

# Volunteer Role Description: President

## About the Royal Photographic Society

The Royal Photographic Society is a registered charity which aims to educate members of the public, promote the highest standards of photography and encourage public appreciation of photography. The Society was established in 1853 and has over 11,000 members in the UK and abroad. It is the UK's leading photography organisation, realising its aims through a combination of workshops and courses, competitions and touring exhibitions, a distinctions and qualifications programme, and an annual awards ceremony.

## About this role

The President is an elected Honorary Officer of The Society and a member of the board of trustees. The business of The Society is managed by the board of trustees, which comprises:

- Three elected Honorary Officers (President, Vice-President and Treasurer)
- Four elected members
- Up to three additional persons who may be co-opted onto the board, bringing particular skills or experience

Trustees have independent control over, and legal responsibility for, a charity's management and administration. For more information about the key duties of all trustees of charities in England and Wales, please see ['The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do \(CC3\)'](#), developed by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

### Location

This role is not limited to a specific location; however, it should be noted that regular attendance will be required at Society HQ and other locations across the UK for various Society and external meetings and events.

### Reporting to

The RPS membership and The Charity Commission for England and Wales. (Regular interaction with staff at RPS HQ, particularly the Chief Operating Officer, will also be required.)

A schematic showing the current structure of The Society can be found [here](#).

### Hours

There are no set hours for this role – flexibility is essential. Based on historical records, the minimum time commitment required to be effective in this role equates to an average of 30 hours per week. This includes attendance at a minimum of 6 trustee meetings per year.



## Typical tasks include

*Please note that these tasks are in addition to the key duties of all trustees, as outlined by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.*

- Providing leadership and clear direction for the board of trustees, including effectively chairing regular trustee meetings and ensuring that key policy and management issues are addressed as required to meet The Society's legal and constitutional obligations.
- Encouraging all members of the board to participate fully and to challenge decisions when appropriate.
- Ensuring that all members of the board fulfil their duties and responsibilities as charity trustees.
- Ensuring that the Chief Operating Officer and other Society staff provide the board with relevant, timely and accurate information.
- Supporting the Chief Operating Officer as required, including responding to member enquiries and external queries.
- Working to ensure that The Society's public profile is in line with its objectives, including representing The Society and speaking at a variety of meetings and events across the UK (and, occasionally, overseas).
- Acting as an ex-officio member of all Society committees, attending the Awards Committee, and chairing key committees and meetings as required (including Annual General Meetings and The Society's Annual Awards Ceremony).
- Confirming the appointment of committee Chairs and other key roles, as agreed with fellow trustees.
- Reviewing and signing off The Society's Annual Accounts and Annual Report, as agreed with fellow trustees.

## What we are looking for

As well as good interpersonal, diplomacy, communication and teamwork skills, we are looking for people who are interested in the work of the RPS and are willing to give their time to help run the charity.

The President should also represent the full diversity of Society membership whilst working in the best interests of The Society.

*Please note: to volunteer for this role, you must be aged 18 or over and a current Society trustee.*

## What we offer

- A clear explanation of what your role involves, including relevant training opportunities.
- Appropriate resources and assistance to carry out your role.
- A full RPS induction.
- Opportunities to expand your skills and experience in relation to your role, and to change or take on additional roles.
- Recognition for your volunteering.
- The services of a dedicated Volunteer Support Manager, responsible for providing guidance and support.
- Agreed out-of-pocket expenses reimbursed in accordance with Society policy.



## Additional information

- For more information about this role and The Society in general, please refer to the relevant [governing/procedural documents](#) and The Society's [Strategic Plan](#).
- For details of upcoming induction days and other training/development opportunities, please contact the [Volunteer Support Manager](#).

