

MRC Board and Panel Associates Scheme

Overview

Apply to become an MRC Board or Panel Associate

The Medical Research Council (MRC) Board and Panel Associates Scheme provides researchers the opportunity to gain experience of peer review, serve on an MRC funding board or panel and benefit from mentorship as part of a two-year programme. It is aimed at researchers from underrepresented groups who are actively [transitioning to independence and leadership](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/skills-and-experience-needed-to-win-support/) .

Personal details

Thank you for taking the time to apply for the MRC Board and Panel Associates Scheme.

We encourage you to complete the form in full, although for some questions you can select 'prefer not to say'. Your answers will be treated confidentially and will be stored securely in accordance with UK law and UK Research and Innovation's [data protection privacy policy](https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/privacy-notice/) . This information will not be used for any purpose other than to allocate places on, and analysis of, the MRC Board and Panel Associates Scheme.

Title

Please select only one item

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Dr
- Mr
- Mrs
- Ms
- Mx
- Professor
- Other, please state:

Name

Forename *(Required)*

Surname *(Required)*

Contact Details

Phone number *(Required)*

Email Address *(Required)*

Organisation Information

What to do if you're employed by multiple organisations or on a career break

If you are employed by or affiliated with multiple organisations, please provide the details of your most relevant current employer.

If you are still affiliated with an organisation please provide their details or you can put that you are currently on a career break. If you are not affiliated with an organisation please provide geographical location under address.

Current Employer *(Required)*

Type of Organisation

Please select:

(Required)

Please select only one item

- University
- Industry
- MRC Unit/Institute
- Other (please specify)

Organisation Address, including Postcode *(Required)*

Time Zone

In which time zone do you most frequently reside? *(Required)*

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, you must:

meet the diversity requirement outlined on the website

be undertaking biomedical research activity in either an academic, clinical or industry environment

be at the stage in your career where you are transitioning to independence or leadership,

possess relevant expertise in the scientific remit of the standing MRC funding board or panel you wish to apply to

be able to commit to the full scope of the programme, for example attending the funding board or panel meetings, participating in expert review, see [application timelines](#)

<https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/guidance-for-applicants/application-timelines/> for further details

not already be an experienced member of a research funding board or panel

Are you a member of a research funding panel?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- No

Career stage

How would you describe your career stage?

MRC definitions of career stages

For more information on the career stages please see: [biomedical research roles and career pathways](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/biomedical-research-roles-and-career-pathways/) <<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/biomedical-research-roles-and-career-pathways/>> and our [interactive career framework](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20190401114243/https://mrc.ukri.org/skills-careers/interactive-career-framework/#/home) <<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20190401114243/https://mrc.ukri.org/skills-careers/interactive-career-framework/#/home>>

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Apprenticeship (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- BSc, an undergraduate degree (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- MSc, a postgraduate degree (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- PhD, a postgraduate research degree (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Postdoc (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Research technician/ officer (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Laboratory/Facility Manager (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Junior career fellowship (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Research/technology specialist (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Intermediate career fellowships
- Tenure track
- Lectureship
- Senior postdoc / staff scientist who are actively developing their independence
- Senior career fellowships
- Senior research/technology specialist
- Group leader
- Associate professor
- Principal research fellow
- Professor (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Director (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Other please state:

Board or Panel applying to

Which board or panel would you like to be an associate on?

Selecting a board or panel

Appreciating that potential associates expertise may span a number of boards and panels you can select a first and, if appropriate, a second option.

If your expertise is solely in one area please only select one option and select 'I only want to be an associate on my first choice' as the second option. Please refer to the MRC website to see the expertise required for each opportunity.

<i>(Required)</i>	Option 1	Option 2
Applied global health research board <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better methods, better research panel <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developmental pathway funding scheme panel <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Experimental medicine panel <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infections and immunity board <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Molecular and cellular medicine board <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neurosciences and mental health board <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Populations and systems medicine board <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I only want to be an associate on my first choice <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Explain why you are applying to be an MRC Board or Panel Associate and your suitability for the role (approx 250 words)

(Required)

Please confirm you can commit to attending the full scope fo the programme i.e. attending the board or panel meetings, participating in expert reveiw over the two-year programme

Time commitment

The average amount of time spent by members on board or panel business is equivalent to about two days a month for all activities. However, meetings and preparatory work need to take place at specific times across the year. For board and panel associates we anticipate that the average amount of time would be one day a month going up to two days in the second year.

Research boards currently meet three times per year with each meeting lasting between one to two full days depending on the size of the agenda. Panels and the Applied Global Health Research Board meet two or three times per year.

