



aat Accountants
for the real world

Members' Advisory Council election information pack

2026



Introduction

Thank you for your interest in serving as a member of AAT's Members' Advisory Council (MAC). MAC members provide professional insight, advice and ambassadorial support to help inform AAT's strategic direction and delivery of our 2030 strategy and vision in support of our charitable objectives.

The MAC is a pivotal part of AAT's governance structure. Through structured engagement with AAT's membership and the wider profession, it gathers diverse perspectives from across our membership to inform AAT's strategic direction.

The MAC comprises up to 50 elected and co-opted members. They bring professional insight, advise AAT and the Board from a range of member perspectives, and act as ambassadors championing AAT, the value of accounting technicians and our community values.

This information pack explains the MAC, its role, and the expectations and responsibilities successful candidates can expect. AAT is seeking to fill three vacancies on the MAC through an election among eligible Voting Members.

About AAT: a multidimensional organisation

Formed in 1980, we are the world's leading professional body for accounting technicians - bringing together more than 137,000 members and students.

AAT is a professional body, an awarding organisation conferring qualifications, and a registered charity in England and Wales. We are a UK company limited by guarantee, with two subsidiaries: AAT Botswana and Accounting Technicians (Services) Limited.

As a **professional body**, AAT supports our members in maintaining professional standards of ethics and conduct, ensuring they can keep their practice up to date while staying relevant in a changing profession. AAT Licensed Accountants and Bookkeepers serve over 840,000 SME clients in the UK.

As an **awarding organisation** our qualifications are recognised by all four UK qualifications authorities and by several qualifications' regulators internationally. In UK accounting and finance apprenticeships, AAT is the market leader. More than 85% of all accounting apprenticeships undertaken in England are underpinned by our qualifications. More than 5,000 employers partner with AAT to develop, upskill and professionalise their talent.

As a charity we work to advance public education in accountancy, champion social mobility, and promote wider access to the profession. We believe in breaking down barriers to careers in finance, creating pathways that empower people from all backgrounds to gain the expertise valued by organisations across all sectors.



AAT highlights 2024/25



9.3/10 rating for satisfaction for our AAT Connect and Impact Awards from 218 delegates



99% thumbs up rating for CPD Bitesize.



28% higher combined completion rates across all our qualifications and levels compared to the previous year.



42 bursaries awarded last year, greatly expanded from the previous year and rising to 50 this year.

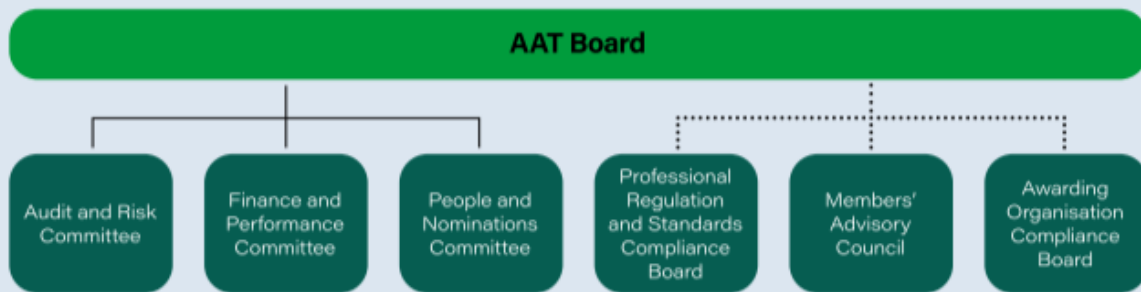


AAT internship Programme launched in Botswana in 2025 to support local students to find employment.



Governance has evolved with a skills-based Board, and new Members' Advisory Council to best support AAT and champion our membership.





About the Members' Advisory Council (MAC)

Overview

The Members' Advisory Council (MAC), launched in October 2024, provides a voice that represents views and perspectives from across AAT's membership, ensuring members can actively contribute their insights, share perspectives, and make recommendations to help shape AAT's future.

