

Tips to write a good SAT application

The selection process for the SAT consists of an internal assessment of application forms submitted through our website. The selection criteria includes the ability to take a strategic overview relevant to the theme, both nationally and internationally; a willingness to challenge EPSRC policies in a constructive way; an appreciation of ethical issues and the need for responsible innovation; and the commitment to devote sufficient time to the role.

- 1 DO answer all parts of the question.**
Each question may have several components – please make sure all are answered.
- 2 DO provide evidence.**
To ensure we can assess your accomplishments, please provide examples to demonstrate how you meet the criteria.
- 3 DON'T cut and paste from your CV/website/biography or refer us to your published works.**
We will only be using the application form to make our decision. The STAR technique – giving the situation, task, action and result for an activity – is one way to ensure we have the evidence needed.
- 4 DO understand what the role entails.**
This leaflet should have provided an overview of what's expected from a SAT member and who should consider applying. Please bear in mind that SAT members are separate from the peer review process. However...
- 5 DO get in touch if you have any questions not answered here!**
Contact us at EPSRCSATNominations@epsrc.ac.uk, or visit our website: www.epsrc.ac.uk/about/governance/sats/

So you want to be a SAT member?

What does a SAT member do?

Strategic Advisory Teams (SAT) advise EPSRC themes on research and training strategy across different areas of our remit. As a SAT member, you will be expected to meet up to three times a year and, in between, advocate on behalf of EPSRC on any policies or specific issues that may arise. The SAT acts as a sounding board for themes to inform new ideas, provide advice on key issues and offer a direct link to the research community.

SAT members are selected from academia, industry and other stakeholders and are separate from the peer review process. SAT members are not recruited to advise on a specific research area, rather, we recruit SAT members who are able to take a strategic overview of the theme so that the SAT as a whole has a greater sphere of influence. EPSRC ask for nominations annually to ensure that we have a diverse and representative source of advice. The process begins with an open call for nominations on the EPSRC website.



"A SAT member is an individual who, whilst a specialist in one area, is able to see beyond that specialism and act as an independent contributor to the work of the EPSRC. A SAT member listens to the work of EPSRC and then offers challenges or insights to the process of the work. The SAT member often looks at the recommendations of EPSRC or the strategies of EPSRC and asks questions

such as: how have you arrived at this recommendation? Have you been universal in your application of approach, so that the outcomes and recommendations have been arrived at through research, analysis and evidence gathering? A SAT member needs to be open to broader consensus across strategic thinking for EPSRC.

The SAT member must recognise that they can offer insight and advice to EPSRC but EPSRC is not obliged to take action on the advice, for example, there may be other factors at play when EPSRC makes a decision that seems at odds to the insight offered.

My own experience of the SAT is only positive. It is a meeting where I feel heard, where there is a lot of listening, where there is a commitment from its members to do the right thing, to be measured and to provide EPSRC with the assistance it needs."

Dr. Ruth Mallors-Ray

Current Chair of the Engineering SAT

Alicia Kim, Engineering SAT member

What value have you gained from being a SAT member?

I enjoy contributing to the SAT and getting to know and work with EPSRC.

Being a SAT member has increased my visibility to the engineering and scientific research communities outside my own research area. It has given me opportunities to meet other SAT members whom I'm unlikely to meet in my usual circumstances and I believe meeting and learning others' perspectives broaden my horizons.



I enjoy engaging with EPSRC at this level and having a voice to influence the decision making. I believe it is an important role of a technical expert to provide the latest state of the art information to influence EPSRC and subsequently the government and society.

David Hogg, former Chair of the ICT SAT

In which exciting activities/key EPSRC strategies have you been involved?



The review of potential EU Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) Flagship projects was particularly interesting, and perhaps even exciting! It gave me a good insight into the way in which the research councils work in collaboration with the EU Commission over research funding. The way in which the SAT helps to give advice regarding the shape of the EPSRC portfolio in the context of research potential and national priorities has been both informative and reassuring.