

## Candidate for IUGS Executive Committee

### Position: Vice-president

**Name:** Philip Leonard Gibbard

**Affiliation:** Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge

**Nominating Organisation:**  
ICS and University of Cambridge



### Biography:

I am a Quaternary geologist specialised in multi-disciplinary palaeoenvironmental reconstruction, climate change and stratigraphy of terrestrial and shallow marine deposits, including glacial, fluvial and related deposits for which I have an established international reputation. This work has taken me to both hemispheres, although I have worked principally in Europe (including the Arctic), in north Africa, North America, India, China, Thailand and the beyond.

Born in London, I gained my BSc Geology degree at the University of Sheffield, going on to take my PhD in Quaternary Geology at the University of Cambridge. I undertook post-doctoral research at the University of Oulu, Finland and the University of Western Ontario, Canada before returning to the Cambridge to a permanent position in the Subdepartment of Quaternary Research. Latterly I was appointed to a lectureship, readership and full professorship, retiring in 2017. During my tenure I have held research sabbaticals in Finland, France, Denmark, Netherlands and Austria.

Throughout my career I have focused on stratigraphical issues. Following my appointment as chair of the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) Subcommittee on Quaternary Stratigraphy (SQS), I led the campaign for the reinstatement and formal definition of the Quaternary Period/System. In recognition I was appointed President of the INQUA Stratigraphy and Geochronology Commission in 2011. Through adopting integrated approaches, I have developed detailed, integrated reconstructions of geological history of Quaternary and Neogene successions. In this area I have achieved several successes. I have also led the discussions on the definition of an 'Anthropocene' interval, which I initiated during my tenure as SQS chair. Whilst I initially

concentrated on the definition of formal stage divisions of the Quaternary, since becoming ICS Secretary General, I have broadened my focus to general issues for the whole geological timescale, a task that has been both challenging and remarkably rewarding.

As Emeritus, I continue to work on various projects. I actively promote the subject and foster the greater Quaternary and geological communities. I serve on six international journals' editorial boards. I give public lectures and organise meetings. I regularly contribute to TV and radio, most recently on the Anthropocene issue. I have a strong international network of colleagues. Apart from my Cambridge post, I am a Dosit (adjunct professorship) in Geology at the University of Helsinki. I have also been appointed to review panels by the CNRS to review geological research in France, the Netherlands, the University of Innsbruck, and Italian universities.

Based on my contributions to the disciplines of stratigraphy and Quaternary palaeoenvironments and to the geological community in general, I have received several medals and other honours, including the ICS's Digby McLaren Medal (2019).

**Statement:**

I have served the IUGS community for c.18 years, including as chair and voting member of SQS and the ICS Secretary General from which I retire at the 2024 IGC, both posts giving me considerable satisfaction and experience. I view the prospect of working with the IUGS as a welcome and exciting new challenge.