



UK Research
and Innovation



Non-Executive Board Member

UK Research & Innovation

Candidate pack
January 2026

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Ministerial foreword

Dear Candidate,

I am delighted to invite you to apply for the key position of Non-Executive Board Member on the UKRI Board. This is an exciting opportunity to join the Board, where your expertise and perspective will help shape the future of research and innovation across the United Kingdom.

The UKRI Board plays a central role in guiding the organisation's direction, overseeing a vast array of activities - from the stewardship of national and international science infrastructure, to the allocation of funding for transformative research and innovation programmes in universities and businesses. As a Board Member, you will be instrumental in ensuring that UKRI maintains the highest standards of governance, accountability, and operational efficiency. Your skills and experience will contribute directly to the Board's ability to scrutinise performance, support senior leadership and deliver on government's priorities for the sector.

Beyond its oversight function, the Board is also responsible for championing UKRI's mission to advance knowledge, improve lives and drive growth. Board Members work collectively to anticipate emerging challenges and seize new opportunities, ensuring that UKRI remains agile and responsive in a rapidly evolving landscape.

We welcome applications from outstanding individuals representing a broad spectrum of sectors and backgrounds and from across the UK. The diversity of thought and experience within the Board is vital to UKRI's success, and we look forward to receiving your application and learning how you can help UKRI deliver on its ambitious objectives.

Yours sincerely,

Minister Vallance



About UKRI



UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. UKRI is the largest public funder of research and innovation in the UK, spanning all disciplines and all sectors, investing £9 billion each year on behalf of the UK Government. UKRI inspires and enables talented people to push the boundaries of discovery, support innovative businesses to grow and scale, and target solutions to national and global priorities.

UKRI links together the seven research councils, Innovate UK, and Research England, and works with the funding agencies in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland to deliver an ambitious agenda, drawing on its great depth and breadth of expertise and the enormous diversity of its portfolio.

UKRI maintains and champions the creativity and vibrancy of disciplines and sector-specific priorities and communities. Its councils shape and deliver both sectoral and domain-specific support and work together to ensure a fully joined-up research and innovation investment portfolio.

Whether through research grants, quality-related block grants from Research England, or grants and wider support for innovative businesses from Innovate UK, UKRI works with its stakeholders and partners to understand the opportunities and requirements of all the different parts of the research and innovation landscape, maintaining the health, breadth, and depth of the system.

We fund people and teams in over 140 universities, 60 institutes and 3,600 companies across the UK, supporting a diverse range of research and innovation environments. Our investments in R&D deliver benefits across the whole of the UK.

About the role



UKRI was founded in 2018 with a vision to drive ground-breaking research and innovation throughout the UK, whether in world-class universities, pioneering research institutes, or dynamic businesses and start-ups. By harnessing its combined strength and cross-cutting capabilities, UKRI is a key delivery partner for Government's five missions and eight industrial strategy sectors.

At the heart of UKRI's mission to "advance knowledge, improve lives, drive growth" is its Board, a collective of experts and leaders drawn from business, industry, and academia, each bringing invaluable experience to guide UKRI forwards. The Board is not only a guardian of governance and accountability, but its members work together to set priorities, challenge assumptions, and ensure UKRI remains responsive to the changing needs of the research and innovation landscape and delivers for citizens.

We are seeking to appoint a new Non-Executive Board Member with strong financial credentials and experience. This individual will play a vital role in strengthening the Board's financial expertise both directly in Board meetings and through representation on, and potentially eventual leadership of, the Board's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. As UKRI continues to work to stimulate enterprise growth and foster new ventures across the UK, we are especially keen to attract leaders with diverse and distinguished backgrounds from every region of the UK and beyond. The richness of experience and diversity within our Board is fundamental to UKRI's success and its ability to deliver lasting impact.

Your skills and experience



The UKRI Board is expected to provide clear strategic direction and oversight, promoting the importance of UK research and innovation, and supporting the senior leadership team of the organisation to embed effective ways of working across UKRI. We are seeking to complement the current Board by appointing a new Non-Executive member that can demonstrate the following experiences and attributes.

Essential criteria

- Proven accounting qualifications alongside experience of working in finance and/or risk management with an ability to ensure effective governance and risk management frameworks are in place.
- Knowledge: a clear understanding of the work, priorities and challenges of UKRI and the context within which it operates
- Leadership: the ability to set strategic vision and drive forward UKRI's priorities

One or more of the following would also be welcome:

- Extensive experience engaging with or within the devolved nations, with a strong understanding of their structures, policy frameworks, and operational dynamics.
- Previous experience serving on an Audit Committee, ideally as Chair, with a strong grasp of governance, risk, and assurance functions.
- Track record of leading or overseeing major research and development (R&D) programmes, particularly those with long-term impact.
- Experience collaborating with Government on the development and implementation of science policy, including navigating political and regulatory environments.
- Background in the life sciences, with insight into the sector's challenges, opportunities, and regulatory landscape.

Terms of appointment

Appointment term

An initial period of up to 4 years

Remuneration

£9,180 per annum based on a day rate of £459. Please note, remuneration and expenses are taxable

Time commitment

20 days per annum

Location

Board meetings take place in London and Swindon, and are attended in person. It is also the case that up to three meetings per year will take place in other locations across the UK

Nature of appointment

This is a Public Appointment by the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology. The post holder would be an officeholder and would not be an employee of UKRI

Availability

Successful candidates will be encouraged to take up their appointment as soon as possible, following the successful completion of pre-appointment checks and security clearance at BPSS level

Timescales and selection

The selection process will consist of an interview and presentation. There may also be further fireside discussions that take place as the process evolves.

Interviews will take place in London.

The timeline for this campaign is indicative and therefore subject to change

Process	Date
Advert Closes	Sunday 15 February 2026
Panel Sift	w/c Monday 23 February 2026
Panel Interview	w/c Monday 9 March 2026

Please note, the role holder will be required to have the appropriate level of security screening/vetting required for this role. UKRI reserves the right to run or re-run security clearance as required during the individual's time with the organisation.



How to apply



Your application should be submitted in two parts.

Both parts must be submitted by Sunday 15th February at 23:55 in order for your application to be considered complete. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Part one: CV and statement of suitability

You will need to supply:

- A CV
- a statement of suitability

You should aim for your CV and Statement of Suitability to be no longer than two to three pages each.

Your Statement of Suitability should provide specific information about why you believe you would be suitable for appointment into a UKRI Non-Executive Board Member role and a flavour of what you would want to do in this role, if successful. Think about your knowledge, skills, experience, personal attributes, and vision for the organisation, and take full advantage of the space available. Use practical examples where possible and ensure you refer to the essential criteria for this role. Again, please aim for no more than 2 to 3 A4 pages.

Should you have any problem with submitting your application via the UKRI Careers Site, please do send an email to publicappointments@ukri.org with 'UKRI Non-Executive Board Member" in the subject heading. A member of our team will then be in touch.

Part two

Please also complete a Diversity Monitoring Form as part of your application at this link: <https://apply-for-public-appointment.service.gov.uk/roles/8845>. On following the link, you will be asked to set up an account and provide your equality and outside interests information. Your application will not be considered without this.

Equality, diversity and inclusion



UKRI believes that everyone has a right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be provided with equal opportunities to flourish and succeed within an ethical and trusted working environment that is attractive and accessible to everyone who is interested in developing their career with us.

We are committed to increasing the diversity of our board and executive positions and bringing in talent, regardless of its origins. We encourage applications from all candidates regardless of ethnicity, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or gender identity. We also value diversity of thought and experience and are committed to creating systems that value difference so that everyone can feel welcomed, included and nurtured throughout their time with us.

As a Disability Confident Leader, UKRI will offer interviews to disabled candidates who best meet the published minimum requirements for a job or role. Whether you choose to apply under the Disability Confident scheme or not, you can still ask us to make particular adjustments for you when attending an interview.

We know actions speak louder than words. For further information, please visit the UKRI web page: [How we support EDI in the workforce](#)

Code of conduct

Public Appointments are expected to uphold high standards of conduct, propriety and confidentiality. Anyone appointed will be required to abide by the [UKRI Code of Conduct](#). We value diversity and equality and expect a clear commitment to these principles from all individuals appointed.

It is essential that those in Public Appointments are, and are seen to be, honest and impartial in the exercise of their duties. They will be expected to demonstrate exceptionally high standards of personal honesty and integrity, including in their approach to the acceptance of any gifts or hospitality.



Annex A: conflicts of interest



Holders of public office are expected to adhere to and uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life and the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies. Before you apply you should consider carefully:

- any outside interests that you may have, such as shares you may hold in a company providing services to government;
- any possible reputational issues arising from your past actions or public statements that you have made;
- and/or – any political roles you hold or political campaigns you have supported; which may call into question your ability to do the role you are applying for.

You will need to answer relevant questions in relation to these points when making an application. Many conflicts of interest can be satisfactorily resolved and declaring a potential conflict does not prevent you from being interviewed. If you are shortlisted for an interview, the panel will discuss any potential conflicts with you during that interview, including any proposals you may have to mitigate them and record that in their advice to ministers. Alongside your own declaration, we will conduct appropriate checks, as part of which we will consider anything in the public domain related to your conduct or professional capacity. This may include searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information. The successful candidate(s) may be required to give up any conflicting interests and their other business and financial interests may be published in line with organisational policies.

Details of declared political activity will be published when the appointment is announced, as required by the Governance Code (political activity is not a bar to appointment, but must be declared).

If you have any queries or would like to discuss further, please contact the UKRI Public Appointments team at publicappointments@ukri.org

Annex B: the seven principles underpinning public life

In 1995 the Committee on Standards in Public Life defined seven principles for public life. All candidates for are expected to demonstrate a commitment to, and an understanding of, the value and importance of the principles of public service which are:

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

Further information on the principles of public life can be found [here](#).



Annex C: complaints procedure



If you feel you have reason to complain you should direct your concerns in the first instance to the DSIT Public Appointments team (publicappointments@beis.gov.uk) who will make every effort to deal with these and respond to you within 48 hours.

If your complaint is not dealt with satisfactorily, you can find information about the steps you can take under DSIT Complaints Procedure.

The Commissioner for Public Appointments is the independent regulator of public appointments.

The Commissioner's primary role is to provide independent assurance that public appointments are made in accordance with the Governance Code on Public Appointments. The Commissioner also investigates complaints and may conduct an inquiry into the policies and practices followed in relation to appointments processes which he regulates. The Commissioner will not investigate complaints relating to non-selection unless it appears that the appointments process has breached the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

You can contact the Commissioner by email at publicappointments@csc.gov.uk or by post, as follows:

The Commissioner for Public Appointments
Room G/8, 1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

Further information on the role of the Commissioner or the appointments process is available at: publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk