

Role Description for Early Career Representative on Council

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.

Time commitment

The time commitment for the core role is a minimum of two and a half days per year, although this could be more if you choose to get involved in other areas of College work. In addition to

the meeting duration, additional time is needed to read the papers and prepare for the discussions.

Core Activity	When	Where	Time Commitment
Full day Council meeting	Spring	London	1 day
Full day Council meeting	November	London	1½ days (evening dinner and full day meeting) following Diploma Ceremony
Minimum commitment			2½ days + ½ day preparation
Optional Activity	When	Where	Time Commitment
Regional events and student roadshows (in your region)	Varies	Varies	½ days (evenings)
Optometry Tomorrow	Summer	Varies	2 days
Diploma Ceremony	November	London	1 day