

## **Becoming an Expert Volunteer**

### **English Proficiency Expectations and Requirements**

USP is fostering an inclusive environment where participation of Experts from diverse geographical locations and native language is encouraged. As most communications happen via written interactions, the ***minimum requirement is to read and write technical documents in English***. USP is exploring the newest translation/interpretation technological solutions to facilitate interactions with speakers of languages other than English. Below are some additional FAQs

**1. What level of English proficiency is needed to become a USP Expert Volunteer?**

USP welcomes volunteers from diverse linguistic backgrounds. For committees primarily focused on written input, like monograph review committees, technical reading and writing skills in English are sufficient. Volunteers can follow up post-meeting with written contributions if needed.

**2. How many meetings will I have to attend, and what do they involve?**

The meeting frequency and structure will depend on the committee.

For example, General Chapters committees meet three times a year, with one hybrid/in-person meeting and two virtual ones. Much of the work involves reviewing and writing technical documents, with opportunities for direct discussions.

Monograph review committees may focus more on written input and less on direct discussions, offering flexibility for volunteers with strong reading and writing skills.

**3. What tools are available to facilitate my participation?**

USP is exploring various tools to support volunteers, including:

- Closed captioning in multiple languages to assist in real-time understanding.
- Post-meeting transcripts translated by automated tools.
- Further tools are under consideration, aiming to enhance communication and engagement in all meetings.

**4. How does USP address inclusivity in its meetings?**

USP is committed to creating an inclusive environment. This includes training and curriculum development to address and overcome biases, such as those based on accents or communication styles, ensuring all voices are heard and respected.

**5. Can I participate in a committee if I'm not fluent in spoken English?**

Yes. USP encourages volunteers from all linguistic backgrounds to apply. We offer tools and training to support participation, and contributions can be made in various forms,

including written input and translations, to accommodate diverse needs. The goal is to create an environment that values diverse perspectives. That said, participation includes virtual and hybrid meetings therefore some level of oral communication would be advantageous.