

FAQs about volunteering for committee work

What are the different committees I can volunteer for?

1. [Board of Directors](#) – the decision makers for CIfA and its work
2. [Advisory Council](#) – advise staff and the Board about CIfA's work
3. [Registered Organisations committee \(RCO\)](#) – make decisions about the registration of organisations from reports provided by [panels \(voluntary members\)](#) who carry out the inspections and consider the direction and development of scheme
4. [Validation committee \(VC\)](#) – make decisions about individual accreditation and consider the development of application advice
5. [Area and Special Interest Groups \(SIG\)](#) – work on important issues within their specialism or area and advise CIfA

Who can join a committee?

- 1 to 4. All accredited members (PCIfA, ACIfA or MCIfA)
5. Chair, Secretary, Treasurer must be accredited members. Ordinary committee members can be accredited and non-accredited members (Student, Affiliate)

Where and when are the meetings held?

1. Alternate between London and Birmingham, six times per year
2. Alternate between London and Birmingham, three times per year
3. Birmingham, four times per year and panels in various places throughout the year
4. Alternate between Reading and Birmingham, 8 to 9 times per year
5. Various locations depending on where committee members are based, can be video or tele conferences, at least 4 times per year including the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Please note that we understand members have other commitments as volunteers and we do not expect them to attend all the meetings or be available all the time. We can work around you.

How do I join a committee?

1. Look out for the call for nominations prior to the [CIfA AGM](#) in October and complete a nomination form with a nominator and two seconders
2. Look out for the call for nominations prior to the CIfA AGM in October and complete a nomination form with a nominator and two seconders
OR if you are already on an Area Group or SIG committee offer to be the Group Representative for Advisory Council
3. Email Kerry (Kerry.wiggins@archaeologists.net) to register your interest. Invited to write a short biography about experience and what you can bring to the committee and submit an up to date CPD log, which is sent to the Board to agree.
4. Email Lianne (lianne.birney@archaeologists.net) to register your interest. Invited to observe a meeting and submit a short biography about experience and why you want to join the committee and submit an up to date CPD log, which is sent to the Board to agree.

5. Look out for the call for nominations prior to the [group AGMs](#) throughout the year and complete a nomination form, with a nominator and two seconders. You can also email groups@archaeologists.net to register your interest in a group committee and if there is space they can co-opt you instead and a nomination form can be completed for the next AGM

Why should I join a committee?

Reasons members have given include:

- Networking
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours
- Influencing policy and practice
- Contributing to your profession and your Institute
- Reasonable travel expenses are paid for

More details can be [found here](#).

What experience do I need?

Some previous experience may be necessary, and we have outlined this below. You will need to provide a nomination form – See How do I join a committee above. We are also developing an information pack to give to new committee members.

1&2. The Board and Advisory Council requires relevant experience. We provide basic training for those joining the Board and Advisory Council

3&4. For the RCO and VC committees there is a learn as you go element supported by the other committee members and staff

3. You must be accredited (PCIfA, ACIfA or MCIfA) and be able to distinguish good practice and areas for improvement within an organisation

4. You must be accredited (PCIfA, ACIfA or MCIfA) and able to distinguish good practice within reports and other examples of work and be familiar with the application process

5. For Area groups and SIGs you do not need any experience, but a familiarity with group committees would be useful. We have a Groups Toolkit to help support new committee members alongside the existing committee members and staff. There can also be opportunities to shadow committee members to learn about what is involved.

If you have any further questions or queries about getting involved with committees please email us at admin@archaeologists.net and we will be happy to help.