

Why become a member of the UKCPA General Committee?

The UKCPA General Committee (GC) is responsible for the management and direction of UKCPA. It is held accountable for all that is done in the Association's name. The GC is strategic, focusing mainly on the following year but also monitoring progress in the current year.

General Committee consists of 12 elected people and not more than three co-optees. Members are elected for a three year term, and co-optees for a one year term. Its members must guard the vision of the association, ensure that its activities are aligned with that vision, and move the association forward to ensure currency, effectiveness and progress.

Being a member of General Committee is both an honour and an opportunity to shape the direction of UKCPA. These are some of the benefits that our past and present General Committee members have gained from being involved:

"Being part of UKCPA General Committee has given me the chance to meet pharmacists from around the UK who I might never have otherwise met."

"Listening to others' experiences in a supportive environment has been invaluable in tackling some of the challenges I've faced."

"UKCPA General Committee is contributing to the provision of firm leadership and policy direction for practitioners and our profession."

"It allows me to contribute to the ongoing success of the organisation in helping pharmacists realise their potential at every stage of their careers."

What skills should a General Committee member have?

We are always looking for forward thinking, creative, and professionally aware individuals to become part of our team. If you have good communication skills, understand professional issues and strategic contexts, and are comfortable in contributing your individual opinion, then you may be ideally suited to become a General Committee member.

Are there any benefits for me?

In return for your skills, expertise and time, we offer the following benefits:

- Leadership and professional development opportunities
- Opportunities to be involved at a strategic level with external organisations such as the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the British Pharmaceutical Students Association
- Opportunities to be involved at a strategic level with national initiatives such as professional recognition processes and developing professional curricula

- An opportunity to undergo media training with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, if appropriate
- Free training provided to all General Committee members, such as project management, budget planning, and running webinars and podcasts, if appropriate
- Free travel to General Committee meetings
- Free travel to conferences if General Committee meetings are held at the same venue

In consultation with current General Committee members, we have mapped the potential competencies gained from being involved with UKCPA General Committee to the Advanced and Consultant Level Framework:

Competency	ACLF Level	Description
Expert Professional Practice: Reasoning and judgement	Mastery	Demonstrates ability to use skills to manage difficult and dynamic situations. Demonstrates ability to make decisions in the absence of evidence or data or when there is conflicting evidence or data.
Expert Professional Practice: Professional autonomy	Mastery	Is able to interpret overall health service policy and strategy, in order to establish goals and standards for others within the defined area(s).
Building Working Relationships: Communication	Excellence	Demonstrates use of appropriately selected communication skills to gain co-operation of small groups of patients, colleagues, senior clinicians and managers within the organisation. Demonstrates ability to communicate where the content of the discussion is based on opinion.
Building Working Relationships: Teamwork and consultation	Excellence	Demonstrates ability to work as an acknowledged member of a multidisciplinary team. Accepts consultation for specialist advice from within the organisation.
Leadership: Strategic context	Excellence	Demonstrates ability to incorporate national healthcare policy to influence local strategy.
Leadership: Vision	Mastery	Convinces others to share the vision at a higher level.
Leadership: Innovation	Mastery	Takes the lead to ensure innovation produces demonstrable improvement in service delivery.
Leadership: Service development	Mastery	Relates goals and actions to strategic aims of organisation and profession.
Leadership: Motivational	Mastery	Demonstrates ability to motivate individuals at a higher level.

Management: Managing change	Mastery	Demonstrates ability to manage a process of change at a higher level.
Management: Strategic planning	Mastery	Thinks long term and sector wide. Takes the long term perspective. Demonstrates understanding of organisational politics and changes in the external environment.

Are there any benefits for my employer?

Employers will benefit from having a UKCPA General Committee member from their staff because you will have the opportunity to learn about new developments in pharmacy and the NHS, and can exchange views about these developments with colleagues from around the country who may have different opinions and strategies in managing these developments. You will also be able to meet other colleagues on the GC and a lot of information is circulated to committee members, much of which is then discussed via email or at GC meetings. This exchange of ideas and opinions can only benefit your employer because you will be able to bring back information and learn from the experiences of others.

Can I speak to someone first?

You can find contact details of all our current General Committee members in the *General Committee members* document, or on our website www.ukcpa.org. Please feel free to contact any of them and they will be very happy to chat with you.

I'm interested, what happens now?

You will need to be nominated and elected (please contact the UKCPA Office for further details of the process). Upon successful election, you will be appointed a mentor, who will be an existing or past member of General Committee, to informally guide and advise you in your first steps as a new committee member, if you wish.

Where can I find more information?

Please also see the *General Committee Terms of Reference* for more details on the roles of the General Committee, how often it meets, and an approximate time commitment required by members.

Much more information on UKCPA can be found on our website www.ukcpa.org, including the structure of committees and groups, governance procedures, vision and aims, and five-year business plans.