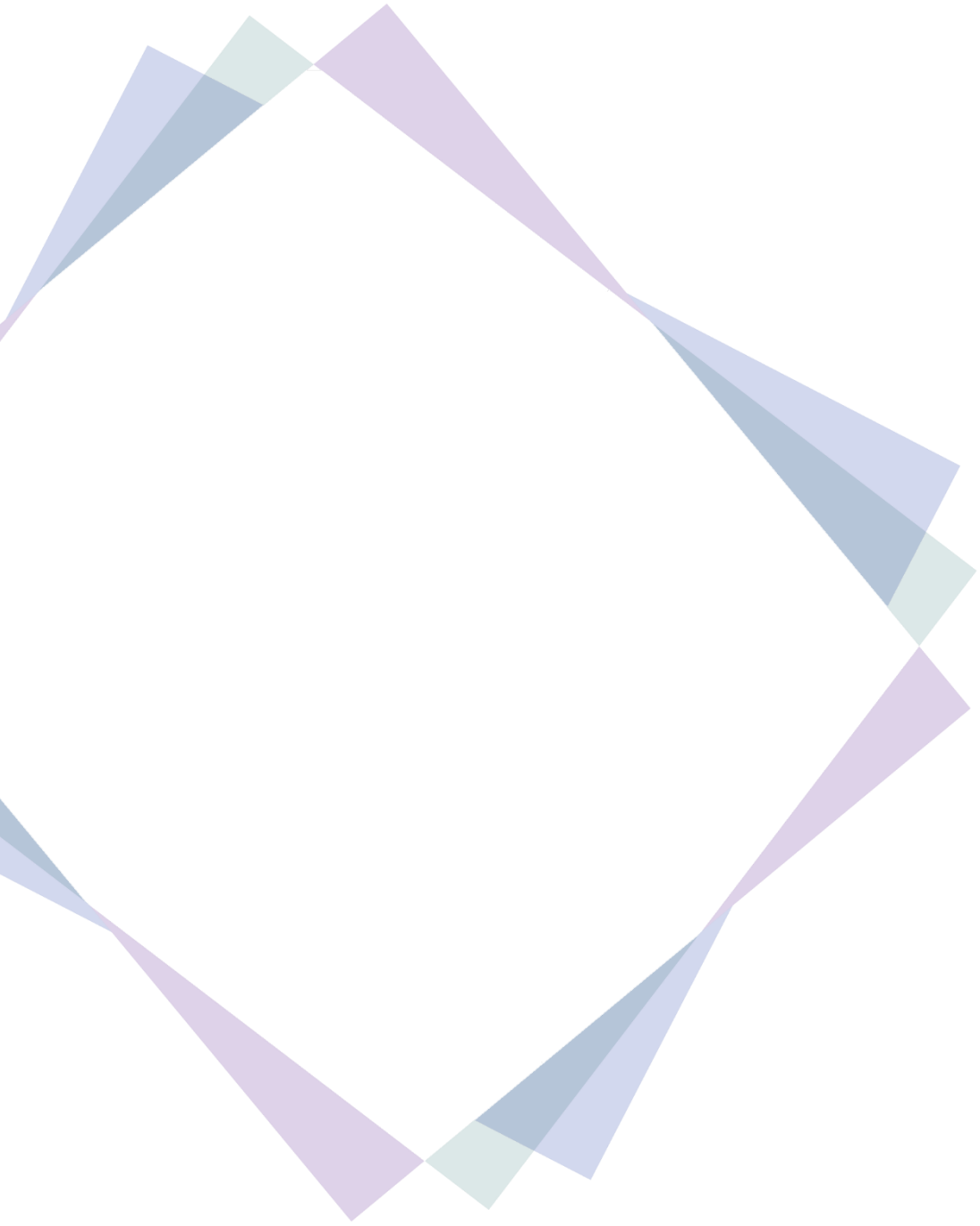
President of the Science Council

Candidate information pack



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the role of President of the Science Council. This information pack provides you with the information you need to determine your suitability for the role and will assist you in mapping your core competencies with the role's requirements. The pack also provides details on the application process and contact details should you have any further queries.

As a multi-disciplinary membership organisation connecting professional bodies from across the scientific disciplines, the Science Council has a vital role to play in promoting the science profession for the benefit of society. Now more than ever, the profession must work collectively to tackle environmental challenges, deliver economic growth, and societal progress.

This is an exciting time to join us as our new President, as we continue to deliver our strategy in partnership with our members. The President plays a leading role in championing the value of the science profession to governments, employers across various industries and sectors, the scientific and technical workforce, and to the wider public. We are looking for someone who will provide influence and leadership at the highest level, acting as an ambassador for the Science Council to strengthen the reach and impact of the charity.