We continue to hold some meetings virtually, as well as in-person where possible, to improve engagement and networking. Attendance at in-person meetings is expected, with hybrid and flexible options made available for people with particular requirements such as reasonable adjustments.

(Required)

Please select only one item

I can confirm I can commit to the full scheme

Expertise

What is your area of expertise?

List the key areas of your expertise 30-60 words. Please ensure your expertise is relevant to the boards or panels you are applying to. *(Required)*

Are you clinically qualified or clinically active?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

Phase 2

The MRC Board and Panel Associates Scheme consists of two phases, which are outlined on the MRC website. At the end of phase one MRC staff, mentors, panellists and associates will decide if associates are ready to progress onto the second phase of the programme.

During the second phase (year 2) the associates will be able to discuss and contribute to the decisions of the funding panel. Therefore, towards the end of first phase (year 1) associates will be asked the same questions as panel members, as outlined below:

- Have you ever been found guilty of scientific misconduct?
- Are there any allegations of scientific misconduct against you currently under investigation?
- Is there anything that might compromise or bring into question your suitability to hold a public appointment, such as personal bankruptcy or a recent criminal conviction?

Please note a positive answer to any of these questions will not necessarily prevent you from continuing to phase 2 of the scheme. However, MRC head office staff will contact you to discuss circumstances before confirming your place in phase 2 of the programme.

If you would like to discuss your eligibility for the MRC board and panel associates scheme before applying please contact rfd@mrc.ukri.org.

(Required)

Please select only one item

- I understand I will be asked these questions before progressing onto phase 2 of the scheme

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion information

Diversity requirements

We define underrepresented groups as including those who have been identified within the government [Diversity and inclusion in STEM Inquiry](#) <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5803/cmselect/cmsctech/95/summary.html#:~:text=Our%20inquiry%20heard%20evidence%20that,education%2C%20research%2> and our diversity data. You are eligible to apply if you are:

disabled or have a long-term condition as defined by the definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010

from certain minority ethnic backgrounds such as:

Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, Chinese or any other Asian background

African, Caribbean or any other Black background

White and Asian, White and Black African, White and Black Caribbean or any other mixed ethnic background

Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Traveller or Roma

Other ethnic backgrounds such as Arab or Arab British

from a disadvantaged socio-economic background

lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning or identify with another gender identity (LGBTQ+)

a woman

Why we're asking

Conducting diversity monitoring as part of our initiatives is one of the ways in which we seek to embed equality, diversity, and inclusion in all we do to ensure that the opportunities we provide embrace a diversity of people, backgrounds, geographical locations, and perspectives.

The confidential information obtained in this section will be used for monitoring purposes and will be stored securely in accordance with UK law and UK Research and Innovation's [Data protection policy](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/UKRI-31072023-Data-Protection-Policy-v2.4-072023.pdf) <<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/UKRI-31072023-Data-Protection-Policy-v2.4-072023.pdf>> This information will not be used for any purpose other than to allocate places on, and analysis of, the MRC Board and Panel Associate Scheme.

Additionally, where there is evidenced need, MRC may take appropriate and proportionate interventions including in final application decisions. This is in accordance with our duty to advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

While it is voluntary to share this information, doing so will also help us to:

Identify underrepresentation – where we need to do more to attract people from certain underrepresented groups to apply for the scheme.

Ensure fairness – by reviewing our processes to ensure they are fair and transparent, and do not have an adverse impact on any particular group.

Assess impact – and track progress, and the extent to which we are achieving our diversity and inclusion aims.

Respond to individual needs – of associates, such as through providing reasonable adjustments.

Meet our obligations – under the Equality Act 2010 and Northern Ireland equality legislation.

Your answers will be treated in the strictest confidence. We handle personal data in line with UK data protection legislation and manage it securely. For more information, including how to exercise your rights, read our [privacy notice](https://www.ukri.org/about-us/privacy-notice/) <<https://www.ukri.org/about-us/privacy-notice/>> .

To find out more about how we are advancing equality, diversity and inclusion, or for any queries about this questionnaire, please have a look at our [MRC](https://www.ukri.org/about-us/mrc/our-policies-and-standards/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-at-mrc/) <<https://www.ukri.org/about-us/mrc/our-policies-and-standards/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-at-mrc/>> and [UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/our-work/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/) <<https://www.ukri.org/our-work/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>> webpages or contact equalitymrc@ukri.org.

We recognise that some individuals may still regard this information as private and have therefore included the option of 'prefer not to say' in all categories.

