

# MRC Board and Panel Associates Scheme 2025

## 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 valuable experience of expert review, serve on an MRC funding board or panel and receive mentorship as part of a two-year programme.

It is aimed at researchers from underrepresented groups who have established independence and have recently transitioned or have clear plans to **transition into a leadership role**. <<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/skills-and-experience-needed-to-win-support/>>

## MRC Board and Panel Recruitment – Are you applying?

### 1 Are you planning to, or have you already applied to the current round of recruitment for MRC board and panel members?

Please note that you may apply **either** to be a **board or panel associate** or a **board or panel member**, but **not both**. You can find more information about each opportunity at the following links:

- **Recruitment for MRC boards and panels – UKRI** <<https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/mrc/board-and-panel-membership/mrc-board-and-panel-member-recruitment/>>
- **MRC Board and Panel Associates Scheme – UKRI** <<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/mrc-board-and-panel-associates-scheme/>>

You may be eligible for either scheme, and it's up to you to decide which is the best fit for your experience and interests.

**(Required)**

*Please select only one item*

Yes (you are not eligible to apply)  
 No

## 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.

### 2 Title

**(Required)**

*Please select only one item*

Dr  
 Mr  
 Mrs  
 Ms  
 Mx  
 Professor  
 Other, please state:

### 3 Name

First name **(Required)**

Surname **(Required)**

#### 4 Contact Details

Email Address *(Required)*

Phone number

#### 5 Date of birth

*(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

I wish to disclose  
 Prefer not to say

Day      Month      Year

 -  - 

Organisation

## 6 Organisation Information

### Affiliations with multiple organisations

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

### Career breaks

If you are currently affiliated with an organisation whilst on a career break, please provide its details. If this is not the case, please provide your geographical location under 'Organisation address' and N/A or 'career break' under other relevant fields.

Current employer *(Required)*

Current job title *(Required)*

Type of organisation *(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

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

If other

Organisation address, including postcode *(Required)*

What region are you based? *(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

- East Midlands
- East of England
- London
- North East
- North West
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- South East
- South West
- Wales
- West Midlands
- Yorkshire
- International

Link to your profile on your organisation's website

## 7 Do you have an Open Researcher Contributor ID (ORCID)?

**(Required)**

*Please select only one item*

Yes

No

ORCID reference

### Eligibility

#### Eligibility Criteria

To apply you must:

meet the diversity requirements outlined on the **MRC webpage** <<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/mrc-board-and-panel-associates-scheme/>>

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 a leadership role, as outlined on the **MRC webpage** <<http://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/mrc-board-and-panel-associates-scheme/>>

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

be able to participate in all aspects of the programme, including attending funding board or panel meetings (up to three per year), engaging in training and mentorship, and contributing to the assessment of applications

not already have substantial experience serving on a research funding board or panel

You do not need to hold an MRC award.

## 8 Do you have experience serving on a research board or panel?

**(Required)**

*Please select only one item*

Yes (please provide more details below)

No

## 9 Select your career stage

For more information on MRC's definitions of 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/>> and our **interactive career framework** <<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20190401114243/https://mrc.ukri.org/skills-careers/interactive-career-framework/#/home>> . Please note that only those listed on the website and below are eligible to apply.

**(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)
- Senior research/technology specialist (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Intermediate career fellowships – only if you are nearing the end of your New Investigator Research Grants, Career Development Awards, Clinician Scientist Fellowships, or equivalent
- Tenure track – to be eligible you must be nearing the end of your tenure track position
- Lectureship
- Senior lecturer
- Senior career fellowships
- Group leader – you must have established independent research
- Associate professor
- Professor (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Director (unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply)
- Other please state, including equivalent roles in industry:

If other

## 10 Describe your current role

Include:

- How this fits into the stage 'transitioning to leadership' as described in **skills and experience needed to win support**. <<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/skills-and-experience-needed-to-win-support/>>
- Details of your current responsibilities and professional trajectory

**(Required)**

## 11 Scheme progression

Your tenure as a board or panel associate will begin with observing meetings. With the support of mentorship, training, and guidance from MRC staff and panellists, you will gradually progress to actively contributing to funding meetings.

Once it has been agreed that you are ready to begin contributing to the assessment process, you will be asked the same questions as full 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 in the scheme. However, MRC head office staff will contact you to discuss circumstances before confirming your continuation in the programme.

**(Required)**

*Please select only one item*

I understand I will be asked these questions before beginning to contribute to the assessment of applications as part 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%20and%20our%20diversity%20data.>> 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 lower 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>> 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/>>.

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/>> and **UKRI** <<https://www.ukri.org/our-work/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>> webpages or contact [equalitymrc@ukri.org](mailto: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.

## 12 Sex

What is your legal sex? *(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

If other

## 13 Gender

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

If other

## 14 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

If prefer to self-describe

## 15 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

If other

## 16 Disability

### 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'.

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

## 17 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

If other

## Boards and Panels

### 18 Which Board or Panel would you like to apply to?

You may only apply to one board or panel. Please make sure you are applying to the board/panel most in your remit [www.ukri.org/who-we-are/mrc/who-we-are/what-we-do/](http://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/mrc/who-we-are/what-we-do/) <<http://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/mrc/who-we-are/what-we-do/>>

**(Required)**

Please select only one item

- Developmental Pathways Funding Scheme Panel
- Experimental Medicine Panel
- Infections and Immunity Board
- Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board
- Neurosciences and Mental Health Board
- Population and Systems Medicine Board

### Developmental Pathways Funding Scheme Panel

DPFS is the MRC's primary mechanism for supporting translational research. The DPFS Panel is responsible for supporting academic-led projects to progress fundamental and clinical research findings towards clinical use, wider health application, and commercialisation. DPFS supports a broad spectrum of activities from the development of novel therapies and interventions, devices, and diagnostics through to early-phase clinical studies. Projects are goal-orientated, and milestone monitored with clearly defined outcomes and downstream development plans. For further information please refer to the [remit of the Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/developmental-pathway-funding-scheme-dpfs/) <<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/developmental-pathway-funding-scheme-dpfs/>>

### 19 Give a brief explanation about your expertise and how it fits into the DPFS panel (60 words)

**(Required)**

## Experimental Medicine Panel

MRC's Experimental Medicine Panel provides dedicated support for investigations in humans to further our understanding of human disease pathogenesis and enable the future development of new targeted treatments. We invest in academic-led projects that focus on a mechanistic hypothesis such as probing pathogenic mechanisms, identifying disease sub-groups, confirming tractable disease pathways for targeting, and validating human challenge models. We fund applications in all disease areas and types of interventions. For further information please refer to the [remit of the Experimental Medicine Panel](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/experimental-medicine/) <<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/experimental-medicine/>> .

**20** Give a brief explanation about your expertise and how it fits into the Experimental Medicine panel (60 words)

*(Required)*

## Infections and Immunity Board

IIB is responsible for MRC's investments investigating human infectious diseases and disorders of the human immune system, underpinned by fundamental discovery research into human pathogens and the development and functioning of the human immune system in the context of human disease. The board has particular interests in tissue immunology, immune regulation, solutions for antimicrobial resistance, and understudied, emerging or re-emerging pathogens and funds research both with a focus on the UK and in the global health arena. For further information the please refer to the [remit of the Infections and Immunity Board](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/infections-and-immunity/) <<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/infections-and-immunity/>> .

**21** Give a brief explanation about your expertise and how it fits into the Infections and Immunity Board (60 words)

*(Required)*

## Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board

MCMB is responsible for MRC's investments seeking to understand the molecular and cellular mechanisms that underpin complex biological function in human health and disease and supporting the early translation of knowledge towards new diagnosis and treatment. We have particular interest in the integrated understanding of disease, the link with external exposures and research maximising opportunities at the life-physical science interface. For further information please refer to the [remit of the Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/molecular-and-cellular-medicine/) <<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/molecular-and-cellular-medicine/>> .

**22** Give a brief explanation about your expertise and how it fits into the Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board (60 words)

*(Required)*

## Neurosciences and Mental Health Board

NMHB is responsible for MRC's investments in disorders of the human nervous system. This includes fundamental research into the human nervous system which informs our understanding of the mechanism of disease and supporting early translation of knowledge towards new diagnosis and treatment. We have particular interest in addressing the challenges of mental illness and neurodegenerative diseases as well as exploring what we can learn from the direct study of human brain tissue to gain insight into the function or dysfunction of the human brain. For further information please refer to the **remit of the Neurosciences and Mental Health Board** <<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/neurosciences-and-mental-health/>> .

**23** Give a brief explanation about your expertise and how it fits into the Neurosciences and Mental Health Board (60 words)

*(Required)*

## Population and Systems Medicine Board

The MRC Population and Systems Medicine Board (PSMB) supports mechanistic and applied research related to the physiology and pathophysiology of all the major organs and systems with the exception of the brain and the immune system. Our remit also includes population health and the impact of environmental and other extrinsic factors on health across the life course. For further information on the broad remit of PSMB please see **population and systems medicine - UKRI** <<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/population-and-systems-medicine/>>

**24** Give a brief explanation about your expertise and how it fits into the Populations and Systems Medicine Board (60 words)

*(Required)*

## Expertise

**25** Choose other expertise that you can offer MRC as a board or panel associate

*Please select all that apply*

- Information or computer science, including artificial intelligence
- Data engineering, operations, systems, or infrastructure
- Software or programming
- International collaborative research
- Multi- disciplinary or inter-disciplinary research and methods
- Cross-sector working (for example across business, third sector, academia, policymakers)
- Public engagement and impact
- Methodological development
- Collection or use of data (for example knowledge of permissions required, analysis or linkage of large datasets)
- Working with or managing a large team of individuals with differing seniority and backgrounds
- Capacity-building (for example delivering doctoral training, supporting or mentoring early career researchers)

## 26 Are you clinically qualified?

*(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

Yes  
 No

## 27 Are you clinically active?

*(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

Yes  
 No

Track record

## 28 Have you previously been involved in the assessment of research applications?

Select all that apply

*(Required)*

*Please select all that apply*

For UKRI - I have provided an expert review in the last 12 months  
 For UKRI - I have provided an expert review in the last 3 years  
 For UKRI - I have served on a panel in the last 3 years  
 Other funder - I have provided an expert review in the last 12 months  
 Other funder - I have provided an expert review in the last 3 years  
 Other funder - I have served on a panel in the last 3 years  
 I have no previous involvement in the assessment of applications for research funding

## 29 Have you previously applied for funding?

Select all that apply

*(Required)*

*Please select all that apply*

Yes, from any of the UKRI research councils (AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, STFC, or Innovate UK)  
 Yes, from another UK funder  
 Yes, from an international funder  
 No, I have not applied for funding

If you answered yes, specify the funder

### 30 Have you been awarded a grant?

Select all that apply

**(Required)**

*Please select all that apply*

- Yes, from any of the UKRI research councils (AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, STFC, or Innovate UK)
- Yes, from another UK funder
- Yes, from an international funder
- No, I have not been awarded funding
- No, I have not applied for funding

### Justification for application

### 31 Explain your motivation for applying to be an MRC Board or Panel Associate (approx 250 words)

The scheme aims to nurture diverse talent and support the development and retention of researchers needed for the future research and development workforce. This initiative aligns with the objectives in MRC's **strategic delivery plan** <<https://beta-ukri.msappproxy.net/publications/mrc-strategic-delivery-plan/>> . Applicants should reflect not only on what they hope to gain from participating in the scheme, but also on the value their involvement would bring to the MRC.

**(Required)**

### 32 Time commitment

Please confirm you can commit to attending the full scope of the programme i.e. attending the board or panel meetings, training and participating in the assessment of funding applications over the two-year programme

We anticipate that the average amount of time would be one day per month, rising to two days per month once you begin to contribute to the assessment of applications. Meetings and preparatory work need to take place at specific times across the year.

Research boards currently meet three times a year. Panels meet two or three times a year. Each meeting lasts one to two full days depending on the size of the agenda.

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 available for people with particular requirements such as reasonable adjustments.

*Please select only one item*

- I can confirm I can commit to the full scheme

### 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.

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.

### 33 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

### 34 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: