



BCS, THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR IT

Registered Charity No: 292786

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR MEMBERS SEEKING NOMINATION AS CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO COUNCIL BY BCS MEMBER GROUPS

(Regional (Branches), Specialist (Groups), International (Sections) and Young Professional)

As BCS continues to create a diverse and inclusive culture across the organisation, membership and governance structure, we encourage individuals from groups currently underrepresented in the technology sector and within BCS, including but not limited to women, ethnic minority groups, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ+ community and neurodiverse individuals, to stand for election to Council and help shape the future of the organisation.

Vacancies

- Professional Membership: 4 Ordinary vacancies.
- Regional Constituency: 1 Ordinary vacancy
- Specialist Group Constituency: 1 Ordinary vacancy.
- Young Professional Constituency: 2 Ordinary vacancies.

Main Points

- Ordinary vacancies equate to a three-year term.
- Eligibility: Paid up member of the Institute in any grade.
- Commitment: Approximately five days per year over a three-year term.
- Nomination requirements: Two supporters who are Professional Members (MBCS or FBCS) and who confirm their support via <https://www.mi-nomination.com/bcs> by 12.00pm GMT on Monday 30 November 2026
- Nomination statement (including Education/Professional Details) must not exceed 300 words.

Constituency-Specific Requirements

Requirement	Regional / Specialist Group / International	Young Professional
Candidate eligibility	Paid-up member of the Institute in good standing.	Paid-up member in good standing who is an Early Career Advocate or Student Chapter Chair.
Supporter eligibility	Professional Member (MBCS/FBCS) in good standing and from the same constituency.	Professional Member (MBCS/FBCS) in good standing.
Voting body	Chairs of relevant Member Groups following constituency procedures.	Early Career Advocates and Student Chapter Chairs.
Governing regulation	Members' Regulations 4.2 and 4.3.	Members' Regulation 4.4.



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COUNCIL ELECTIONS - GENERAL

1. Elections

Elections to Council by Member Group constituencies take place in accordance with the BCS Bye-laws and applicable Members' Regulations. See the constituency-specific requirements table above for the relevant regulation.

2. Re-election

An elected member of Council may stand for re-election for a second consecutive Council term at the end of their first term to start from the close of the Annual General Meeting at which the original Council term ended.

Members who have served two consecutive Council terms may stand again after a break of at least one year from the end of their last Council term.

3. Terms of Office

Council members normally serve a three-year term unless elected to fill a casual vacancy, in which case the appointment runs until the end of the original term. Unelected candidates may be considered to fill any casual vacancies arising after the AGM.

4. Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of completed nominations is **12:00 pm GMT on Monday 30 November 2026**.

5. Voting Process

The relevant voting body for each constituency will receive candidate information and voting instructions. Voting closes no earlier than 48 hours before the AGM. Results are formally announced at the AGM and to the Member Groups communities.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR NOMINATIONS / CANDIDATES

Candidates must:

- Be a paid-up (do not owe any subscription or any other fee) member of the Institute in good standing.
- Meet any additional eligibility requirements for their constituency (see table above).
- Complete the Nomination Form electronically via: <https://www.mi-nomination.com/bcs>
- Have two eligible supporters as specified in the constituency-specific requirements table.
- Stand in **only one** of the following constituencies in any one year:
 - Professional Membership
 - Regional Constituency
 - Specialist Group Constituency
 - Young Professional Constituency
 - International Constituency

Candidates should ensure that their supporters:

- Are eligible to support the nomination.
- Understand the requirements outlined in this document.
- **Have not supported and do not intend to support any other nomination during the same election cycle.**

Only two supporters are required. Any additional supporters submitted will not be published.

The Nomination Form Includes

- Personal details
- Two supporters' details
- Nomination statement (manifesto)
- Education/Professional details

The nomination statement, including Education/Professional details, must not exceed 300 words. The Institute will not edit submissions exceeding the word limit. Text beyond the limit will be removed. Recognised groups of characters, such as "BSc" or "2012", count as one word.

Candidates are responsible for ensuring they meet all nomination requirements. Invalid nominations will be declared null and void, and the candidate will be informed.

Nominees' statements will be available online before voting.

Only factual amendments submitted after the deadline will be considered.

Candidates may also provide a recent professional head-and-shoulders photograph and /or video.



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GUIDANCE NOTES FOR SUPPORTERS

Individual Supporters

For your support to be valid:

- You must be a paid-up (do not owe any subscription or any other fee) member of the Institute.
- You must be a Professional Member (MBCS or FBCS) in good standing.
- You must satisfy any constituency-specific supporter requirements shown in the table above.
- You may support **only one** candidate standing for election to Council in any election cycle.

Supporters should email councilelections@bcs.uk confirming:

- Name.
- BCS membership number and grade.
- Name of the candidate being supported.
- Confirmation that they understand they may support only one candidate.
- Contact telephone number.

Supporters are required to fill the Supporter form via: <https://www.mi-nomination.com/bcs> by 12.00pm GMT on Monday 30 November 2026.

Canvassing and Campaigning

Whilst the current procedures do not prevent campaigning, the spirit and the intention is that the procedure as it stands is open and fair to all, and that there should be no additional campaigns.

ABOUT COUNCIL

Responsibilities of Council Members

Council members are expected to:

- Attend Council meetings regularly.
- Prepare thoroughly for meetings.
- Act as an effective link between the membership and Council.
- Respect confidentiality.
- Act in the best interests of BCS and the wider community.
- Remain informed about BCS activities and developments within the profession.
- Support collective decisions.
- Complete the Council Declaration of Interests form.

Council members must comply with Council Regulations and relevant Trustee Board Regulations.



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Person Specification

Individuals standing for election should ideally demonstrate:

- Commitment to attend Council meetings and related activities.
- Ability to represent a diverse membership.
- Willingness to review Council papers and contribute constructively.
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues holding differing viewpoints.

These criteria are intended as guidance, not mandatory requirements.

Reimbursement of Expenses

Service on Council is voluntary. Necessary travel expenses incurred when attending formal Council meetings may be reimbursed where support is not available from an employer, subject to BCS expense rules and receipt requirements.

COUNCIL REGULATIONS

Council Regulations can be viewed on MyBCS under [Council regulations](#)

Community Team

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