provide constructive, unbiased challenge and advice to the executive
- seek to be fully informed about the College and its role in the higher education sector and to be responsive to the changing environments which affect it
- observe and maintain confidentiality in matters entrusted to them;
- disclose any conflict of interest or conflict of role, in accordance with Council's Policy on Conflict of Interest;
- as appropriate, advocate for King's externally, using their influence and networking skills on behalf of the College, and liaising between key stakeholders and fundraising;
- recognise that authority resides only with the Council as a whole and not in its individual members, and support decisions of Council once taken
- recognise that the President & Principal is the primary spokesperson for the College and the Chair of Council the spokesperson for Council.

Council of King's College London Criteria for Membership

Membership Categories

The Council's makeup of independent, staff and student members is intended to give it both external and internal expertise.

Independent members contribute their outside experience and perspectives, ensuring that the College is managed prudently and sustainably in the public interest. They are selected to give the Council a balance of abilities in various external areas. The qualities that are sought when recruiting to an independent vacancy may therefore be determined in part by the need to address current and upcoming gaps in the Council's skills mix. However, regardless of background, we expect independent members to have executive or senior management experience in their field of endeavour or through involvement in governance in other sectors.

Staff and student members bring to the Council their experience of academic life and their inside perspective on the College. Staff positions (other than ex officio seats) are open to any full-time or part-time member of the College's academic or professional services staff. Factors taken into account when selecting staff members include the individual's depth and breadth of experience of King's, any relevant experience outside the College, and diversity of membership from across the College.

Ex officio members bring significant knowledge and detailed understanding of the College, the higher education sector, and the specific issues brought to Council for resolution.

Student seats are open to any student enrolled at the College. The Governance and Nominations Committee will seek, wherever possible, to balance student membership across disciplines and level of study (i.e. undergraduate and post graduate).

When recommending appointments to the College Council and its standing committees, the Governance and Nominations Committee will take decisions in line with principles of fairness, diversity and equality. It will specifically aspire to create a governing body that is representative and reflective of the King's community, recognising that some groups have been traditionally under-represented.

General Criteria

Regardless of the membership category, prospective members of the College Council would be expected to have:

- demonstrated leadership skills, either through professional roles or through volunteer experiences elsewhere
- a strong commitment to higher education in general and to the goals and objectives of King's in particular
- an understanding of university governance as distinct from management and from corporate governance
- an understanding of the Council's role and primary responsibilities
- an understanding of strategic challenges facing the College, and the role of the Council in meeting them
- a commitment to the principle of collective responsibility for the Council's decisions
- a commitment to working in a constructive and collective partnership with other members of the Council and the College's executive
- a College-wide vision, rising above departmental or disciplinary concerns or the agendas of interest groups
- high ethical and professional standards
- the ability to dedicate time to a demanding role

Membership Term

Members are appointed for an initial term of three years, renewable, to a maximum of nine years.

Remuneration

Service on the College Council is not remunerated. However, members will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities.