The Nautical Institute
2020 President’s Questionnaire
The Nautical Institute’s 2020 President’s Questionnaire was a survey designed to inform the Institute’s current and future direction, now encapsulated in its Strategic Plan 2021-2026.

The survey achieved an impressive response rate of 34% among Nautical Institute members. This document summarises the findings from those responses which included the following key highlights...

**Most valued membership benefits**
Survey respondents were asked to identify which of the membership benefits they valued most. The highest-scoring responses were: *Seaways* magazine, CPD and networking, status as a maritime professional and representation at the IMO.

**NI at the local level**
Members were also asked to comment on their level of engagement with their local NI branch, and the perception of the NI’s impact at international, regional and local levels. From the responses to this section, it was clear that the NI enjoys a high professional reputation at the international level, but in some areas support is lacking at the local level.
Areas of technical focus

One of the key questions to consider when planning areas of focus was in which technical areas the Institute should concentrate its efforts. As in previous surveys, there was still a great deal of concern over seamanship, shiphandling and competency assessments. MASS and cyber security were matters of considerably more concern than in the previous surveys, indicating the speed of development in these areas. By far the area where most respondents wanted to see the Institute focus was human performance and limitation, including issues around fatigue and mental health on board.

Through its Strategic Plan 2021-2026 The Nautical Institute is working hard to ensure it delivers not only on these expectations but also those of the wider maritime community. The Institute is committed to its vision of providing inspiration, knowledge and leadership to maritime professionals around the world.
The Nautical Institute 2020 President’s Questionnaire - responses in detail-
• Members were asked to choose from a list of 20 words or phrases they most associate with The Nautical Institute.

• A total of 9,314 associations were made.

• Total associations made with negative connotations (old fashioned, elitist, slow, invisible, inaccessible and narrow minded) amounted to less than 5% of total associations.
Statements with which Nautical Institute members most strongly agree

- I am proud to be a member of The Nautical Institute: 1549
- I understand what The Nautical Institute is aiming to achieve: 1059
- I feel as though I belong to The Nautical Institute: 858
- I feel able to contribute my views to The Nautical Institute: 801
- I feel supported by The Nautical Institute: 639
- The Nautical Institute has helped to enhance my career prospects: 400
Length of time members have been with The Nautical Institute

- More than 20 years: 639 members
- 11 to 20 years: 378 members
- 6 to 10 years: 380 members
- 3 to 5 years: 443 members
- 1 to 2 years: 255 members
- Less than 1 year: 211 members
Top five reasons for joining/remaining a member of The Nautical Institute

- To be part of the appropriate body for my professional interests: Rank 1 = 725, Rank 2 = 501
- To maintain competence and enhance my knowledge: Rank 1 = 498, Rank 2 = 440
- To support activities that enhance the maritime profession: Rank 1 = 324, Rank 2 = 275
- To gain professional recognition: Rank 1 = 241, Rank 2 = 270
- To network with other members and those in the profession: Rank 1 = 165, Rank 2 = 234
• Members were asked to pick the five benefits they value most
• More junior (AMNI and less than 3 years industry experience) and female members cite one free online course per annum as the benefit they most value
• FNIs are more likely to actively participate in branch activities
Reading industry magazines and journals, is the most popular form of CPD across all demography.

Members aged 66 and over are least likely to engage in CPD activities of any form.
Technical areas where members believe the NI should focus its efforts

- Human Performance and Limitations (HPL) (fatigue, mental health): 1332
- Seamanship: 897
- Ship handling: 859
- Technology and Automation (Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships - MASS): 855
- Competency Assessments: 827
- Mentoring: 745
- Cyber Security: 703
- Human Centred Design (HCD): 610
- Colregs: 589
- Criminalisation: 567
- ECDIS / GNSS: 542
- Communications (ship/shore) Commercial: 373
- Life Saving Appliances (LSA): 342
- Communications (ship/shore) Private: 232
- GMDSS: 92
Members' views on the NI's profile at local, national and international level

- At the international level:
  - Good/adequate: 1559
  - Needing improvement: 305
  - Don't know: 213

- At the national level:
  - Good/adequate: 1054
  - Needing improvement: 728
  - Don't know: 278

- At the local level:
  - Good/adequate: 937
  - Needing improvement: 742
  - Don't know: 386
Proportion of NI members that are seagoing/shore-based

- Shore-based: 53%
- Seagoing: 30%
- Seagoing and shore-based: 17%
Members' views on how the Institute can best promote diversity

- **Actionable through The Nautical Institute...**
  - Increase diversity in NI decision making bodies
  - Promote diversity through NI publications and social media
  - Increase branch autonomy
  - Expand and widen local branch network

- **Actionable through advocacy...**
  - Advocate at international bodies for diversity on ships

- **No need for action...**
  - Job appointments should be based on merit
  - Diversity at sea is not the problem, NI should focus on promoting professionalism throughout the industry for people of all cultures and backgrounds
  - The NI is doing a good job already