

British Accounting and Finance Association (BAFA)

Annual Meeting 2026 Notice and agenda

Annual Meeting convened pursuant to and governed according to the provisions of the Constitution of the British Accounting and Finance Association

Date and time: 14.00 - 15:30

Location: Great Hall, Aston University and Virtually

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

Please note that the minutes are available for download from the BAFA website. They will not be distributed in hard copy ahead of or at the meeting. <https://bafa.ac.uk/about/records/agm-minutes.html>

Consider the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in person and online on Wednesday, 16 April 2025, at Ulster University, Belfast; and vote on a resolution to accept those minutes (if pertinent, as amended by the meeting resolution).

2. Matters arising

3. Trustees' report and accounts

Please note that the report and accounts will be available for download from the BAFA website in advance of the meeting. They will not be distributed in hard copy ahead of or at the meeting. <https://bafa.ac.uk/about/records/reports-and-accounts.html>

Receive the annual report of the trustees and the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025.

4. Resolutions

Discussion and vote on a resolution to adapt the new BAFA CIO constitution.

Voting to increase the standard (discounted - Unsalaries PhD/MPhil students or retired members') membership fee from £30 (£15) to £50 (£25), respectively, with effect from 1 September 2026.

5. Appointment of independent examiner

Vote on a resolution to re-appoint Neil Hitchings of Francis Clark Chartered Accountants as Independent Examiner to examine the BAFA accounts for the year ending 31st December 2026 and to report to the next Annual Meeting.

6. Equality, diversity and inclusion

Please note that a document on BAFA's policy and its implementation is available for download from the BAFA website. It will not be distributed in hard copy ahead of or at the meeting. [BAFA-equality-diversity-inclusion-policy-implementation-March-2025](#)

7. Trustees Election

Please note that information (or links to information) on those nominated for election as trustee is provided below.

Vote on the election of a Vice-President and Executive Trustee of BAFA for a period of two years from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2028, who will subsequently serve as President of BAFA from 1 May 2028 to 30 April 2030: Alan Sangster and Karim Sorour.

Vote on the election of a General Secretary and Executive Trustee of BAFA for a period of three years from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2029: Sarah Jones.

Vote on the election of a Treasurer and Executive Trustee of BAFA for a period of three years from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2029: Clodagh Hegarty

Vote on the election for **two** Non-Executive Trustees of BAFA for a period of two years from 1st May 2026 to 30 April 2028: Kevin Holland and Anwar Halari.

8. Any other business

Please inform the President or the General Secretary as far ahead of the meeting as possible if you wish to raise issue(s) under any other business that is likely to occupy the meeting for more than a few minutes.

1. Candidates for BAFA Vice-president:

Professor Alan Sangster, University of Aberdeen

With over 35 years of engagement with BAFA and three decades in senior academic roles, I bring proven leadership, strategic vision, and deep commitment to BAFA's mission and values. My international reputation spans accounting history, education, information systems, and AI, supported by extensive publications, keynote addresses, and recognition, such as the BAFA *Lifetime Achievement Award* and the AAA *Outstanding Accounting Educator Award*. I have led academic departments, research teams, award-winning projects promoting technology adoption in practice, and multi-disciplinary initiatives providing access for disadvantaged learners. My governance experience includes five years overseeing accreditation across the UK and Ireland, 25 years as journal senior editor, and leadership roles within both BAFA and the AAA, including Section chair.

These roles reflect my ability to mentor, foster collaboration, and adapt strategies to achieve objectives inclusively and effectively. I am deeply committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion, supporting early-career scholars – both research-focused and those on teaching/scholarship track – and advocating inclusive academic cultures that value difference and nurture growth. I believe in robust transparent policies to support decision-making; in the importance of leadership, energy, and vitality in BAFA and in its SIGs; and in the SIGs each playing a positive, constantly developing role promoting and supporting the interests of their membership.

My prior BAFA contributions include Executive Committee membership, SIG leadership, and conference and workshop organisation, complemented by engagement with policymakers, funders, and professional bodies globally. I bring strong organisational and interpersonal skills, clarity in communication, diplomatic engagement — qualities essential for representing BAFA's diverse membership. As a strategic thinker with a collaborative leadership style, I seek to strengthen BAFA's role as a forward-looking, unifying voice for the academic community. I am fully prepared to dedicate the time and energy required for this four-year term and would be honoured to contribute to BAFA's governance and future direction.

Prof. Karim Sorour

Dear BAFA Annual General Meeting members,

Today you're voting during a period of unprecedented challenges for the Accounting and Finance academic community, making BAFA's role more vital than ever. If elected as Vice-President and President-Elect, my

commitment is clear: strengthen BAFA's resilience and deliver tangible benefits to members through a purposeful and strategic vision.

I bring over a decade of service to BAFA through multiple roles, including Chair of the AFEE SIG and Executive Board membership. In these roles, I led governance reforms, strengthened succession planning, enhanced gender equality and introduced new initiatives. I therefore understand BAFA's mission, how it operates and how it can better support its members through professional development opportunities and advancement of research and teaching. I work closely with the current leadership team and bring a unique blend of expertise: a senior academic with a strong track record in teaching, impactful research, and academic leadership; over ten years' industry experience as a management consultant; and strategic leadership as a Non-Executive Director/Trustee in the UK education sector. I am actively engaged with professional accounting bodies in the UK and internationally. I am a Certified Management Accountant and hold a PhD in Corporate Governance. This places me in a strong position to support the incoming President and in due course provide strategic leadership advancing BAFA's objectives.

