



### **Gresham College Member of Council**

Gresham College is a charity which provides high-quality free education to the public across a broad range of subjects, reaching over 10,000 people per year in person and over seven million online.

We are seeking a volunteer Trustee to join the College's Council at an exciting time as we deliver our five-year plan which has the primary aim of increasing and broadening the audience which the College reaches. You will have collective responsibility for the governance and strategic direction of the College. We are particularly interested in applicants who have backgrounds in finance and accounting.

At a minimum you will be expected to attend the College's board meetings (normally 4 per year), participation in committees or working groups as required and the occasional attendance at College events and lectures.

You will gain new skills and experience as a Trustee whilst supporting Gresham College's work.

The term is normally 4 years with an option for a second term.

Please apply by emailing a CV and cover letter outlining why you are interested in being a Trustee and highlight your relevant skills and experience, to Rachel Keeley at [r.keeley@gresham.ac.uk](mailto:r.keeley@gresham.ac.uk).

Deadline for applications is 10am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Interviews will be held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026



## **Member of Council Role Description**

### **Gresham College (Charity No. 1039962)**

Gresham College is a charity which provides high-quality free education to the public across a broad range of subjects. The College aims to stimulate a love of learning and intellectual curiosity and to champion academic rigour, professional expertise and freedom of expression.

Gresham College has been providing free lectures within the City of London since 1597. Lectures are attended by an in-person audience and live-streamed around the world. We have currently had over 60 million online views. To watch please visit our website [www.gresham.ac.uk](http://www.gresham.ac.uk) or look on [YouTube](#).

The College is in the first year of an exciting five-year plan which has the primary aim of increasing and broadening the audience which the College reaches. The funding for the next five years has been agreed by the College's historic sponsors and provides a firm base from which to deliver an ambitious and exciting programme. The future College strategy sees us continuing to evolve our work in growing audiences in both numbers and diversity, while taking advantage of opportunities to develop income streams to stretch our ambition further.

The current academic programme consists of approximately 100 lectures for the general public as well as lectures delivered to young people in schools and a growing oracy competition for young people. Currently sixty public lectures are given by our 10 Professors; forty are curated annually; and between ten and twenty are delivered to young people in schools

### **Purpose of the role**

Members of the College Council are Trustees and Directors of the organisation and are collectively responsible for the governance and strategic direction of Gresham College. They ensure that the charity pursues its objects for the public benefit, remains financially sustainable, and operates in accordance with its governing documents and the law. Members of Council act in the best interests of the College, safeguarding its reputation, values, and long-term future while supporting its mission to provide free public education of the highest quality.

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## **Key responsibilities**

Members of Council are expected to:

### **Strategic leadership and governance**

- Contribute to the development, approval, and monitoring of the College's vision, strategy, and objectives.
- Ensure that the College's activities align with its charitable purposes and deliver clear public benefit.
- Provide constructive challenge and support to senior management.

### **Legal and regulatory compliance**

- Ensure that the College complies with its governing documents, charity law, company law (where applicable), and other relevant regulations.
- Act with reasonable care and skill, and in the best interests of the charity at all times.
- Manage conflicts of interest appropriately.

### **Financial oversight**

- Oversee the financial health and sustainability of the College.
- Approve budgets, accounts, and financial controls.
- Ensure that charitable resources are used effectively and responsibly.

### **Risk management**

- Identify and oversee the management of strategic, financial, operational, and reputational risks.
- Ensure appropriate systems of internal control are in place.

### **Reputation and advocacy**

- Act as an ambassador for Gresham College, supporting and promoting its work and values.
- Help protect and enhance the College's reputation and public standing.

### **People and culture**

- Support the appointment, oversight, and appraisal of senior staff, as appropriate.
- Promote equality, diversity, and inclusion, and uphold the College's values and culture.

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### **Time commitment**

- Attendance at scheduled Board meetings (typically four per year).
- Participation in committees or working groups as required.
- Occasional attendance at College events and lectures.

The role is unremunerated, though reasonable expenses may be reimbursed.

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### **Person specification**

Members of Council will typically demonstrate:

- A strong commitment to the aims and values of Gresham College.
- Integrity, sound judgement, and the ability to think strategically.

- Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort.
- Ability to work collaboratively as part of a Board.

Specific skills or experience (for example in education, finance, law, governance, digital, or public engagement) may be sought at different times to complement the existing Board.

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**Term of office**

Members of Council are appointed for a fixed term of four years, in accordance with the College's governing documents, and may be eligible for reappointment for a second term of office.