

Grants Assessment Panel User Member Appointments 2019



ESRC is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), a new 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. For more information visit the UK Research and Innovation website. 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 2017-18 was around £202 million. At any one time ESRC supports over 4,000 researchers and postgraduate students in academic institutions and independent research institutes.

The ESRC Grant Assessment Panels (GAPs) assess applications for ESRC's Research Grants and New Investigators open calls. There are currently three Panels organised around a cluster of disciplines with a fourth panel that considers proposals submitted to the Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (SDAI). Between them the Panels cover the whole of ESRC's disciplinary remit. Details of the current structure and membership of the Panels can be found on the [ESRC website](#).

Membership of a GAP is an opportunity to work with other experienced people from across the academic, public, private and third sectors to help ensure ESRC funds excellent research with high academic, economic and societal impact. Panel members gain an awareness of cutting edge research and emerging research fields through their work on the GAPs. Members will 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 a Council member. Its other members include the Chairs of each of the GAPs.

Vacancies

ESRC is now inviting applications from suitably experienced persons to act as 'user' members of the GAPs spanning the public, private and third sectors. Users are non-academic members of the panels who represent the fields of policy and practice. Each panel has three user members. We have the following vacancies in this recruitment round.

Panel A: 1 Vacancy

Panel A covers Demography, Environmental Planning, Human Geography, Psychology, Statistics and Methods.

Essential: should have broad expertise in how research from these disciplines can inform policy and practice.

Desirable: based in a public sector organisation; expertise in health, public health or social care.

Panel B: 1 Vacancy

Panel B covers the disciplines of Education, Linguistics, Social Work, Science and Technology Studies, Socio-Legal Studies and Sociology.

Essential: should have broad expertise in how research from these disciplines can inform policy and practice.

Desirable: based in a third sector organisation; expertise in social work, social policy, health or social care.

Panel C: 1 Vacancy

Panel C covers the disciplines of Area and Development Studies, Economic and Social History, Economics, Management and Business Studies, Political Science and International Relations, Social Anthropology and Social Policy.

Essential: should have broad expertise in how research from these disciplines can inform policy and practice.

Desirable: based in a private sector organisation; expertise in economics and/or management and business studies.

Panel D: 2 Vacancies

Panel D assesses applications to the Secondary Data Analysis Initiative across the full ESRC remit.

Vacancy 1

Essential: should have broad expertise in how social science research can inform policy and practice, and an appreciation for data and data infrastructures for research.

Desirable: based in a public sector organisation; expertise in one or more of the following areas: health, education, employment and welfare, social policy, environment, planning, housing, inequalities.

Vacancy 2

Essential: should have broad expertise in how social science research can inform policy and practice, and an appreciation for data and data infrastructures for research.

Desirable: based in a third sector organisation or social enterprise; expertise in one or more of the following areas: health, education, employment and welfare, ageing, social policy, housing, inequalities.

User views are critical within ESRC's decision-making processes. The Research Grants and New Investigator schemes are highly competitive and the potential for impact beyond academia is of particular importance in identifying which proposals are funded. User members of the GAPs are expected to read and comment on an average of 30 research proposals per annum and to meet three times a year (in March, July and November) to make funding recommendations. User members are not required to provide written assessments but are expected to read a number of proposals for each meeting paying

particular attention to the relevance, timeliness and utility of the research for policy-makers and practitioners. They will be expected to assess the appropriateness and quality of the Pathways to Impact attachment, communications plan and knowledge exchange strategy in the context of the full proposal.

Meetings may be held in Swindon and London.

Appointments will run from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2021. A further one to two years term may be served by mutual agreement.

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 sex, age, colour, ethnic origin, religion, disability or sexual orientation. ESRC will also seek to ensure that the membership of its panels demonstrates a suitable balance of gender and regional spread.

Essential Skills and Experience

- An appreciation for research and research-related issues and the ways in which excellent research can inform policy and practice, and the ability to exercise sound judgement on these issues
- An understanding of knowledge exchange activities and user engagement;
- An in-depth understanding of the sector in which they operate
- Effective evaluation skills;
- Excellent verbal communication skills
- An understanding of how to operate within senior levels of their field;
- An accountable and open working style.

Desirable Skills and Experience

- A research background or knowledge exchange background;
- Strong personal experience of ESRC's work
- Experience of peer review
- Experience of using research findings to inform policy and/or practice
- Experience and interest in qualitative and/or quantitative data resources.

Time Commitment

It is essential that applicants should be able to commit the required time and attention to the role, and should have the full support of their employing organisation.

GAP members are expected to commit around three working days per year to panel business, in addition to attending GAP meetings (three one-day meetings per year/one two-day meeting every other year).

Successful applicants will be expected to be available for an induction session on the **5 September 2019 in Swindon**.

The dates of the 2019/20 GAP meetings are Thursday 14 November 2019, Thursday 19 March 2020, Wednesday and Thursday 1/2 July 2020 and Thursday 12 November 2020.

Conflicts of Interest

Applicants are asked to declare any potential conflicts of interest on the application form, and 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.

Payment

There is normally an annual honorarium of £800 per annum paid to members to reflect the expected time commitment and workload.

Please note that honoraria and fees are not payable to members who are:

- Civil Servants
- Full time employees of organisations whose funds are derived from Votes of Parliament (eg Government Departments, UKAEA, BBC, other Research Councils)

Retired Civil Servants, and Local Authority employees are eligible to receive Honoraria and/or fees.

Members will be refunded all reasonable expenses incurred in connection with ESRC business. Further information and guidance for members of ESRC's Council, committees, networks and panels are available on [ESRC website](#).

Appointment process

The application for panel appointments can be accessed from our web site. A short curriculum vitae (no longer than two A4 pages) should also be included.

The closing date for online applications is **17:00 on Friday 10 May 2019**. Paper copies will not be accepted. All applicants will receive an acknowledgement.

Applications will be shortlisted internally by a panel of senior officers. Final decisions will be made by the ESRC's Directors, in conjunction with the GDG. The successful candidates will be informed about the outcome of the process in the week commencing 24 June 2019.

Application and process queries

For further information on the appointments process or what the role entails, please contact: grants@esrc.ukri.org