



Your guide to volunteering with the IFE

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An aerial photograph of a complex road interchange with multiple lanes and a central green island. The image is used as a background for the text.

Get involved – help shape a future world that is safer from fire

The IFE is a global professional body for those in the fire sector that seek to increase their knowledge, professional recognition and understanding of fire through a global discourse. With over 100 years of history, the IFE is instrumental in shaping a future world that is safer from fire.

Only through our members and volunteers can we continue our work to advance and improve the knowledge, practice and recognition of all fire professionals.

Our wealth of volunteers help us to grow, influence and shape the global fire sector but we are always striving for more. There are a huge range of volunteering opportunities with the IFE to suit all levels of experience and interests and we hope more of you will become involved.

This guidance document outlines everything you need to know about volunteering with the IFE. Should you need further information or wish to discuss a particular opportunity, please visit our website or get in touch with the team by emailing volunteering@ife.org.uk.

The IFE volunteering community

Illuminating a fire safe future cannot be achieved alone and we recognise the crucial role that volunteers play in delivering our vision, mission and charitable purpose.

The IFE volunteering community shares a passion towards fire engineering. Whether you are an academic or a professional involved with fire engineering, if you can offer the necessary knowledge, understanding, experience, and a commitment to our charitable goals then volunteering with the IFE is for you. We will support you every step of the way to ensure you realise your full potential in your volunteering role with the IFE.

Becoming a volunteer brings many benefits and whilst you will find it helps to support and even enhance your career, you will also have the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to creating a world that is safer from fire.



Why volunteer?

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills or enhance existing ones, support your CPD requirements, inspire and mentor others and give back to the fire engineering community.

Every individual has their own reason for choosing to volunteer. Our volunteers have chosen to generously give their time to assist us in delivering our vision of enabling fire professionals to shape a world safer from fire.



Volunteering can provide an opportunity to:

- ◆ Develop existing skills and technical knowledge whilst gaining new skills and experience through exposure to different workstreams
- ◆ Enhance your CV and workplace credibility
- ◆ Foster your personal and professional recognition, gain increased confidence and self-esteem
- ◆ Be proud that through your volunteering work you are helping to maintain a high standard of professional practice and competency within the industry
- ◆ Feel valued and part of a team
- ◆ Show your passion for the sector
- ◆ Become more visible to your senior officers/employers
- ◆ Use your knowledge and experience to assist with the development of other fire engineers in the sector
- ◆ Use your voluntary task towards CPD requirements
- ◆ A chance to socialise and meet new people
- ◆ Spend quality time away from work or a busy lifestyle

We know that volunteering isn't just a one way thing, so whilst we can't say thank you enough, some gestures to show our appreciation along your journey may include:

- ◆ A 'volunteer spotlight' feature where you can showcase your work and the impact your volunteer role has on the industry
- ◆ A 'volunteer welcome pack'
- ◆ Regular volunteer updates through our e-news, IFP Journal, and social media channels
- ◆ Opportunities to network with peers across multi fire engineering disciplines
- ◆ Attendance at conferences and events associated to your volunteering role
- ◆ Ad-hoc appreciation gifts and tokens of thanks
- ◆ Certificate summarising your annual commitment
- ◆ Regular "thank you" from us to you, recognising and highlighting your, and where relevant your employer's, invaluable contribution
- ◆ A full induction together with ongoing training to support your role is provided
- ◆ Reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses relevant to your volunteering role(s)



How volunteering benefits an employer

We actively encourage employers of people with fire engineering experience to allow their employees to participate in volunteering activities with the IFE. We are grateful to work with some fantastic organisations who allow their staff to volunteer with us but we are always seeking more.

So, what's in it for you as an employer? Our current employers have seen the following benefits:

- ◆ Increased technical knowledge of staff
- ◆ Successful members and registrants able to mentor co-workers through the processes
- ◆ More professionally qualified and registered staff allows for increased charge out rates
- ◆ Easy way for employees to add to CPD
- ◆ Allowing staff time to complete voluntary activities during working hours helps foster good employee/employer relations and loyalty and shows how much you value their input
- ◆ Staff gain more confidence in their technical knowledge and abilities

How do I become an IFE volunteer?

We have over 25 volunteering roles for differing levels of experience and qualifications, with each one playing an important part to enable us to fulfil our mission to deliver a world safer from fire. Whether you can spare lots of time, a little time or something in-between, there's a volunteer role for you.

Our volunteering hub on the [IFE website](#) contains all of the information you will need to know about the various volunteering roles within the IFE. Specific selection criteria apply for some of our volunteering roles and in some cases there may be additional criteria where there are more applicants for a particular volunteer role than positions available.

We are also proud in the knowledge that we provide a volunteer recruitment process which is free from any unlawful discrimination.

If you are thinking about volunteering for us, and you are not currently a member of the IFE, then we encourage you to consider obtaining membership with us. [Click here](#) to see more about our membership benefits, grades, and requirements.

We would love to welcome you as a volunteer; starting the process is simple.



Our volunteering community includes roles in:

Board of Trustees

Branch Involvement

Engineering Council

Ethics

Fire Risk Registers

International General Assembly (IGA)

Membership

Qualifications

Recognitions

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Technical Strategic Advisory Group (TSAG)

How to start your volunteering journey

We have an online application coming soon, but for the meantime begin your volunteering journey by contacting volunteering@ife.org.uk with the area(s) you wish to volunteer in, along with your relevant knowledge, skills, and experience. A member of the team will then be in touch with you to discuss your application further.

Volunteer testimonials

Ed Claridge, New Zealand

“Being an active volunteer has been instrumental to my learning and progression within the fire industry and I have benefitted both professionally as well as personally. The IFE provides the opportunities and professional networks that you can use to learn from and develop yourself. It has also provided me with a significant network of fire professionals and friends all around the world.”

Lynsey Seal, UK

“I have been an IFE volunteer for over 10 years. I believe there is personal benefit as it demonstrates a commitment to not only your professional development but the wider professional development of our industry. There are also skills you can develop which you might not get through your day job such as chairing meetings, participating on a committee or technical group and assessing applications.”

Rob Allen, UK

“ I would recommend any fire professional to get involved as an IFE volunteer. It has helped me maintain my CPD, allowed me to contribute to the growth of the IFE and in doing so I have met many fantastic people.”

Chong Xin Xi, Malaysia

“ IFE volunteers work together as a big family. It feels great to connect with people who share a similar interest and passion and through my volunteering work it has been an honour to help the IFE promote fire safety and make our world a safer place from fire. Volunteering gives me a sense of accomplishment knowing that I am contributing and making a change to the industry and society.”



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