

Membership Criteria

Peer Review College, Pool, Core and Chair Membership Criteria

NERC seeks to recruit experienced researchers who can demonstrate that they are publishing and proposing research of a quality that they would be asked to identify as part of the peer review process. These individuals should have proven research leadership skills, the respect of their peers and a strong interest in the delivery of NERC science. They should be willing to act in an unbiased and objective manner (and one which is consistent with NERC policies and procedures) towards identifying the highest quality research for funding.

NERC is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all. Applications from women, those with a disability and members of minority ethnic groups, who are currently under-represented at senior levels in the research and innovation community, are therefore especially encouraged. **NERC is happy to discuss any concerns an individual might have about whether they can actively participate in the College and what, if anything, NERC can do to enable their involvement.**

Essential criteria

1. Be based in the UK (or retain a link to a UK Research Organisation).
2. Meet the eligibility requirements (as PI, Co-I or New Investigator) to apply for NERC Research Funding, including Holders of research fellowships from the UKRI Research Councils and University Research Fellowships from the Royal Society.
3. Be research active in an area relevant to NERC remit and held in high esteem by their peers.
4. Have recent (within the last five years) experience of applying for and holding (as PI or Co-I) Research Council grants, (including Independent Research Fellowships) or equivalent funding from other UK or international bodies.
5. Have a strong publication record pertinent to their career stage.
6. Be able to provide unbiased, objective, fair and detailed assessments of grant proposals either as a reviewer or moderating panel member.
7. Be able to commit sufficient time to the College to review proposals and attend panel meetings.
8. Be reliable and prepared to keep in regular contact with NERC.

Desirable Criteria

9. Have experience of reviewing proposals for NERC and/or other funding organisations.
10. Have experience of leading a substantial research project, with responsibility for the overall management of the research and related activities.
11. Be willing to assess multidisciplinary proposals.
12. Be able to demonstrate other relevant experience; e.g. membership of committees for other

funding organisations, editorial role for scientific (or other academic) journals, membership of relevant national or international advisory committees.

Additional guidelines for research end users and stakeholders wishing to join the PRC

For research users essential criteria two and four may not apply. The following additional criteria will be considered in selecting PRC members from the user community:

13. Experience of involvement in the use of the results of research.
14. Experience of commissioning or overseeing research activities.
15. Experience in managing projects and people
16. A broad overview of environmental research and the needs of their user community.

Additional criteria for core panel members ¹

Core panel members must meet the above criteria but additionally should:

17. Extensive experience as a reviewer of Research Council funding proposals.
18. Be able to demonstrate a sustained track record of winning NERC, other Research Council grants or equivalent funding from other UK or international bodies (or similar funding) as PI.
19. Currently be serving or have previously served on the PRC for at least 12 months or if not, applicants should be able to demonstrate a current understanding of NERC policies and procedures;
20. Have a strong record of performance during their time as a PRC member and/or when otherwise requested to review/attend meetings by the NERC i.e. replied promptly to NERC requests, completed good quality reviews and if appropriate, have been a constructive panel member.

Essential criteria for panel chairs

21. An active senior researcher, with a strong track record of grant funding.
22. Recent experience of leading Research Council-funded grants (ie in the last three years) in an areas relevant to NERC remit and the panel portfolio to which they are applying/have been nominated;
23. Objective, fair and independent in their assessments of proposals in a wide range of disciplines.

Desirable criteria for panel chairs

24. Extensive experience as a reviewer of Research Council funding proposals.

¹ NERC Head Office may review the balance of institutional affiliations when allocating the core member role.

25. Candidates must have proven management/leadership experience.
26. Experience of chairing large committees or panels, preferably those making funding decisions.
27. Awareness of the needs of the end users of research and the government's impact agenda.