

Chair of the Board Role Description

The Chair

The Chair will provide leadership of the Board working with Member Bodies and other partners in supporting the Science Council's development and growth, and ensure that the Science Council delivers public benefit and its charitable objectives.

Role of the Board

Boards play a key role in shaping the strategy, vision and purpose of an organisation. They hold the organisation to account for the delivery of strategy and ensure value for money. They are also responsible for assuring that risks to the organisation and the public are managed and mitigated effectively. Led by an independent Chair the Board has a collective responsibility for the performance of the organisation.

The purpose of the Board is to govern effectively, and is responsible for the overall leadership of the Science Council, and in partnership with its constituent Members setting its values, standards, aims and objectives and delivering them in line with the objects of the Royal Charter.

The Chair's role is to:

- Provide leadership for the Board, ensuring it develops a vision, strategy and clear objectives to set direction and deliver organisational purpose which will result growth of the Science Council's professional registers
- Provide visible leadership in championing an open, honest and transparent culture for the organisation, and ensure that this is reflected and modelled in its and in the Board's own behaviours and decision-making
- Lead the Board in being accountable, ensuring all trustees are 'fit and proper' for the role and understand their own accountability for governing the organisation
- Ensure that the Board regularly reviews performance against agreed objectives including regular evaluation of the performance of the Board, its committees, trustees, and the Chief Executive
- Support and hold the Chief Executive to account for the effective management and delivery of the organisation's strategic aims and objectives
- Plan and conduct Board and Council meetings with the Chief Executive
- Facilitate the effective contribution of trustees and ensure constructive relations within the organisation and between trustees and staff
- Ensure the Board maintains its responsibility for the effective governance of the organisation by making the best use of resources including the development of effective, including the regular evaluation of the performance of the Board, its committees, trustees, and the Chief Executive
- Ensure reporting lines and accountabilities are robust and support the effective oversight of the organisation

- Share and use relevant expertise of all members of the Board, ensuring the board has the appropriate experience and ability, now and into the future
- Ensure the Board and its committees are properly constituted to maintain responsibility for the effective governance of the organisation by making the best use of resources, including the development of effective risk and performance management processes
- Ensure requirements for accurate, timely and clear information to the Board are clear to the Executive team

Essential criteria

Candidates will be experienced board leaders who have worked effectively in a range of organisations. They will be highly motivated to use their energy and experience to ensure that the Science Council delivers public benefit and its charitable objectives.

The Chair will have:

- a strong track record of leading organisations to develop high quality boards and achieve growth in reach across the science community with improved financial performance and quality improvement
- excellent chairing skills particularly the ability to facilitate inclusive discussion, consensus building and decision making
- considerable experience of building and developing strong and effective teams and providing robust leadership in challenging environments
- the ability to work effectively with Member Bodies and other key stakeholders, using strong people management and communication skills to secure commitment to a shared strategic vision
- excellent governance, organisational and financial skills, including those relating to strategic planning, risk management and organisation-wide performance management
- an understanding and empathy of the challenges facing science and professional bodies.
- a commitment to championing the professional developing and registration of scientists

The commitment

This is a voluntary non-executive role and requires a commitment of approx. 30 days per annum. The appointment will be for an initial three-year term with the potential for renewal for a further three years. The Chair will work closely with the President, Operations Director and the Board to lead the organisation in the direction agreed by the Board and supported by Member Bodies.