

EPSRC is looking for new members for our Strategic Advisory Network

EPSRC is seeking applications from respected industrialists, academics and from individuals working in the third sector and government organisations to join our Strategic Advisory Network.

We are moving towards a new delivery plan, which will include further thinking about how we deploy our three strategies (Balancing Capability, Building Leadership and Accelerating Impact) to achieve our vision for the UK to be the best place in the world to research, discover and innovate.

In a world where EPSRC is being pressed to achieve more with less, and where the Research Councils are working closer together, the input from our advisory network will be crucial.

The Strategic Advisory Network provides the EPSRC Executive with strategic advice to develop and implement plans, and to make appropriate recommendations to EPSRC Council. The Network is a flexible resource, enabling the Executive to obtain the advice we need in a timely manner, drawing on a range of perspectives from across EPSRC's key stakeholder groups including academia, business, third sector and Government.

We are looking to recruit around 10 new members in this exercise. Through this exercise, we have a particular aspiration to improve the diversity of the Network.

Role and person specification

Members are drawn from the breadth of EPSRC's stakeholder group. They are expected to bring a broad strategic view to bear and to act as 'generous generalists', advising our portfolio. Members are **not** required to act as representatives of their own organisation, research area or sector, but are expected to adhere to the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#).

The specific requirements sought are:

Essential

- A first class record in conducting and leading internationally respected research either in an academic or in a research intensive commercial/industrial environment or an understanding of the processes and pressures of delivering world class research activities, or the commercialisation of such research;
- Credibility in the research community, in either academia or the user base;
- Previous record of working with EPSRC, other research councils or similar organisations to provide advice in either a strategic or peer review capacity.

Other

- An interest in engineering and/or the physical sciences;
- An understanding of the policy environment in which UK scientific research is funded and managed, for example within the academic or business sectors and/or public sectors;
- An ability to reflect the perspective of EPSRC's stakeholder groups;
- A willingness to act as an advocate for EPSRC and its activities;
- An ability to work flexibly and adapt to different ways of working;
- Willingness to help with two-way communication between EPSRC and the research community;
- Willingness to devote sufficient time to the role, given appropriate flexibility of arrangements;
- An interest in or experience of engagement with the public on scientific issues;
- An appreciation of ethical issues and the need for [responsible innovation](#) in the conduct of research.

Operation

Appointments will generally be for three years initially, with the possibility of extension. All appointments will begin with effect from 1 June 2016.

Members are paid a fee for each activity they are involved with and, when attending physical meetings, are reimbursed for [travel and subsistence](#) expenses.

An annual meeting of the whole Network is convened in the autumn (the next meeting is scheduled for 1 November 2016), however the Network is most often deployed in sub-sets, brought together to address specific questions and/or to explore and test new strategies and policies as they are developed.

The size of each sub-set varies according to need, but groups of around six members are typical. The sub-sets bring together a range of perspectives from across the representative stakeholder groupings. However, the Executive will select each sub-set membership as appropriate to the topic or issue in question. In some cases the Executive will bring in additional external expertise where it is not available from within the current Network membership. It is expected that SAN members will need to commit between 2 and 8 days to SAN work per year.

The [terms of reference](#) of the SAN are published on the EPSRC website.

My experience on the SAN by Professor Rachel Cooper, OBE, Distinguished Professor: Design Management and Policy

Being a member of EPSRC SAN is most rewarding, working alongside esteemed academic and industry colleagues, I have been able to discuss, debate and influence decision-making with regard to science policy and investment. EPSRC SAN members are engaged in critical debates on the future of science research, on the importance of both core science and inter-disciplinary research needed to solve global challenges and on specific issues of strategy and policy. For instance I have been able to contribute specifically to a number of work-streams; on Strategic Opportunities, on CDT Priorities, and PhD impact; all these topics significantly influence the way in which academics and industry gain from investment in science. Membership of the SAN is fascinating, the ideas developed and the insights generated offer conduits to the future, they result in strategies that support creative research that targets critical and global concerns, they often push the boundaries of conventional disciplines and help to create new ones. It is important work undertaken in an effective and efficient manner, resulting in tangible outcomes that have an impact on university researchers, industry, the economy and society.

Diversity

We are committed to a policy of equal opportunities. Appointments to the Strategic Advisory Network are made on merit. However, we are keen to obtain greater diversity in its membership. Applications from women, those with a disability and members of minority ethnic groups, who are currently under-represented on the Network, are therefore especially welcome.

We would particularly hope to improve the gender balance of the Network in keeping with EPSRC's overall goal of achieving at least 40% participation of women (as the underrepresented group) in EPSRC strategic bodies, from the current level of 30%, as a consequence of this exercise and will use increasing diversity as one of our selection criteria.

We also have an aspiration to grow the "user" (commercial/industrial/charity/government) element of the Network from the current level of 30% to 40%.

Nomination process

Nominations for the SAN should be made through the form on the EPSRC website (<https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/sanrecruitment2016/>), **before 16:00 on 07 March 2016.**

You can self-nominate or be nominated by another person. In cases where nominations are being made on behalf of someone else, that person must be

aware of and agree to the nomination. When nominating another person, the details of the nominator will be required.

In both cases the following information is needed:

- **Nominee details:** Basic information and contact details for the nominee, including title, name, current position, organisation, telephone numbers and email address.
- **Personal qualities and experience:** Free text to support why you or the person you are nominating would be suitable as a member of the SAN, including:
 - Evidence of the skills and experience the nominee would bring to the role and how they meet the essential criteria for SAN members [500 words];
 - Description of the personal motivation, attributes, competencies and other experience the nominee has to reassure EPSRC that they would be a suitable SAN member [500 words].
- **Current Curriculum Vitae:** A CV (no longer than two A4 pages) containing details of the nominee's professional qualifications, research, work experience and/or other relevant experience. The CV will need to be uploaded as a PDF file. The maximum file upload size is 10MB.
- **Diversity information:** EPSRC operates a policy of equality and fair treatment. We aim to ensure that all applications are treated fairly, regardless of gender, age, ethnic origin or disability. Individuals are asked to supply equal opportunities information which is not seen by the Selection Committee. This should only be completed by the nominee.

The closing date for applications is **16:00 on 07 March 2016**. We anticipate a large response so we will expect applicants to strictly adhere to the text limitations set out in the nomination form. If it is considered necessary we will approach candidates for further information and/or clarification.

Selection process

The selection process will consist of two steps:

Step 1 - A list of recommended candidates will be developed by the Executive by sifting through the applications. The list will be based on the following considerations:

- At the Level of the Individual
 - Match to the essential criteria in the person specification, based on the evidence provided;
- At the Level of the Overall SAN
 - Ensuring diversity of membership;

- Securing a spread of expertise across the SAN;
- Achieving an appropriate distribution of membership from academia, industry and other stakeholders, including interfaces to other areas where needed;
- Managing membership on a rolling basis in a way that balances continuity of advice with new perspectives, and in keeping with the expectation that yearly turnover will be up to a third;

Step 2 - A sub-committee of Council, the [Appointments Assurance Committee](#), will be asked to check that the appropriate processes have been followed by the Executive prior to appointment of SAN members, and that selection criteria have been appropriately applied.

The outcomes of the selection process will be announced following step 2, before the end of May 2016.

Contact

If you require further information on the vacancies or the work of the SAN, please contact:

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