



BEING ELECTED TO THE EQUITY COUNCIL

Frequently asked questions

Can any member stand for election to the Council?

Any member who is up to date with their Equity membership subscription can stand for the Equity Council, with some limited exceptions (see below) but under Equity's Rules student members and members on honourable withdrawal may not stand for election and do not have a vote.

Are there any qualifications for standing?

Any member who is up to date with their membership subscriptions can stand for election as President or to the Council General List, to the Appeals Committee or to the Standing Orders Committee without providing evidence of work. Any member who lives in the appropriate area of the UK can stand for one of the Council National or Area seats without providing evidence of work. For all other seats on the Council you must submit evidence of professional work in the relevant work area in the past three years. The seats concerned are: Audio Artists, Creative Team (designers, directors and choreographers), Dancers, Singers, Stage Management and Variety Circus and Entertainers. For the Members with Disabilities, Minority Ethnic Members and Young Members seats you can provide evidence of professional paid work in the past three years in any area covered by Equity.

Are there any other restrictions?

You can't stand for election to the Equity Council or as the President of Equity if you belong to any association of managers; act directly as a manager or employer of Equity members in the entertainment industry or acts as an agent or "fixer" who gains financially as a result of the employment of members. See Rule 14.3 for full details.

Is being on the Equity Council only for older members or those who are famous?

No. Any member can serve on the Equity Council. On the Equity Council are members of all ages with a huge variety of experience in the entertainment business.

Do I have to have experience of being on a committee?

No. Experience of working in the entertainment industry is all you will need. You will be offered training soon after being elected which will equip you for working on a committee.

If I am elected will I need to learn all the Equity rules and know all the agreements in detail?

No. Equity has expert staff whose job it is to know the rules and the details of the agreements and they will always be happy to advise you. Some members may expect you to be an expert, but it is better to take advice from a member of staff than to guess and possibly get it wrong.

Can I stand for election if I am already elected to an Equity Committee?

Yes. All Committee members are entitled to stand, but in some circumstance, they will be deemed to have resigned from the Committee if they are elected to certain seats on the Council. If you are a

member of the Audio Committee, Creative Team Committee, Deaf and Disabled Members Committee, Minority Ethnic Members Committee, Singers Committee, Stage Management Committee, Variety Circus and Entertainers Committee, Young Members Committee, Northern Ireland National Committee, Scottish National Committee or Welsh National Committee and you are elected to the corresponding reserved seat or seats on the Council you will be deemed to have resigned from the Committee.

Do I get paid if I am elected?

No. There is no salary, but you are not expected to be out of pocket. Your reasonable expenses, including travel, meals, accommodation where necessary and caring responsibilities will be met by Equity. For more information see the Expenses guidelines for members of Council, committees and working parties on the Equity web site at: www.equity.org.uk/documents/expenses-guidelines

What are the duties and responsibilities of an Equity Councillor.

The powers and duties of the Equity Council are set out in Rules 16 of the Equity Rule Book. Rule 20 covers the duties of the President and Rules 25 and 27 cover the duties of the

How much time will I have to spend being on the Equity Council?

There are usually ten meetings of the Equity Council a year. You are expected to attend these meetings unless you are working or have personal reasons for not being available. Each meeting lasts from around 10.30am until around 4.00pm.

If you are elected to a professional specialism, equalities or national seat you will also be expected to attend the four meetings a year of the relevant specialist, equality or national committee and members elected to an English area seat are expected to attend their English Area network meetings twice a year.

There are also working parties, negotiating teams and representation on other bodies, such as the British Equity Collecting Society. These are additional duties which you may wish to consider volunteering for if you are elected.

Does the Equity Council always meet in London?

The Council usually meets in London at Equity's head office in Covent Garden. The only time the Council meets outside of London is when there is an Annual Representative Conference being held out of London.

How many members are there on the Equity Council?

The Equity Council has 12 general list seats, 13 specialist and equality seats and seven national and English area seats. The President is also a member of the Equity Council. The Appeals Committee has five seats and the Standing Orders Committee has five seats elected by the membership and four seats elected by and from the Equity Council itself.

Can I stand for election to more than one seat on the Equity Council?

No. You can stand for election to only one seat on the Equity Council and if you are standing for the Council, you may not also stand for either the Appeals Committee or the Standing Orders Committee. However, if you are not a candidate for the Council you may stand for both the Appeals Committee and the Standing Orders Committee. (Please see Equity Rules 25 and 26 for details.)

What should I do if I have a question that is not answered here?

Contact Equity on the elections helpline on 020 7670 0266 or e-mail your question to elections@equity.org.uk.