

Support for women on BMA committees

We are committed to creating an open and inclusive culture at the BMA. These FAQs outline the information and resources most relevant to women interested in joining a BMA committee.

Why should I stand for election?

Women are underrepresented in elected positions in the BMA. We need more women to nominate themselves and be elected for positions to ensure that we represent you better. Your voice can make a difference.

Am I eligible for time off work?

Yes, you are entitled to trade union leave to allow you to participate in trade union work. Where our members find it difficult to take time off work, we will write to your employers and support you to ensure you are granted paid trade union leave.

I work flexibly. What support can the BMA give so I can attend meetings?

We will work with you and your employers to ensure that you are not at a disadvantage, including when meetings are held on non-working days.

Will I be remunerated for my time?

Yes, you are entitled to honoraria to ensure that you are not financially disadvantaged by taking part in BMA work.

I am unable to travel to London for meetings. Can I still stand for election?

Yes, the BMA is committed to ensuring all our meetings are accessible and inclusive. We are aiming to make all meetings hybrid, so if you are unable to attend in person, you can attend virtually. The platform we use is MS Teams. Our IT team can help you to become familiar with the platform and offer training if needed.

What support will I be given to attend meetings in person?

All reasonable expenses including travel and accommodation will be reimbursed.

I have carer responsibilities – can the BMA help?

Yes, we have a family friendly policy that will ensure any carer responsibilities are covered and reimbursed to allow you to attend meetings. [Find out about the family friendly fund](#)



What training will I receive?

As an elected member you are eligible to attend:

- [EDI training, active bystander and allyship training](#)
- [Committee mentoring programme](#)
- Media training
- [Leadership training](#)

For further information about our training and support, please get in touch with the corporate activity and EDI (equality, diversity and inclusion) team: corporate.edi@bma.org.uk

I've never stood for an election before. Do I need prior experience?

No, your BMA specifically wants and needs to hear from frontline members who haven't previously been active in the BMA. We will give you all the training and support you need to fulfil your elected role.

How do BMA committees work?

Committees play a vital role at the BMA. They represent members' views across branches of practice, specialisms and professional activities, and provide expert views and opinions to shape our strategies and policies. [Find out more about taking part in a committee.](#)

As an elected member, you will be supported by a team of expert staff.

Our committees' work and policies are set at the [ARM \(annual representative meeting\)](#), which is the main policy-making body and an opportunity for doctors from all parts of the profession to debate issues affecting their working lives and professional practice, and key matters of interest to the medical profession.

If you have any other questions about taking part in a BMA committee, please contact Dr Latifa Patel, chair of the BMA representative body, at RBChair@bma.org.uk.