



Natural
Environment
Research Council

Peer Review College: Pool, Core and Panel Chair Membership Criteria

NERC (Natural Environment Research Council) seeks to recruit researchers to the Peer Review College (PRC) to assist in the fundamental role of making good decisions with respect to fundable research. NERC is seeking to recruit members to roles in the PRC Pool, PRC Core and as Panel Chairs.



College members will be able to demonstrate that they are publishing peer-review research of their own and have a strong interest in environmental science. They will act in an unbiased manner 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 across the NERC disciplinary remit are strongly encouraged from persons who identify as an ethnic minority, persons with disabilities, persons of diverse gender identities and expressions, and persons identifying with other groups that are currently underrepresented. **NERC is pleased to discuss concerns any person might have about whether they can actively participate in the College, and, to consider reasonable adjustments that enable individuals to consider an application.**

PRC Pool

Pool members are primarily responsible for undertaking reviews as part of the expert review process, and this may be electronically or as acting as a panel member as proposal review meetings where their expertise is required, according to the proposals submitted.

Criteria

- Active in a research area relevant to NERC remit;
- Experience of applying for and/or holding (as PI (Principal Investigator) or Co-I) Research Council grants, (including Independent Research Fellowships) or equivalent funding from other UK (United Kingdom) or international bodies;
- Evidence of research outputs (peer-reviewed research publications, datasets, software, inventions, patents, preprints, other commercial activities etc) pertinent to their career stage and in line with any career breaks (for example caring responsibilities, illness, parental leave etc);
- Experience of managing a research project, with responsibility for the overall management of the research and related activities; and
- Capability to assess multi- or inter-disciplinary proposals.

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

Users of research outputs and outcomes make an important contribution to NERC assessment processes; however, NERC recognises that parts of the PRC Pool criteria may not apply in the same way. The following additional criteria will be considered in selecting PRC members from the research user community:

- Experience of involvement in the use of the results of research;
- Experience of commissioning or coordinating research activities;
- Experience in managing projects and people; and/or
- Broad overview of environmental research and the needs of their user community.

PRC Core

Core members complete reviews in the same way as other PRC Pool members of the College but they will have additional responsibility for attending moderating and reviewing panel meetings to ensure consistency between different panel meetings and funding schemes.

Additional criteria for core members ¹

Core members must meet the above criteria for PRC Pool members and preferably be able to demonstrate at least one of the following criteria:

- Experience as a reviewer of UKRI (UK Research and Innovation) Research Council funding proposals or equivalent;
- Evidence of successful UKRI grants or equivalent funding from other UK or international bodies (or similar funding) as Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator
- Evidence of currently or previously serving on the College for at least 12 months in a PRC Pool role. Otherwise, a demonstrable and current understanding of NERC policies and procedures; and/or
- Have a good record of performance during their time as a PRC Pool member and/or when otherwise requested to review/attend meetings by the NERC i.e., replied promptly to NERC requests and completed good quality reviews.

PRC Chair

Additional Panel Chairs are required to increase the numbers of the existing Chair membership pool. This role will take on the key role of chairing Discovery Science moderating panels, Fellowship sift and interview panels, Highlight Topic panels. Additionally, as NERC investigates moving to increased numbers of assessment panel, there is a need to increase the number of qualified Chairs. Chairs are recruited for four years and may opt to receive an annual honorarium of £1,000 per annum for this role.

Criteria

- Experience of chairing committees or panels in a complex decision-making process.
- Experience as a reviewer of UKRI or equivalent funding proposals.
- Experience in management/leadership position of an organisation in receipt of grant funding.

Expectations of NERC PRC Membership

- Able to provide unbiased, fair, and detailed assessments of grant proposals either as a reviewer or moderating panel member.
- Able to commit sufficient time to the College to review proposals and participate in panel meetings.
- Reliable and prepared to keep in regular contact with NERC.
- Members must abide by [NERC's policy on Conflicts of Interest](#).
- Members must abide by the [RCUK Policy on Governance of Good Research Conduct](#). NERC should be made aware if any member is under investigation for potential research misconduct. College members should also alert NERC if they encounter any potential cases of research misconduct whilst performing their college role (for example, potential plagiarism in grant proposals).
- Members are expected to provide assessments, advice and guidance across the full spectrum of NERC's research investments. NERC commits to giving clear guidance on expectations and requirements. Members agree to provide NERC with reviews and introducer's comments that accord with the guidance given.

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