

# Step 5: Preparing the Prospective Candidate for Interview

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- This Step is completed by the two people who expect to be the prospective candidate's Proposer and Secunder (the sponsors).
- Where a potential candidate was not previously known to any members, we recommend the LMO should be one of sponsors.
- The sponsors and the prospective candidate are each asked to satisfy themselves, through informal meetings and discussions, that Freemasonry and the particular Lodge are right for the candidate and that he is right for it. This process is called screening.
- The sponsors can use a number of techniques to seek the information required for screening.
- Be open, honest, clear and direct about the commitment involved in becoming a Freemason.
- Anything that happens outside of Lodge meetings can be described. Avoid describing the ceremonies, including Masonic Fire, and their meaning in detail, so as not to diminish the impact of Initiation.
- Meet informally with the prospective candidate on as many occasions as necessary to explain and discuss:
  - The nature of Freemasonry, what it is and what it is not.
  - The expectations and duties of membership, including the commitment in time and money.
  - The normal journey of a Freemason, including eventual Exaltation into the Royal Arch.
  - The specific features of your Lodge, using your Lodge profile as a resource.
- If invited by the prospective candidate, discussion may take place at his home and in the presence of his spouse or partner.
- If all parties wish to proceed, ask the prospective candidate to complete the UGLE Member Application Form and, after both sponsors have also signed it, submit it to the Lodge Secretary on his behalf. He is now an applicant.
- If any party has reservations about the prospective candidate, the LMO should discuss the matter with the Lodge committee.
- Tell the applicant what will happen at the interview and that you will attend with him.
- If the screening process has gone well, you will have covered informally, and without leading, the information and issues that the interview panel will want to discuss and you can be confident that the applicant is likely to give satisfactory answers.