



THE COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRISTS

Student Observers to Council

The nomination and selection process:

All students about to undertake their final year of an undergraduate optometry programme will be invited to nominate themselves for these Council roles.

There will be one successful candidate each year, and three student observers in total.

Applications will be considered by the President and Chief Executive against the following criteria:

- A student associate member of the College (as defined in the membership standing order) who will be undertaking their final year of an undergraduate optometry programme at the time of appointment.
- Demonstrable understanding of the College and a passion for the development of the profession.
- Involvement with other optometric activities and groups outside their main study, showing an ability to influence and network.

Interviews may be held for shortlisted students. One student will be appointed each year for a term of three years from 1 October.

The role

The College's governance structure ensures that its direction and strategy are informed by the views of a representative cross section of membership on College Council. We want members from a diverse range of backgrounds and with different levels of experience. There is now an opportunity for a student associate member of the College to participate in our Council meetings. The term of office is three years, which is likely to take you through your pre-registration period to fully qualified optometrist.

You should be interested in the development of the profession, have an enquiring, critical and open mind, and willing to express your views.

You will be expected to take an active role in the Council meetings and discussions, and assist Council as it acts as the conscience of the College, monitoring the performance of the Board of Trustees and ensuring that the College remains true to its principles and accountable to its membership. This is a voluntary position although reasonable expenses for travel, accommodation, subsistence and childcare will be reimbursed by the College. There are two all-day meetings per year, and the option to attend a range of College events including free registration for our Optometry Tomorrow conference.

Purpose of role

- Providing a student, trainee or newly qualified perspective to the Council discussions
- Influencing the strategic and professional direction of the College
- Enabling a two-way dialogue with student members of the College
- To become an advocate for the College and the profession.

Ideal personal characteristics of candidates

- An effective communicator
- Trusted and reliable
- Proactive and willing to express your views
- Well organised with strong attention to detail
- Committed to the development of the profession
- Good team working and influencing skills.

Personal and professional development

You can expect to gain from:

- Career development and a greater profile
- Access to a network of friendly and informed clinicians
- An understanding of local and national optometric issues
- The ability to influence national development of optometry and optics
- Experience of working in a representative and collaborative role
- Additional knowledge, clinical insights and transferable skills and which you can use in your studies.