

ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCIL (EPSRC)

ROLE AND PERSON SPECIFICATION FOR MEMBER VACANCIES IN 2009

The Council

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council is a corporate body with executive responsibilities established under the Science and Technology Act 1965 and by Royal Charter. It is a non-departmental public body principally funded through the Science Budget by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) via the Science and Innovation Group (S&IG).

The Council's mission is:

- to promote and support, by any means, high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related postgraduate training in engineering and the physical sciences;
- to advance knowledge and technology and provide trained engineers and scientists, which meet the needs of users and beneficiaries, thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom and the quality of life;
- to generate public awareness, communicate research outcomes, encourage public engagement and dialogue, disseminate knowledge and provide advice in the field of engineering and the physical sciences.

Further information on the Council is available from www.epsrc.ac.uk.

The Role of the Members

Council members have corporate responsibility for all the Council's actions and those of the organisation's staff. The Chair, members of Council and the Chief Executive are appointed by the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills who sets broad guidelines within which Council members are expected to work.

Council should decide on all issues of major importance, including issues of corporate strategy, key strategic objectives and targets, major decisions involving the use of financial and other resources and personnel issues, including key appointments. Day-to-day responsibilities are delegated to the Chief Executive. Council is accountable to the Government, Parliament, users of services, individual citizens and staff of the organisation; for the activities of the Research Council, its stewardship of public funds and the extent to which key performance targets and objectives have been met.

Council members are drawn from the academic and user communities served by the Council. They should be able to reflect and express authoritatively the perspective and views of their research or user community, while contributing corporately to the Council's successful pursuit of its mission. They must at all times observe the highest standards of impartiality, integrity and objectivity in relation to the stewardship of public funds and management of the organisation; and ensure that high standards of corporate governance are observed at all times.

The Current Vacancies

REF EP1 – USER VACANCIES

The Secretary of State is seeking to appoint two new members of the Council from the business/commercial sector. Applications are sought from senior industrialists. We would particularly welcome applications from those with a background in the following: 'third' sector (eg. charities, the voluntary sector, not for profit organisations and NGOs), aerospace, power, chemical/pharmaceuticals, financial services or creative industries.

Requirements for the user vacancies

Essential

- Senior board level experience
- An understanding of the role of research in industry or commerce, and the relationship between the outcomes of public research and their take-up with business
- Commitment to EPSRC's mission and willingness to act corporately
- Proven ability to exercise judgement across a broad spectrum of policy and research issues
- Robust leadership skills, confident and well informed in discussion and debate, and willing to tackle difficult issues with energy and diplomacy and to work with the Council in reaching decisions
- Ability to work effectively within the public sector's requirements for accountability and openness, and within financial constraints

Highly desirable

- Knowledge or strong personal interest in some areas of the EPSRC's work.

REF EP2 – ACADEMIC VACANCY

The Secretary of State is seeking to appoint one new member of the Council from the academic community. Applications are sought from outstanding mathematicians at professorial level or equivalent.

Requirements for the academic vacancy

Essential

- A first class record in conducting and leading internationally respected research and extensive senior management experience in a university environment
- Commitment to EPSRC's mission and willingness to act corporately
- Proven ability to exercise judgement across a broad spectrum of policy and research issues
- Robust leadership skills, confident and well informed in discussion and debate, and willing to tackle difficult issues with energy and diplomacy and to work with the Council in reaching decisions
- Ability to work effectively within the public sector's requirements for accountability and openness, and within financial constraints

Highly desirable

- Knowledge of, and strong personal interest in, the breadth of EPSRC's science areas

General

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

The vacancies have a start date of 1 April 2009 and appointment is for up to four years with the possibility of re-appointment.

These are part-time appointments for which an honorarium of £6,740 per year is paid. Travel and subsistence expenses to meetings will be reimbursed. The total time commitment for members would not exceed 20 days per year.

The Council meets 5 times per year and Council members will also contribute according to their experience and abilities through membership of Council Advisory Committees.

Appointments to the Council are made on merit and with independent assessment, taking account of the need to balance the Council in terms of institutional and geographical experience. Applications from women, disabled people and members of minority ethnic groups who are able to satisfy the person specifications above are particularly welcome.

Potential candidates should be aware that the Council 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. Applicants are asked to declare any potential conflicts on the application form and to note that all members of Council are required to declare any private, professional or commercial interests that might conflict with the interests of the Council, or which might be perceived by others as creating a conflict of interest.

Interviews will be held on January/February 2009 in London. All reasonable expenses incurred in connection with attending an interview will be paid.

Further information and application forms are available on the web site:

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/dius/science/research-councils/public-appointments/council-members/page15706.html>

Enquiries about the process should be directed to Charles Langley 020 3300 8728 at the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Charles.langley@dius.gsi.gov.uk

Enquiries about the person specification should be directed to Andrea Bertram on 01793 444026 at EPSRC. Andrea.bertram@epsrc.ac.uk