

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.

The Chair's role is to:

- Instigate and facilitate discussions on the strategic development of the charity;-ensuring it develops a 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, high standards of propriety, and ensure that this is reflected and modelled in its and in the Board's own behaviours and decision-making.
- Maintain the Board's commitment to diversity, renewal and succession planning, in line with the charity's governing document and current good practice.
- Lead the Board in being accountable, ensuring all trustees are 'fit and proper' for the role and understand their own responsibility and accountability for governing the organisation.
- Undergo individual performance appraisal and ensure that the Board regularly reviews performance against agreed objectives including regular evaluation of its performance and that of its trustees and committees.
- Build and maintain close relations between the charity's various constituencies, and stakeholder groups to promote the effective operation of the charity's activities.
- Support and lead on the performance appraisal of the Chief Executive for the effective management and delivery of the organisation's strategic aims and objectives
- Plan, with support from the Chief Executive, the business of Board and Council meetings, and chairing General Meetings.
- Facilitate the effective contribution of trustees in and beyond Board meetings 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.
- 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.

- Act between meetings of the Board in authorising action to be taken *intra vires*¹.

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 constituent members, grant funders, partner organisations 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.
- The ability to grasp relevant issues and understand relationships between interested parties and identify opportunities for the Science Council to engage with the political environment.
- A commitment to championing the professional developing and registration of scientists.

Time commitment

The role requires a commitment of between 30 days per year. This will include preparing and chairing Board and General Meetings, as well as wider networking and advocacy work. The Chair will work closely with the President, Chief Executive and the Board to lead the charity in the direction agreed by the Board and supported by Member Bodies.

Term of office

The appointment will be for an initial three-year term with the potential for renewal for a further three years.

Remuneration

This is a voluntary non-executive role. Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses properly incurred in the performance of your duties as Chair will be reimbursed in accordance with our volunteer expenses policy.

Location

¹ All such uses of the chair's power, however, should be reported to the full board of trustees, at the meeting immediately after the action was taken. Any powers residing in the chair are likely to be limited, given the collective responsibilities of the trustees.

The role will require the Chair to travel in the performance of their duties. They will be expected to have appropriate transport arrangements in place for travel within the UK and it is expected that there would be no limitations to their capacity to travel internationally should the need arise. The appointee will be compensated for any costs incurred by them in respect to travel arrangements in accordance with our volunteer expenses policy.