The MAC comprises up to 50 members who are either elected or co-opted to the body for a three-year term. Chaired by the AAT President, the MAC's primary role is to represent members, reflect their diverse insights, and provide advice to AAT and the Board on matters affecting the AAT community.

Through focused discussions and active engagement with both AAT's membership and the wider profession, the MAC gathers diverse perspectives to help inform AAT's strategic direction. The MAC harnesses its members' professional insights drawn from a broad mix of individuals representing AAT's membership across sectors, geography, and levels of seniority.

The MAC is responsible for electing AAT's Vice President from among its members, who then transitions into the role of President after a year. A MAC appointee also serves on the Trustee Board, linking governance and representation within the organisation.

Biographies of current MAC members are available on [AAT's website](#).

The MAC's key roles

Insight

Members monitor and report on professional and industry trends and developments - from emerging changes in outsourcing and talent to developments in digital adoption and sustainability. This forward-looking role helps AAT anticipate future member needs and shape proactive responses to emerging challenges and opportunities.

Advisory

Members act as a sounding board on key initiatives, providing structured feedback on product development, membership categories, and helping shape AAT's positions on public policy issues. This ensures proposals are evaluated through the lens of their impact on different membership segments.

Ambassadorial

Members represent and champion AAT externally through activities like judging industry awards, representing AAT at third-party events, and advocating for the value of professional membership, of accounting technicians, and for AAT pathways, through their networks in the community and on social media.

Governance responsibilities and formal duties

The MAC has important governance responsibilities, including electing a MAC appointee to serve on the AAT Board as a Trustee. This provides a direct link between members and AAT's governing body, helping the Board benefit from the MAC's professional insight, advice and understanding of members' views.

The MAC also elects AAT's Vice-President from among its members. The Vice-President becomes President after one year, and the President chairs the MAC throughout their term.

At the end of their year as President, the President becomes Immediate Past President and remains on the MAC until the next Annual General Meeting.



About the position: MAC member

As a MAC member, you will be part of a vital body shaping AAT's future direction. Working alongside fellow professionals from diverse backgrounds, you'll help ensure member perspectives inform AAT's strategic decisions.

Your role combines strategic thinking with practical insights and a welcoming, can-do attitude in action.

As you help AAT to anticipate emerging professional challenges, member needs, and opportunities for impact, you'll contribute to product development, help shape AAT's policy positions and improve our existing and new initiatives to support members.

While you'll certainly be expected to bring your insights to the table contributing to focused discussions, the MAC member also has a key role in visibly building and representing the AAT community: advocating for accounting technicians and the value of AAT and serving as a ambassadors representing AAT at third party community and industry events.

The MAC member

Responsibilities of MAC members

- Represent the voice of members: represent the interests and viewpoints of the membership to the Board ensuring diverse perspectives and expertise on key issues and initiatives are considered.
- Provide insightful feedback and recommendations: offer constructive feedback and act as a sounding board on existing programs, services, and new initiatives to help AAT improve and innovate.
- Identify member needs: to identify emerging trends and opportunities that can benefit AAT and its members. To understand and articulate the needs, concerns, and expectations of the membership to ensure AAT remains responsive and relevant.
- Act as ambassadors for AAT: to represent AAT externally and assist in promoting AAT's mission and values to the wider membership, profession and other external audiences.
- Promote transparency: ensure open communication between AAT and its members, building trust and accountability.
- Foster community: create a sense of belonging and collaboration among members, encouraging active participation and mutual support.

Duties

- Governance and compliance: participate in the nomination and election process for the Vice President on an annual basis, ensuring strong leadership that represents member interests; and elect a MAC representative to serve on the AAT Board, ensuring direct member representation at the highest level of governance.
- Provide advice and recommendations to AAT and the Board on matters affecting AAT members.
- Act as a sounding board for new initiatives and policies related to the membership.
- Identify emerging trends and issues in the accounting profession and provide advice to AAT.
- Assist in promoting AAT's mission and values to the wider membership and external audiences where appropriate.
- Represent AAT as a member of MAC at events or engagement as agreed whether third party or AAT led.
- Prepare for and actively participate in meetings, securing high levels of attendance to scheduled meetings. Encourage input from one another and promote to the work of MAC to the wider membership.

Expected knowledge and experience

- Understanding of AAT's core purpose and professional landscape
- Awareness of current issues and trends in the accounting profession
- Familiarity with AAT's membership grades and qualifications
- Knowledge of professional communities connected to AAT's work
- Experience in representing member interests or community engagement

Expected skills and qualities

- Understanding of and commitment to AAT's mission and values
- Commitment to equality and diversity principles
- Strategic thinking and decision-making capabilities
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Collaboration and teamwork skills
- Openness to diverse perspectives and willingness to learn

Key terms

- MAC members serve a three-year term with the possibility of re-election for one additional term.
- The role of MAC member is voluntary and unpaid. However, MAC members can claim expenses for travel to meetings and events, in line with the Expenses Policy.
- The time commitment is expected to be up to 10 days per year.
- MAC meetings are held three times per year (two online, one in-person) and are scheduled during weekdays.
- MAC members will be invited to attend additional events as ambassadors.

Essential eligibility requirement

- Must be an active full member of AAT (MAAT, FMAAT or licensee)



2026 elections

AAT is seeking to fill three vacancies on the MAC. The three-year terms begin at the close of the 2026 AGM.

Nominations are open to all active full members of AAT (MAAT, FMAAT or licensees). The election process is designed to ensure the MAC reflects the breadth and diversity of AAT's membership.

For this election, following a review of current membership, the MAC is particularly keen to encourage applications from:

- › Licensed members who are not FMAAT and MAAT (AATQB members)
- › Members working in industry
- › Members working in the public sector



Key terms

How MAC members are chosen

Members are selected through a combination of election and appointment, ensuring diverse representation across the membership base. The election process is supported by AAT's democratic services partner, Civica.

Members can self-nominate for elections. There will be a review to ensure nominees meet the essential eligibility requirements and voting will open on 24 September.

How to nominate for these elections

Submit your nomination form along with the 200-word election statement and electronic headshot to governance@aat.org.uk by **noon on Wednesday 22 July 2026**.

AAT welcomes nominations from underrepresented groups and will make reasonable adjustments to ensure a fair recruitment process. Any questions or requests for reasonable adjustments can be sent to governance@aat.org.uk.

What makes a winning election statement?

- Your relevant skills and experience
- How you would contribute to the MAC
- Your motivation for standing
- Your understanding of member needs
- Your vision for supporting AAT's development

All candidates will receive a Code of Conduct upon nomination and must confirm acceptance of its terms upon appointment.

Election statements exceeding 200 words may be returned to candidates for editing (if this is possible before the deadline) or simply cut down to the limit. This will mean that only the first 200 words are published. The Company Secretary, or any person acting on their behalf, will not edit election statements on behalf of candidates.

The Company Secretary will review the content of the election addresses. Election statements are published at AAT's discretion and AAT will not publish any election statement, or section of an election statement that:

- contains inaccurate or untruthful information
- is potentially libelous
- may subject AAT to any form of legal action or discredit it in any way.



Key dates

- **Nomination deadline:** noon, 22 July 2026
- **Review of eligibility criteria:** 3 September 2026
- **Election voting opens:** 24 September 2026
- **Election voting closes:** 12 October 2026
- **Notifications to candidates:** by 22 October 2026
- **AAT to announce results:** 23 October 2026 at the Annual General Meeting
- **First MAC meeting:** 23 October 2026 (in-person at the AAT office)



Thank you for your interest in the MAC elections at AAT.

- › For further information, please contact the Corporate Governance team at governance@aat.org.uk
- › Read more about AAT's governance: <https://www.aat.org.uk/about/what-we-do/governance>.