My priorities as VP are:

1. Supporting the President, executives, and trustees through a strategic audit to enhance BAFA's standing and strengthen collaborations with reputable associations/ professional bodies.
2. Strengthening governance and policy to secure BAFA's financial sustainability, SIGs' empowerment, and progressive positioning.
3. Promoting BAFA's volunteer spirit through recognition, wider participation and equal opportunities. Serving as BAFA's Vice-President is both an honour and a responsibility that I am ready and determined to fulfil.

Thank you for your trust.

Professor Karim Sorour

2. Candidate for BAFA General Secretary:

Professor Sarah Jones

I would welcome the opportunity to serve as General Secretary and Executive Trustee of BAFA because I am strongly committed to the Association's mission and to supporting its continued strategic development. My involvement with the community, including serving as a co-opted member and later Executive Secretary of CDAF from 2016 to 2023, has given me an excellent appreciation of BAFA's role in promoting high-quality research, teaching, and professional collaboration across the accounting and finance discipline. I am motivated by a desire to contribute to the stability, good governance, and future growth of an organisation that plays such an important part in our academic community.

I bring to the role extensive knowledge, skills, and experience developed over more than 30 years in accounting practice and academia. In my current position as Associate Dean Education, I have significant experience of committee leadership, institutional governance, and the strategic oversight of policy and practice. I have a proven track record of working collaboratively across diverse groups, including BAFA's SIG's, ensuring clear communication and effective processes. I offer strong organisational and administrative capabilities. I hope these strengths would allow me to play a supportive role alongside the President, Executive Committee, and Trustees in delivering BAFA's strategic priorities.

Together, these strengths equip me to support the President, Executive Committee, and Trustees in delivering BAFA's strategic priorities.

3. Candidate for BAFA Treasurer:

Dr Clodagh Hegarty

As a long-standing member of BAFA, I would like to apply for the opportunity to serve as Treasurer and Executive Trustee to give back to an organisation that has been important in my academic career. As Treasurer, I would be dedicated to safeguarding BAFA's financial sustainability while supporting its strategic ambitions over the coming years. I am a senior academic with extensive knowledge, skills, and experience in auditing, financial management, governance, and financial reporting. As a Programme Director, with almost 15 years' experience working with numerous stakeholders, I have developed in depth programme management knowledge and understanding of the higher education sector. I am engaged in research on service innovation in small and medium-sized accountancy practices (SMPs), which has developed my problem solving, attention to detail and organisation skills. I also have industry, leadership, and board/governance experience: 15 years in EY, SMPs, small family business and treasurer; Chair of ACCA Ireland (2019–2020), representing 13,500 members; Non-Executive Director of Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (2020–2027). Combined these have equipped me with strong expertise in accounts preparation, financial reporting, auditing, risk management, regulatory compliance, the role of a trustee and governance.

4. Candidates for BAFA Non-Executive Trustee:

Professor Kevin Holland

Relevant experience and networks: As a current non-executive trustee of BAFA I have experience of the role and knowledge of the environment in which BAFA operates. Beyond BAFA, as a former chair of the Tax Research Network (TRN) I have helped run a learned society. I am also a former council member of the Institute for Fiscal Studies and was an Academic Advisory Group member of ESRC/HM Revenue & Customs/HM Treasury - Tax Administration Research Centre.

Further, having been head of A&F in several universities, I have direct experience of the needs of academics in developing as educators and researchers and assisting them in overcoming some of the barriers they can often face. Outside of academia, through my role as a trustee of a medium-sized charity I have further experience of the role of a trustee and the functions of the Charity Commission. Prior to my academic career I was a tax consultant with Pricewaterhouse.

What you hope to bring to the position: My numerous experiences described above have given me insights into how organisations operate and the needs of individuals within them. My research interest in tax administration reinforces the importance of both identifying key decision areas and the needs of organisations.

I am also experienced in developing and maintaining links between academia, the profession(s), policymakers and other stakeholders.

Your motivation for the role: Since attending my first BAFA (BAA!) conference in the mid-1990s, I have greatly benefited from BAFA's activities. As a learned society, BAFA has an increasingly important role to play in nurturing academics and promoting the related disciplines of accounting and finance. I would like to continue to assist BAFA in fulfilling its objectives, both out of a sense of gratitude and a sense of academic fulfilment.

Dr Anwar Halari

I am keen to serve as a Non-Executive Trustee of BAFA as the association has been my intellectual and professional home for much of my academic career. As a long-standing member and currently an Executive Board member of the Interdisciplinary Perspectives SIG, I value BAFA's role in promoting an inclusive, collegial and intellectually diverse community across accounting and finance. I am particularly motivated to help strengthen BAFA's interdisciplinary identity and to support its growing public visibility and societal relevance at a time when our disciplines face heightened scrutiny and responsibility, both in financial terms and in their wider moral and ethical implications.

I bring experience that sits naturally at the intersection of community, governance, accountability and public engagement. My leadership roles have involved accreditation processes, audits, quality assurance, REF and TEF-related activity, requiring stewardship, collective decision making and accountability. Alongside this, my work on ethics, sustainability and accountability, both in research and teaching, are values that I care deeply about and that align well with BAFA's aims and mission.

I'm also keen on public engagement and regularly contribute to platforms such as The Conversation and various other blogs, helping to translate accounting and accountability issues for wider audiences. As a Trustee, I'd aim to support BAFA as a vibrant scholarly community, while helping ensure it remains accountable, visible and socially engaged for the benefit of its members and the wider public.