The office of President is a critical role for the Science Council; we welcome applications from high calibre individuals to this role who are excited about the opportunity to raise the profile and impact of the Science Council and the value of the profession, and with the time and energy to commit to the role.

About us

Our purpose

The Science Council is a membership organisation for professional bodies and learned societies in science. Its membership embraces the breadth of science and represents most sectors of the economy; a broad range of scientific disciplines and multi-disciplinary scientific activity; and encompasses research scientists, industrial scientists, and technical staff. Our charitable purpose as stated in our Royal Charter is "to promote the advancement and dissemination of knowledge of and education in science, pure and applied, for the public benefit."

To fulfil this purpose, the Science Council's strategy focuses on three core strands:

Registers and Licences: promoting the value of professional registration and working with members to make the registers available as widely as possible.

Community and Membership: supporting the collective work of members for the benefit of science and the profession

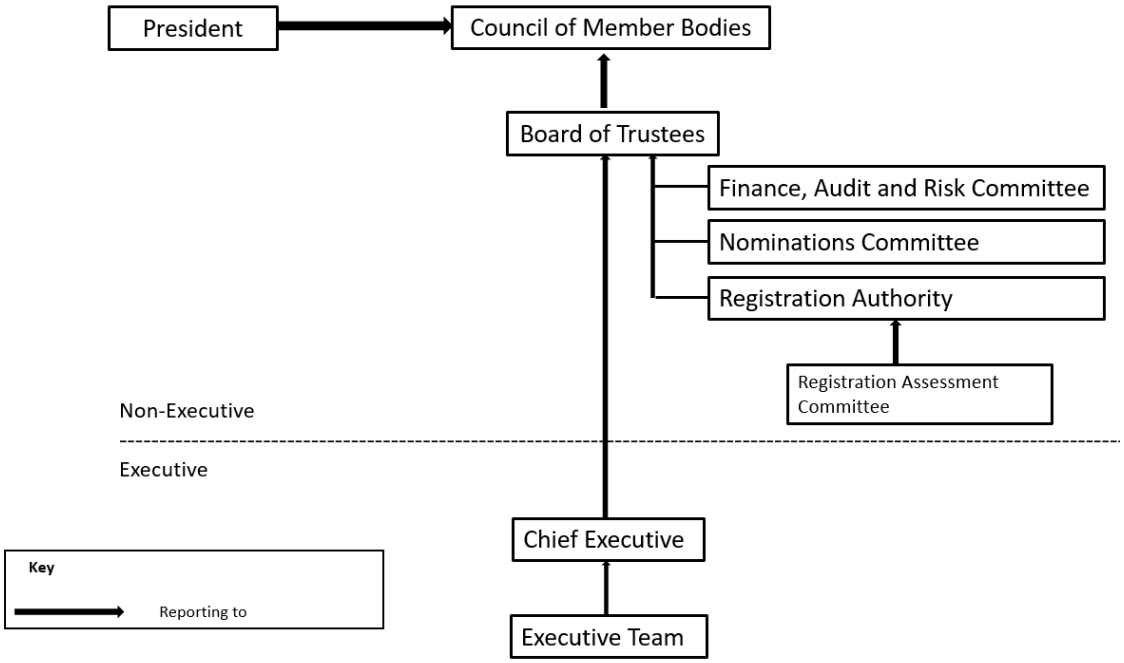
Policy and Influence: maximising the influence of all members and create an inclusive and professional culture in science.

Our values and guiding principles

- We will be **Inclusive** of all disciplines of science and all types of scientist and science technicians through our Members.
- We will be **Informed** by evidence and research and by our Members and Registrants.

- At all times, we will be **Positive** and balanced in our promotion of the contribution of scientists and technicians to society and of our Members, our registrants and the science workforce as a whole.
- We will be **Collaborative** in our approach to debate and discussion and in our attitude to conversation in general.

Organisation chart



Further information, including the **Science Council's Strategic Plan 2019-2022 and the most recent Trustees' Report and Financial Statements** are available on the Science Council's website www.sciencecouncil.org.

Key Science Council projects

Promoting Pathways to Professional Development

This is a joint initiative, with grant funding from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation Gatsby, between the Science Council and its members to significantly raise the profile of and support for technicians over a five-year period. The initiative will seek to embed a culture of professional registration within the science community promoting parity of esteem for science technicians; enhance career development opportunities for those working at a technical level; and create a package of services for employers to aid development of the technician workforce.

Technician Commitment

Launched in 2017, the Technician Commitment is a university and research institution initiative, led by a steering group of sector bodies, with support from the Science Council and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation's *Technicians Make It Happen* campaign. The Commitment aims to ensure visibility, recognition, career development and sustainability for technicians working in higher education and research, across all disciplines. Universities and research institutes are invited to become signatories of the Technician Commitment and pledge action against the key challenges affecting their technical staff.

Employer Champions

Our Employer Champion programme provides a package of support for employers that have made the commitment to support their scientific and technical staff to become professionally registered.

The role

The President is the public face of the Science Council with key stakeholders, representing us at the highest level with governments, parliaments, industry, universities, scientific and engineering institutions and other public and voluntary bodies. The President will use their experience to champion the science profession; promote the value of professional body membership and registration; and amplify the collective voice of our members.

The President will have high-level ambassadorial experience in complex sectoral settings; an understanding of and ability to advocate for the Science Council's strategic objectives, and the leadership and interpersonal skills to develop productive relationships with key stakeholders to help ensure that the Science Council continues to grow both in size and influence. The President will already hold, or be eligible for, the Chartered Scientist designation.

The President is elected by members of the Science Council and is therefore accountable to the membership.

Our current President, Professor Sir Keith Burnett FRS will be retiring from the role in October 2020, having served for 4 years. The successful candidate will succeed Sir Keith in October 2020.

Key duties

The President:

- Supports a multi-disciplinary approach to science and the application of science for the benefit of society;
- Champions the value of professional registration for individuals, employers and society;
- Networks actively and at a high level in order to represent and enhance the influence of the Science Council and the scientific community in the UK and beyond;
- Engages with the Board of Trustees to contribute to its collective understanding of wider changing circumstances relevant to the charity, and the necessary steps to respond to opportunities as they arise.

Essential Requirements

In order to fulfil the role we would expect the person taking on the role to:

- Have distinguished themselves in their chosen field of science as well as in industry, academia, national governments and beyond;
- Have a commitment to professional bodies and professional registration, and to the science community;
- Have a commitment to diversity, equality and inclusion, particularly as it relates to the science workforce;
- Preferably hold, or be eligible for, the Chartered Scientist designation;

- Have a proven ability in fostering consensus, collaboration and collective action, and building networks;
- Have excellent communication skills with the ability to engage a wide range of audiences and comfortable with representing the Science Council publicly;
- Have the credibility and ability to work with and influence decision-formers at the highest level, demonstrated by current and past public appointments;
- Have the time to commit to the role.
- Accept the Nolan Committee's Seven Principles of Public Life; selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Time commitment

The role requires a minimum commitment of 10 full days per annum. In addition to wider networking and advocacy work, the President is expected to attend the Annual General Meeting; host an annual President's Drinks Reception; contribute to strategy development as required; meet periodically (or as business requires) with the Chair of the Board and Chief Executive; chair Extraordinary General Meetings as required; and host the Science Council's bi-annual Sir Gareth Roberts Science Policy Lecture.

Term of office

Currently the term of office for the position is a 4-year term. Candidates should note that, following consultation with our members, we are in the process of amending our Bylaws so that the President's term of office will be for 2 years. We have received informal approval from the Privy Council for this change. Members will be invited to approve the proposed Bylaw changes in March, following which we will seek formal approval of the changes from the Privy Council. Candidates should be aware that if we do not receive formal approval, the position will be for 4 years.

Remuneration

This is a voluntary non-executive role. Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses properly incurred in the performance of your duties as President will be reimbursed in accordance with our volunteer expenses policy.

Location

The role will require the President to travel in the performance of their duties. They will be expected to have appropriate transport arrangements in place for travel within the UK and it is expected that there would be no limitations to their capacity to travel internationally should the need arise. The appointee will be compensated for any costs incurred by them in respect to travel arrangements in accordance with our volunteer expenses policy.

How to apply

To formally apply, please provide a statement outlining why you are interested in the opportunity and what you would bring to the role. We kindly ask that your statement is no more than two pages (use Arial 10pt as a guide) and should be sent in MS Word format in one document.

Please send your application to the Governance Manager, Oliver O'Hanlon (o.ohanlon@sciencecouncil.org) by 31st March 2020.

If you would like to have an informal conversation about the role you can contact the Chair, Dr Helen Pain (painh@rsc.org) and/or the Chief Executive, Helen Gordon (h.gordon@sciencecouncil.org).

Selection Process

The Science Council will be undertaking a rigorous selection process in identifying suitable candidates for the role of President. Following the close of the application period, the Nomination Committee will draw up a shortlist of candidates who will be invited to meet with the Committee in the week beginning 6th April to discuss the role further. The Committee will then recommend its preferred candidate to the Board in May. Six weeks before the Annual General Meeting, notice will be sent to members of the Board's nomination for President. The election of the President will take place on Tuesday 30th June at the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

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