

Members sought for Royal Society of Biology's UK Biology Competitions Committee

Are you a school biology teacher, retired biology teacher or biologist interested in education? Would you like to inform and contribute to our work on the British Biology Olympiad (BBO), Biology Challenge (BC) and other schools competitions? Could you commit a significant amount of time (ideally five or more days each year) to helping the committee to drive the British Biology Olympiad and Biology Challenge and other schools competitions forward? Would you like to be part of the team bringing the 2017 International Biology Olympiad to the UK?

If you answered yes to the above questions please read on for more details. We are currently seeking new members for our UK Biology Competitions (UKBC) Committee.

Background

The Royal Society of Biology's Special Interest Group, UK Biology Competitions (UKBC) aims to: promote the study of biology for all and encourage good students to excel in biology by organising annual biology competitions for school pupils.

- Biology Challenge is a mass participation competition, which aims to encourage all 13-15 year olds to take a greater interest in biology and the natural world.
- The British Biology Olympiad competition is for post-16 students with winners receiving certificates. Top students take part in selection to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad.
- In 2017 the UK has the honour of hosting the International Biology Olympiad at the University of Warwick. The UKBC committee has been involved in planning and raising the funds for this event and will be part of the team taking it forward.

Role

The UKBC committee consists of up to 14 members. These are all in a personal capacity. Members will be expected to be (or to become) members of the Society. All members will usually be appointed by the Chair and formally approved by the full committee. Members of the committee shall serve a term of two to five years.

The committee meets twice a year, once (normally) at the Society's headquarters in London for an AGM in October and once during the three days of BBO Finals (currently hosted by the University of Warwick during the Easter break). Members are expected to read papers prior to each meeting and contribute to the tasks required to run the annual competitions. Members of the committee are encouraged to develop questions for the competitions and to engage with supporting the training of the Olympiad teams. The International Biology Olympiad takes place in mid-July each year.

Desirable qualities for potential candidates include:

- Relevant experience in teaching, science education or bioscience research
- Membership of the Royal Society of Biology, or commitment to join at the appropriate grade
- Commitment to the Society's [vision and mission](#)
- Willingness to contribute a significant amount of time to the Society
- Commitment to develop and promote schools competitions, to utilise personal and professional networks, skills and subject knowledge to further the work of UKBC.

Further information

If you would like more information, or would like to discuss your suitability for the committee please contact the Chair, [Dr Andrew Treharne MBE FRSB](#).

Members of the UKBC committee do not receive remuneration but all reasonable expenses associated with attending the meetings will be reimbursed.

Interested candidates should send a brief CV with evidence of suitability and a letter of application to the [Schools and Colleges Officer](#).