

Applying for candidacy if you've been a member for less than 12/9 months

If you have just joined us as a new member – welcome! We're thrilled that you've not only joined the party but are also interested in getting more involved by becoming an approved candidate able to lead the Liberal Democrat team.

Please note, however in order to be assessed for approval you must usually be a fully paid party member for 12 consecutive months in England and Wales and 9 consecutive months in Scotland.

You can submit your application for approval as soon as you become a member and we would encourage you to do so! However, you cannot be on the approved list until the 12/9 months are up, which is why we advise everyone to give themselves enough time to develop the skills and the six essential competencies which we test at an assessment day. For example, you can't lead a team well unless you understand the jobs other members of the team are doing.

One of the best ways of doing this is by taking advantage of the various training opportunities available, especially those run at Federal Conference, many of which have a specific candidate focus. We also advise getting involved with your local party, gaining as much campaign experience as possible and attending Inspiration Days, as these will get you more familiar with the party structure, will help you come to a decision regarding candidacy and ultimately support your application, should you choose to make one.

For more advice on how best to ensure you use your 12/9 month membership period to ensure you are fully prepared for an assessment day, please contact: candidates@libdems.org.uk