The Role of an RCN Fellow

Fellowship is the highest honour The Royal College of Nursing Council (RCN) can bestow on a member.

Fellows are inspirational leaders who have made an exceptional contribution to nursing and improving health care. Non-members can also be awarded an Honorary RCN Fellowship to recognise their support of nursing.

Those awarded the title of RCN Fellow have been recognised by their peers and should feel pride in their achievements. The College calls on all its Fellows to engage in our work and help strengthen the voice and influence of nursing.

Fellows are expected to act as ambassadors for the RCN and its work.

As a distinguished community of highly respected professionals, the Fellows work with us to influence policy, practice, education and research. In doing so, they are leaders in influencing change for the benefit of nursing and ultimately, our patients and clients, thereby advancing the art, science and practice of nursing.

The Fellows meet twice a year (Spring and Autumn) to discuss matters relevant to the nursing profession. These discussions serve to highlight actions that may affect safe and effective patient care, the provision of nursing for the benefit of society and the standing of the RCN.

Fellows are led by an elected Convenor who acts as the formal link with the College and is responsible for aligning the work of Fellows and their contribution to the work of the RCN. The Convenor chairs the meetings of the Fellows and the Fellows Co-ordinating Committee.

The Fellows Co-ordinating Committee also serves to ensure the voice of the Fellows is reflected in RCN policy, responses to consultations and future strategy, where appropriate.

The Fellows Co-ordinating Committee meets throughout the year to implement a work programme that maximises the contribution of Fellows within the College and its governance committees (the Professional Nursing Committee and the Trade Union Committee). Fellows self-nominate to serve on the Co-ordinating Committee for a maximum 4 year term.