
Science Council President Role Description

The role

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The President is the public face of the Science Council with key stakeholders, representing us at the highest level with governments, parliaments, industry, universities, scientific and engineering institutions and other public and voluntary bodies. The President will use their experience to champion the science profession; promote the value of professional body membership and registration; and amplify the collective voice of our Members.

The President will have high-level ambassadorial experience in complex sectoral settings; an understanding of and ability to advocate for the Science Council's strategic objectives, and the leadership and interpersonal skills to develop productive relationships with key stakeholders to ensure that the Science Council continues to grow both in size and influence. The President will already hold, or be eligible for, the Chartered Scientist designation.

The President is elected by Members of the Science Council and is therefore accountable to the membership.

Key duties

The President:

- Networks actively and at a high level in order to represent and enhance the influence of the Science Council and the scientific community in the UK and beyond;
- Supports a multi-disciplinary approach to science and the application of science for the benefit of society;
- Champions the value of professional registration for individuals, employers and society;
- Engages with the Board of Trustees, as well as the Executive, to contribute to its collective understanding of wider changing circumstances relevant to the charity, and the necessary steps to respond to opportunities as they arise.

Essential Requirements

In order to fulfil the role we would expect the person taking on the role to:

- Have the credibility and ability to work with and influence decision-formers at the highest level, demonstrated by current and past appointments;
- Have distinguished themselves in their chosen field of science and other fields such as, but not limited to, industry, academia, and national governments;
- Have a commitment to professional registration, and to the science community and the role professional bodies play to support both;
- Have an evidenced commitment to progressing diversity, equity and inclusion priorities, particularly as it relates to the science workforce;
- Hold, or be eligible for, the Chartered Scientist designation;

- Have a proven ability in fostering consensus, collaboration and collective action and building networks;
- Have excellent communication skills with the ability to engage a wide range of audiences and comfortable with representing the Science Council publicly
- Have the willingness and ability to commit the appropriate time to the role.
- Accept the Nolan Committee's Seven Principles of Public Life; selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Time commitment

The role requires a minimum commitment of 10 full days per annum. In addition to wider networking and advocacy work, the President is expected to commit to the following:

- Attend the Annual General Meeting (chairing Extraordinary General Meetings as required)
- Host the Science Council's bi-annual Sir Gareth Roberts Science Policy Lecture
- Meet periodically (or as business requires) with the Chair of the Board and Chief Executive
- Contribute to strategy development as required
- Host an annual meeting with Member Bodies' Presidents
- Attend Science Council conferences.

Term of office

The term of office for the position is an initial two-year term with the opportunity to seek re-election for a further two years.

Remuneration

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

Location

The role will require the President 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 potential international travel 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. Meetings with Science Council staff and the Chair of the Board will be a combination of online and in-person meetings, with mutual preferences discussed with candidates.