

Overseas Member - Global Subcommittee Volunteer Opportunity

Name of position: Overseas Member

Start date: May 2025

Term: 3 years

Time commitment: 2 virtual annual meetings and corresponding work between meetings.

Number of vacancies: 1

Meetings: Virtual meetings taking place February 2025 & October 2025

Contact: Mariann Peters, mariann.peters@rcophth.ac.uk

About the position

The Global Subcommittee fosters global collaboration in ophthalmology by sharing insights from international organisations, supporting the integration and professional growth of overseas and refugee ophthalmologists within the College, and expanding access to exams and educational resources for international members. Through partnerships, it aids in creating multidisciplinary training programmes and provides strategic guidance to align the College's global policies with health priorities. The Subcommittee also collaborates with organisations to uphold clinical standards in under-resourced countries.

Criteria for position

This role is open to any members who are passionate about upholding high clinical standards internationally and strengthening global ophthalmology networks. The Overseas Member should have a strong interest in collaborative, cross-border medical initiatives and possess some experience working with international health organisations or within diverse, resource-limited settings, providing insight into the unique challenges faced by ophthalmologists in these regions.

Additionally, the Overseas Member should have a strategic understanding of global health priorities and be enthusiastic about contributing to multidisciplinary training programs.

As an inclusive organisation, we encourage diversity and equal access to opportunities to take up roles and lead in the work of the College.

Benefits

The Global Subcommittee offers the chance to engage in meaningful global work, foster professional growth, and build connections with leaders in international ophthalmology. Members have a direct impact on advancing eye care in underserved regions and contributing to a more inclusive and equitable field. Overall, the Subcommittee provides a unique platform to influence global standards and drive positive change in ophthalmology worldwide.

How to apply

To apply for this exciting opportunity, please complete the [volunteer application form](#). Please feel free to email Mariann Peters mariann.peters@rcophth.ac.uk if you have any questions. All applicants will be contacted via email. Eligible individuals will be asked to attend an online interview with a selection panel.

Global Subcommittee – Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Global Subcommittee is to advance global ophthalmology by fostering international collaboration. It is responsible for promoting excellence in education, training and practice and working collaboratively with organisations worldwide. It is accountable to Council.

2. Main Activities

- 2.1. Share global ophthalmology insights within the College by establishing strong communication channels with international organisations.
- 2.2. Help overseas members and refugee ophthalmologists integrate and grow professionally by representing their interests at the College.
- 2.3. Expand access to exams, educational resources, and training opportunities for international doctors, in line with the College's Charter, by collaborating with global partners for multidisciplinary training programs.
- 2.4. Help ensure alignment with global health priorities by providing strategic guidance on the College's global ophthalmology policies, including sustainability and long-term impact.
- 2.5. Assist in establishing and maintaining clinical standards in under-resourced countries by collaborate with relevant organisations.

3. Status of Committee

- 3.1. The Global Subcommittee is not authorised to make decisions other than in accordance with these terms of reference.
- 3.2. The Global Subcommittee is a subcommittee.

4. Membership

- 4.1. The Global Subcommittee shall consist of a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 15 members. Those members shall be
 - 4.1.1. Chair – 4 years

- 4.1.2. College representative of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists
 - while these remain in office
- 4.1.3. VISION 2020 LINKS Programme - while these remain in office
- 4.1.4. Representative of ICEH/LSHTM - while these remain in office
- 4.1.5. European Board of Ophthalmology (EBO) - - while these remain in office
- 4.1.6. Representative of International Medical Graduates - while these remain in office
- 4.1.7. Representative of the Examinations Committee - while these remain in office
- 4.1.8. Representative of the Education Committee - while these remain in office
- 4.1.9. Representative of the Membership Department - while these remain in office
- 4.1.10. Co-opt members as required, up to a maximum of 5 members
 - while these remain in office

The Chair shall be responsible for chairing meetings, liaising effectively with the Global Subcommittee manager, and ensuring it meets the key progress indicators outlined in the annual workplan.

5. Meetings

- 5.1. Meetings will occur virtually twice annually. The majority of work is expected to be undertaken in-between meetings.
- 5.2. Notices of meetings shall be given in writing/email.
- 5.3. Repeated absence of 3 or more missed meetings and/or inability to contribute to the work of the Committee will result in removal subject to review by the Chair.
- 5.4. The Chair shall preside at every meeting or if they are unable or unwilling to do so, another member appointed shall preside as Chair in their place for that meeting.

6. Quorum

All members are expected to attend meetings; however, the quorum is half the members plus one.

7. Representation on College Committees

- 7.1. The Chair shall also attend meetings of Council
- 7.2. Representatives shall serve on committees throughout their tenure, unless otherwise agreed with the Chair. It is permissible to send deputies where necessary.

8. Reporting requirements

- 8.1. The Global Subcommittee shall keep minutes of its meetings and a copy of these minutes shall be sent promptly to Council.
- 8.2. The Global Subcommittee shall adhere to the key progress indicators outlined in its annual workplan including the reporting of risk through the completion of a risk register.
- 8.3. The Global Subcommittee shall report 4 times per year to Council.

8.4. Council may, from time to time at their discretion seek any further information in relation to the discharge of its functions.

9. Confidentiality

All discussions and materials related to the selection process are considered confidential and should not be disclosed outside of meetings or meeting related work.

10. Conflicts of Interest

All members must submit a declaration of interest. It is the responsibility of members to inform the Chair if a new conflict of interest arises. Members with a direct or perceived conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from the meeting.

11. General

- 11.1. All correspondence and other dealings with professional and other organisations shall be prepared by College staff and shall have the approval of the Chief Executive officer, Honorary Secretary or, in their absence, the Vice- President, whose committee(s) cover the matter in question.
- 11.2. The operational management of the Committee/Sub-Committee/Working group, and any work arising from it, are the responsibility of College staff; the role of members is to advise and provide a wider perspective.
- 11.3. No sponsorship shall be sought or accepted without the involvement and agreement of the Partnerships and Sponsorship Manager or the Chief Executive.
- 11.4. No member may be paid or accept payment in cash or kind for work undertaken on behalf of the Committee/Sub-Committee/Working Group without the prior approval of the President, Vice President, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, or Chief Executive officer.
- 11.5. Expenses to attend meetings shall be met at the usual College rates. Expenses for any other meetings either in the College or outside will only be paid with the prior approval of the President, Vice President, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, or Chief Executive officer.
- 11.6. As a group set up within the College, and under the terms of its Charter, the Committee/Sub-Committee/Working Group may not support any objective that would make it a Trade Union, nor shall its objectives extend to the regulation of relations between workers and employers or organisations of workers and organisations of employers.

12. Variation or Termination

These terms of reference shall be reviewed every two years and will remain in force until varied or revoked by the Board of Trustees.

Date of publication: October 2024

Review date: October 2026