Sex and gender

What is your legal sex?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say
- Other

How would you describe your gender identity?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Man
- Non-binary
- Questioning or unsure
- Woman
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

Sexual Orientation

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Gay or lesbian
- Heterosexual/straight
- Queer
- Prefer not to say.
- Prefer to self-describe

Ethnicity

How would you describe your ethnicity or ethnic background?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Arab or Arab British
- Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British – Chinese
- Asian or Asian British – Indian
- Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British – Other
- Black or Black British – African
- Black or Black British – Caribbean
- Black or Black British – Other
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups – White or White British and Asian or Asian British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups – White or White British and Black African or Black African British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups – White or White British and Black Caribbean or Black Caribbean British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups – Other
- White – British
- White – Irish
- White – English
- White – Scottish
- White – Welsh
- White – Northern Irish
- White – Gypsy, Irish traveller, Traveller or Roma
- White – Other
- Prefer not to say
- Other

Disability

Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long-term health condition? This could be a visible or non-visible health condition.

Definition of disability/long term condition

Under the Equality Act 2010, a person is Disabled 'if they have a physical or mental impairment, and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out day-to-day activities'. 'Substantial' is defined by the Act as 'more than minor or trivial'. An impairment is considered to have a long-term effect if:

- it has lasted for at least 12 months
- it is likely to last for at least 12 months, or
- it is likely to last for the rest of the life of the person.

Day-to-day activities are not defined in the Act, but they could be things people do on a regular or daily basis; for example, eating, walking, reading, writing or having a conversation.

In Northern Ireland, Disability is defined in the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) as 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If yes, please select the following that apply to you or "Prefer not to say":

Please select only one item

- Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
- D/deaf or have a hearing impairment
- Development condition that you have had since childhood which affects motor, cognitive, social and emotional skills, and speech and language
- Learning difference such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D
- Long-term illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy
- Mental health condition, challenge or disorder, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety
- Physical impairment (a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, lifting or carrying)
- Social/communication conditions such as a speech and language impairment or an autistic spectrum condition
- Prefer not to say
- An impairment, health condition or learning difference not listed above (specify, if you wish).

Further information about your disability or long-term condition and any reasonable adjustments required. We endeavour to support you to fully participate in the scheme, should you be successful.

Socio-economic background

What was the occupation of your main household earner when you were about aged 14?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Modern professional & traditional professional occupations such as: teacher, nurse, physiotherapist, social worker, musician, police officer (sergeant or above), software designer, accountant, solicitor, medical practitioner, scientist, civil / mechanical engineer.
- Senior, middle or junior managers or administrators such as: finance manager, chief executive, large business owner, office manager, retail manager, bank manager, restaurant manager, warehouse manager.
- Clerical and intermediate occupations such as: secretary, personal assistant, call centre agent, clerical worker, nursery nurse.
- Technical and craft occupations such as: motor mechanic, plumber, printer, electrician, gardener, train driver.
- Routine, semi-routine manual and service occupations such as: postal worker, machine operative, security guard, caretaker, farm worker, catering assistant, sales assistant, HGV driver, cleaner, porter, packer, labourer, waiter/waitress, bar staff.
- Long-term unemployed (claimed Jobseeker's Allowance or earlier unemployment benefit for more than a year).
- Small business owners who employed less than 25 people such as: corner shop owners, small plumbing companies, retail shop owner, single restaurant or cafe owner, taxi owner, garage owner.
- Other such as: retired, this question does not apply to me, I don't know.
- Prefer not to say

Compared to people in general, would you describe yourself as coming from a lower socio-economic background?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Consent

Your answers will be treated confidentially and will be stored securely in accordance with UK law and UK Research and Innovation's [Data protection policy](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/UKRI-31072023-Data-Protection-Policy-v2.4-072023.pdf) [This information will not be used for any purpose other than allocating places on, and analysis of, the MRC Board and Panel Associate Scheme.](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/UKRI-31072023-Data-Protection-Policy-v2.4-072023.pdf)

We'll monitor and evaluate applicants' data at an aggregate level which will help ensure we meet our aims and develop future ways of working. We may:

- share anonymised, aggregated data with our executive leadership team
- share this with other funders or other sector bodies for the purpose of sector research and analysis
- publish anonymised, aggregated data on our website.

Consent

(Required)

Please select only one item

- I consent to the use of the information I've provided in this form for the above purposes

Where did you hear about the board and panel associates scheme?

(Required)

Please select all that apply

- Email from MRC
- MRC website
- MRC newsletter
- Word of mouth
- Professional body
- Research office/organisation
- Social media
- Event or conference
- Other, please state: