Chair of Grants Assessment Panel Appointment 2021

ESRC is inviting applications from academics suitably experienced in the relevant social sciences to the role of Chair for one of its Grant Assessment Panels (GAPs):

- Grant Assessment Panel D

About ESRC

ESRC is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), an organisation that brings together the UK’s seven research councils, Innovate UK and Research England to maximise the contribution of each council and create the best environment for research and innovation to flourish. The vision is to ensure the UK maintains its world-leading position in research and innovation. UK Research and Innovation is a non-departmental public body funded by a grant-in-aid from the UK government.

We are the UK’s largest organisation for funding research on economic and social issues. We support independent, high quality research which has an impact on business, the public sector and civil society. ESRC’s total budget for 2020-21 was around £250 million. At any one time ESRC supports over 4,000 researchers and postgraduate students in academic institutions and independent research organisations.

About the Panels

Our Grant Assessment Panels (GAPs) assess proposals for three key responsive mode schemes: Research Grants, New Investigator Grants and the Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (SDAI).

There are currently three Panels (Panels A-C) organised around a cluster of disciplines with a fourth panel (Panel D) that considers proposals submitted to the Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (SDAI). Between them the Panels cover the whole of ESRC’s disciplinary remit. Please see disciplines covered by each Panel here: Responsive mode grant assessment process - Economic and Social Research Council (ukri.org)

GAPs consist of a predominantly academic membership which is drawn from all areas of the social sciences, representing a broad range of expertise, skills and approaches. However, in addition to academic members GAPs also include experienced people from across the, public, business and civil society sectors to help ensure ESRC funds high quality research with academic, economic and societal impact.

GAPs also have an opportunity to feed into and learn about ESRC policy development.
The ESRC Grants Delivery Group (GDG) considers the funding recommendations from the GAPs on behalf of the ESRC Council and makes the final funding decisions, subject to available budget. The GDG is chaired by an ESRC Council member. Its other members include the chairs of each of the four GAPs.

**GAP Chair Vacancy**

There is one GAP Chair vacancy:

- **Panel D**

GAP D that considers proposals submitted to the Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (SDAI), covering all ESRC disciplines

**Role of GAP Chair**

The Chair does not formally assess applications but has a crucial role in assimilating and summarising the views of Panel members and agreeing an overall score for each application under consideration. They are also a member of the separate Grants Delivery Group which then agrees which of the highest scored applications considered across the Panels are funded.

Applications for the GAP Chair vacancy are welcome from social science academics. Expertise in one of the disciplines covered by the GAP Chair vacancy being applied for is desirable, but not essential. Applicants are expected to provide demonstrable evidence of their ability to Chair major multi-disciplinary funding panels.

Panel Chairs are paid an attendance fee per meeting to recognise their contribution. Travel and subsistence expenses will also be reimbursed.

**Person Requirements and Eligibility**

Appointments to Grant Assessment Panels are made on merit. All applicants must be able to satisfy the person specification. Applications are welcomed irrespective of age, disability, sex, gender identity, race, religion or sexual orientation and ESRC will seek to ensure that the membership of its panels demonstrates a suitable balance wherever possible.

Applications are welcome from academics that can demonstrate:

- a proven ability to chair major multi-disciplinary funding panels;
- a strong research track record in their field;
- longstanding experience of peer review;
- knowledge and experience of working across disciplinary boundaries;
- an appreciation of international collaborative research and agendas;
- an understanding of knowledge exchange and research impact;
- an appreciation of the value and use of different methodological approaches.
Note: All applicants are expected to have previously been involved in some form of peer review for UKRI.

**Time Commitment**

It is essential that applicants should be able to commit the required time and attention to the role, and should have secured Head of Department approval before applying.

Applicants should take into account that a minimum of 15 days per year will be required for the role of GAP Chair. This includes attending three GAP and three GDG meetings per year, plus additional time for briefing meetings and preparation for meetings.

The dates of the 2021/22 GAP meetings are Thursday 4th November 2021 and Thursday 17th March 2022. Further dates will be confirmed. Meetings are normally held in Swindon.

Appointments will run from 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2023. A further one to two years term may be served by mutual agreement.

**Conflicts of Interest**

Once appointed, all members of our GAPs are required to declare any private, professional or commercial interests that might conflict with the interests of the ESRC, or which might be perceived by others as creating a conflict of interest.

**How to apply**

Applications should be submitted using the online form no later than 17.00 on 7th May 2021. Note that this form is also used for ordinary membership of GAPs, so please make sure you select the correct vacancy you are applying for (Chair of GAP D) and ensure that the key skills criteria outlined above are fully addressed in your submission. A short curriculum vitae (no longer than 2 A4 pages) should also be included. Paper applications will not be accepted. All applicants will receive acknowledgement of their submission.

Applications will be shortlisted internally by a panel of senior officers.

Interviews with shortlisted candidates will be held on Tuesday 8th June 2020 via Zoom. Final decisions will be made in conjunction with the GDG.

The successful applicant will also be asked to attend and observe the next meeting of the Grant Assessment Panels on 1st/2nd July and the Grants Delivery Group on 20th July (both meetings via Zoom). They will also be expected to be available for an induction session on the 9th September 2021 in Swindon or via Zoom.

**Application and process queries**

For further information on the appointments process or what the role entails, please contact:

Email: grants@esrc.ukri.org
APPENDIX I

Membership of the ESRC Grant Assessment Panels

Panel A

Professor Thomas Ormerod (Chair)
Two Academic Vacancies
One User Vacancy
Professor Louise Waite (Vice Chair)
Professor Thom Baguley
Professor Stefan Bouzarovski
Professor Mitchell Callan
Dr Siobhan Campbell
Dr Heather Flowe
Professor Rachel Franklin
Professor Gareth Gaskell
Dr Jessica Horst
Professor Ade Kearns
Dr Paul Litchfield
Professor Martin Pickering
Professor Anna Whittaker
University of Sussex
Nottingham Trent University
University of Manchester
University of Bath
Non-academic member
University of Birmingham
Newcastle University
University of York
University of Sussex
University of Glasgow
Non-academic member
University of Edinburgh
University of Stirling

Panel B

Professor Svenja Adolphs (Chair)
Four Academic Vacancies
One User Vacancy
Professor Paul Baker
Dr Tommaso Ciarli
Ms Anita Dockley
Professor John Downey
Mr James Fletcher
Professor Jacqui Gabb
Professor Trevor Gale
Dr Derek Kirton
Professor John Morison
Dr Beng Huat See
Professor Dale Southerton
Lancaster University
University of Sussex
Non-academic member
Loughborough University
Non-academic member
Open University
University of Glasgow
University of Kent
Queen’s University, Belfast
Durham University
University of Bristol
Panel C

Professor Kevin Schurer (Chair)  University of Leicester
Two Academic Vacancies
One User Vacancy
Professor Athina Vlachantoni (Vice Chair) University of Southampton
Professor Clare Anderson University of Leicester
Professor David Abbott University of Bristol
Dr Pardip Bans Non-academic member
Professor Sarah Bracking Kings College, University of London
Professor Michael Bruter London School of Economics & Political Science
Dr Anna Dickson Non-academic member
Dr Peggy Froerer Brunel University
Professor Oliver James University of Exeter
Professor Melanie Jones Cardiff University
Professor Paul Mizen University of Nottingham
Professor Sabina Siebert University of Glasgow
Professor Stefan Wolff University of Birmingham

Panel D

Vacancy (Chair)
Professor Mark Hamer (Vice Chair) University College London
Professor Susan Harkness University of Bristol
Dr Ellen Flint Non-academic member
Dr Kahryn Hughes University of Leeds
Professor Simonetta Longhi University of Reading
Dame Jil Matheson Non-academic member
Professor Rosie Meek Royal Holloway, University of London
Professor Paul Montgomery University of Birmingham
Mr Giles Pavey Non-academic member
Professor Jamie Pearce University of Edinburgh
Dr Darja Reuschke University of Southampton
Dr Nadia Siddiqui Durham University