

MRC Board and Panel Observers Scheme

Overview

Apply to become an MRC Board or Panel Observer

This scheme gives researchers at the career stage where they are [transitioning to independence](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/skills-and-experience-needed-to-win-support/) the opportunity to apply to observe a Medical Research Council (MRC) board or panel meeting.

As part of the MRC's commitment to the [development of people and skills](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/MRC-200922-MRCStratrgicDeliveryPlan.pdf), we are making changes to our existing board observer scheme. We have expanded the scheme into more of our boards and panels, broadened the eligibility beyond MRC award holders, and will prioritise places for under-represented groups.

Personal details

Thank you for taking the time to apply for the MRC Board and Panel Observers 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 prioritising places on, and analysis of, the MRC Board and Panel Observers Scheme.

Title

(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.

Current employer *(Required)*

Type of Organisation

(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

We welcome applications from researchers who are potential applicants to one of the [MRC funding opportunities](https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/guidance-for-applicants/application-timelines/) (or equivalent schemes from other funders).

To be eligible to apply, you must:

be at the stage in your career where you are [transitioning to independence](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/skills-and-experience-needed-to-win-support/)

be based at an [eligible UK research organisation](https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/guidance-for-applicants/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-funding/1-1-types-of-research-organisations/) (see exception for the Applied Global Health Research Board below)

Eligibility exception for Applied Global Health Research Board

If applying to observe the Applied Global Health Research Board, you need to be based at an eligible UK institution or an eligible organisation in a [low or middle income country \(LMIC\)](#). Applicants from an LMIC organisations need to have worked on an MRC grant within the past five years. Please refer to the relevant grant in your application.

Eligible organisations include:

a research organisation based in an LMIC with degree-awarding powers recognised by the government of the country where the organisation is based

a research-focused organisation based in an LMIC either funded by the government of the country where the organisation is based or by a not-for-profit organisation

a research-focused not-for-profit organisation based in an LMIC with dedicated research capacity

Developmental Pathways Funding Scheme (DPFS) applications

We recognise that DPFS applications can start and finish at any stage on the developmental pathway. This includes stages from early development, through pre-clinical refinement and testing to early-phase clinical studies and trials (up to phase 2a), including research that is highly multi and interdisciplinary.

Therefore, under the observer scheme we welcome applications from all relevant scientific disciplines working in clinical or preclinical translation within the MRC remit.

Eligibility

Are you based at an eligible research organisation? Please refer to the eligibility criteria above.

(Required)

Please select only one item

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

Ineligibility

Ineligibility information

You are **not** eligible to apply if you:

- have already achieved independence as an academic/researcher
- have already established your own research group
- already hold an MRC award as a project lead (previously principal investigator), or comparable award from any organisation
- have previously observed an MRC board through the board observer scheme
- have an application for review by the requested board or panel for example, as project lead, project co-lead, researcher co-lead, staff or project partner

Have you established your own research group or achieved independence?

(Required)

Please select only one item

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

Have you previously been successful in securing funding from MRC as a project lead (previously principal investigator) or equivalent?

(Required)

Please select only one item

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

Have you observed a meeting as part of the previous MRC Board Observer scheme?

(Required)

Please select only one item

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

Do you have an application for review by the requested board or panel as project lead, project co-lead, researcher co-lead, staff or project partner?

(Required)

Please select only one item

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

Career Stage

How would you describe your career stage?

(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
- Intermediate career fellowships
- Tenure track
- Lectureship
- Senior postdoc/ staff scientist
- Research/technology specialist (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Senior career fellowships (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Senior research/technology specialist (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Group leader (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Associate professor (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Principal research fellow (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Professor (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Director (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Other please state:

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)*

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion information

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
- Other
- Prefer not to say

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

UKRI is a Disability Confident employer. We are committed to the recruitment, employment, retention, and career development of Disabled people. Responding to this question provides us with insights so that we can identify and eliminate any barriers, promote accessibility, and advance equality of opportunity for Disabled people in our workforce.

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

Board and Panel opportunities to observe

Attending a Board or Panel Meeting

Which board or panel would you like to observe?

Selecting a board or panel

Please indicate your first and second choice of board or panel you would like to attend. We will do our best to give you your first choice where possible.

<i>(Required)</i>	Option 1	Option 2
Applied global health research board (meeting in May) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Applied global health research board (meeting in November) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better methods, better research panel (meeting in May) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better methods, better research panel (meeting in November) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developmental pathway funding scheme panel (meeting in May) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developmental pathway funding scheme panel (meeting in September) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Experimental medicine panel (meeting in June) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Experimental medicine panel (meeting in December) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infections and immunity board (meeting in June) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infections and immunity board (meeting in October) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Molecular and cellular medicine board (meeting in June) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Molecular and cellular medicine board (meeting in October) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neurosciences and mental health board (meeting in June) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neurosciences and mental health board (meeting in October) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Populations and systems medicine board (meeting in June) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Populations and systems medicine board (meeting in October)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Required)

Option 1

Option 2

Please select only one item

I can only observe my first choice
Please select only one item

Our board and panel meetings can be held virtually, in person or a hybrid of both.

If you are selected to observe an MRC board or panel meeting please indicate how you would be able to attend. Please note we will not always be able to offer your preferred option.

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Virtually (via Zoom)
- In person
- Either of the above (no preference)
- Either of the above (preference to attend virtually)
- Either of the above (preference to attend in person)

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) <<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 prioritising places on, and analysis of, the MRC observer scheme.

We'll monitor and evaluate at an aggregate level applicants, in the scheme 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, and may also share this with other funders or other sector bodies for the purpose of sector research and analysis. We may publish anonymised, aggregated data on our website.

I give consent for the information collected in this form to be used as set out above.

(Required)

Please select only one item

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

How did you hear about this 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: