



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

ROLE AND PERSON SPECIFICATION FOR AHRC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES IN 2017

The Organisation

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) is an executive non-departmental public body, incorporated by Royal Charter.

The AHRC is a distinctive organisation globally. No other major research power has a Council dedicated solely to the arts and humanities. The AHRC takes pride in its contribution to the UK's research achievements in the disciplines it represents, as well as the leading role it has played in promoting postgraduate study; supporting interdisciplinary work and large-scale research projects; widening and deepening public engagement; and developing partnerships with world-leading academic and non-academic organisations. The AHRC has also more recently developed leadership in research initiatives in areas such as digital humanities, the creative economy, intellectual property, and copyright. Its aim is always to support fresh perspectives on the way we understand the world around us.

The AHRC supports an extensive range of research and postgraduate study in Higher Education Institutions and Independent Research Organisations. It aims to sustain world-leading research in the arts and humanities through both established means of grants and fellowships and through new initiatives. It contributes to the development of the UK's outstanding research across around 50 disciplines. The quality and diversity of research we fund make a significant contribution to the social, cultural and economic well-being of the UK.

The AHRC plays a fundamental role in facilitating arts and humanities researchers' engagement with partners in the public, private and third sectors. Partnerships and collaborations with organisations outside of the HEI sector are key to the AHRC's strategic development.

There is enormous mutual benefit to be gained from the interactions between arts and humanities researchers and those working in the creative and cultural sectors in the UK and further afield. As research is a key driver for growth in the creative economy, the AHRC is looking to enhance opportunities for dynamic initiatives to exploit the knowledge and expertise offered by arts and humanities research, thereby forging fresh, challenging and inspiring relationships with new and diverse audiences and agencies.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council's vision and aims are:

Vision

To be a recognised world leader in advancing arts and humanities research.

Mission

1. To promote and support the production of world-class research in the arts and humanities.
2. To promote and support world-class postgraduate training designed to equip graduates for research or other professional careers.
3. To strengthen the impact of arts and humanities research by encouraging researchers to disseminate their work and engage in knowledge exchange activities across a broad range of sectors.
4. To raise the profile of arts and humanities research and to be an effective advocate for its social, cultural and economic significance.

Further information on the AHRC is available from www.ahrc.ac.uk.



The Role of the Members

The role of the Advisory Board is to advise Council on the development of strategies that reflect AHRC's Charter and the challenges facing arts and humanities research. The Board aims to develop and recommend priorities, programmes and schemes that will deliver the AHRC's strategies and monitor and report on their progress. The Board advises Council on the health of the arts and humanities research base and acts as a quality assurance body to oversee the procedures regulating peer review. The Board provides reports and recommendations to Council and all final decisions about strategy and future direction are taken by Council.

The Advisory Board is chaired by a member of Council and includes at least one other Council member. The Board consists of no more than 15 members, to be approved by Council. Meetings will take place four times per year in London or Swindon. Advisory Board members are also expected to contribute to related business through joining working groups or attending AHRC meetings. Members are expected to contribute around 10 days per year to AHRC business, including attending AHRC events and acting as an advocate for the AHRC and for the value of arts and humanities research. Members receive an annual honorarium of £2,000 and travel and accommodation costs are also reimbursed. Appointment is for a three year term.

While the Advisory Board will primarily include academic members, there will also be appropriate representation of non-HEI user communities. Members of the Advisory Board sit on the board as individuals, rather than as representatives of a particular organisation or discipline.

Advisory Board members are expected to be active advocates for the AHRC and be willing to engage with, champion and lead on AHRC projects and activities as and when required.

Members must at all times observe the highest standards of probity, impartiality, integrity and objectivity and are expected to observe The Seven Principles of Public Life, see Annex A.



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General Issues

It is essential that candidates should be able to commit the necessary time and attention to the role, and have the full support of their employing organisation in doing so.

Candidates should be aware that the Advisory Board must avoid conflicts of interest in its work and therefore individuals with significant funding responsibilities in related fields of public research are not eligible to apply. Advisory Board members are required to declare any private, professional or commercial interests that might conflict with the interests of the AHRC or which might be perceived by others as creating a conflict of interest.

Candidates are asked to declare any on-going investigations of alleged research misconduct against them, or any proven cases in the past, including the relevant dates (it is not necessary to include cases where allegations were not proven).

Enquiries about the appointment process including matters relating to conflicts of interest should be directed to Rose Easton at the Arts and Humanities Research Council on tel: 01793 41 6014, email: r.easton@ahrc.ac.uk.



The Seven Principles of Public Life

The Committee on Standards in Public Life set out seven principles that apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in the civil service, local government, the police, courts and probation services, NDPBs, and in the health, education, social and care services. All public office-holders are both servants of the public and stewards of public resources. The principles also have application to all those in other sectors delivering public services.

Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.