



UK Research
and Innovation

**Application Pack for NERC
Advisory Network Members**

June 2019

Closing date for all applications: 21 July 2019

Applicants informed of outcome: August 2019

Appointment Begins: September 2019

APPLICATION PACK NERC ADVISORY NETWORK APPOINTMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

NERC - the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) - is the driving force of investment in environmental science in the UK. NERC advances the frontier of environmental science by commissioning new research, infrastructure and training that delivers valuable scientific breakthroughs. We do this because understanding our changing planet is vital for our wellbeing and economic prosperity.

We invest public money in world-leading science, designed to help us sustain and benefit from our natural resources, predict and respond to natural hazards and understand environmental change. We work closely with policymakers and industry to make sure our knowledge can support sustainable economic growth and wellbeing in the UK and around the world.

NERC is part of UK Research & Innovation (<https://www.ukri.org/>), a new body which works in partnership with universities, research organisations, businesses, charities and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish. UKRI aims to maximise the contribution of each of its component parts, working individually and collectively. We work with our many partners to benefit everyone through knowledge, talent and ideas.

We are supported mainly by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), but our activities and funding decisions are independent of government.

For further information on NERC see: [NERC website](#).

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NERC ADVISORY NETWORK MEMBERS

Being part of UKRI provides exciting new opportunities for the environmental science community to work flexibly across discipline and industry to tackle the cross-sector challenges of the 21st century. In particular, new collective funding streams present the opportunity for new ways of working and it is vital NERC continue to benefit from the advice and thinking of a broad range of experts outside NERC to achieve this.

In light of these new opportunities NERC is adapting its governance and advisory structures to provide increased agility and broader expertise. From September 2019, a new NERC Advisory Network (from hereon in referred to as the Network) will provide a retained, agile and flexible pool of expertise that can be drawn on for strategic or policy advice on specific issues. This new network will increase access to expertise across a wider remit, with the capacity to advise on interdisciplinary and cross-sector opportunities to support both sustained and agile action.

NERC is now looking to appoint members to the Network. The Network will comprise a mix of researchers from professors and early career researchers representing core environmental science disciplines with specific capabilities in training, capital/research infrastructure and business engagement; to users of research, including business and UK national government; and others including international partners and representative bodies. For further details, see **Person Specification**.

An important principle governs the Network function: the separation of the provision of strategic advice from delivery and decision-making and delivery by the Executive. The Network will provide the NERC with:

- Advice in developing new strategies, policies and plans;
- Advice on specific issues with a particular emphasis on the translation from strategy and policy to implementation and operation;
- An appropriate environment for testing new ideas with the breadth of our stakeholder community;
- An avenue for two-way dialogue with the research and user communities on topical issues.
- Perspectives from a diversity of NERC stakeholders and partners to inform the breadth of NERC's mission, remit and funding operations.

Members are expected to:

- Demonstrate a commitment to UKRI and NERC's mission and priorities;
- Act as an advocate for UKRI and NERC in its activities and assist NERC with two-way communication;
- Uphold high standards of integrity and probity and instill the appropriate culture, values and behaviours;
- Perform the duties faithfully, efficiently and diligently to a standard commensurate with the role and individual knowledge, skills and experience;

- Bring a broad strategic view and to act as ‘generous generalists’, advising across the breadth of NERC’s portfolio. Members are not required to act as representatives of their own organisation, research area or sector;
- Declare conflicts of interest and, subject to the Chair’s judgement, withdraw from discussions where a potential conflict arises.

Ways of working:

- The Network will comprise approximately 60 members drawn from research and stakeholder communities widely;
- The Network will typically be deployed via time limited Task and Finish groups brought together to address specific questions, on which the Executive requires advice. Each group will be Chaired by a senior responsible person from the commissioning body for that task (i.e. Executive, Council or Science Committee)
- Networks Members may be asked to attend other NERC events or meetings (including Science Committee) for specific issues, and to advise UKRI more broadly on relevant environmental science and policy issues.

The Terms of Reference will be available via this link once confirmed: [NERC Advisory Network webpage](#)

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Our ideal candidates will have energy, enthusiasm and time to commit to our mission coupled with excellent people and communication skills and the ability to support and challenge the debate and influence fellow members.

The Network will include a range of disciplines, backgrounds and career stages, some of which will be from outside environmental sciences. We invite applications from:

- **Researchers**, with a good standing within their environmental sciences related community; including representation from core environmental science disciplines with specific capabilities in training, capital/research infrastructure and business engagement;
- **Users of Research**, including business and UK national government;
- **International partners and representative bodies**

Specifically, we are seeking candidates that have a good alignment to the themes within our Strategic Delivery Plan (link once published) and our core scientific domains: Atmospheric, Marine, Health, Earth, Earth observation, Polar, Terrestrial and Fresh water

We are also seeking candidates that can specifically demonstrate one or more of the following capabilities or areas of competence:

- Government policy development expertise
- Generating Impactful research or impact from research
- Understanding the fundamental requirements for creating an environment for innovation
- Societal engagement and translation of scientific outcomes to meet these challenges
- Engaging the wider public with research outcomes

- Engaging Businesses with research outcomes
- Capital and infrastructure and its usage in scientific endeavour
- Data generation, curation and application
- International perspectives on research and innovation
- Discovery Science and the importance of blue skies research in sustaining the ideas pipeline of the wider UK system
- Support for Research careers, studentships, early career researchers and Fellowships
- Research Policy and Ethics
- Cross Council bodies, interdisciplinarity; (or ability to involve members of other advisory bodies where relevant).

Essential Criteria

- Ability to provide advice at a strategic level e.g. policy documents, strategic or peer review capacity; managing R&D and/or research and resource investments; expert groups; liaison roles; panels etc:
- Knowledge of the Research and Innovation landscape;
- **A first class record in** 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;
- **A record of working with NERC, other councils or other similar organisations** (e.g. providing strategic advice, developing solutions to cross-cutting challenges, facilitating the translation between strategy and operation, gathering information to inform policy, etc.);
- **Experience of developing, testing and constructively challenging policy** for NERC and UK Research & Innovation or equivalent organisation, in a flexible, adaptable, multi-stakeholder environment;
- **Experience of representing the views of the research, innovation and business community**, and facilitate two-way communication between the community and NERC and UK Research & Innovation;
- Willingness to devote sufficient time to the role with the backing/support of your organisation.)

APPOINTMENTS

The successful candidate will be appointed by the Natural Environment Research Council, on the recommendation of a selection panel.

NERC - UKRI is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all. Applications from women, those with a disability and members of minority ethnic groups, who are currently under-represented at senior levels in the research and innovation community, are therefore especially encouraged.

The successful candidate will be appointed for a period of three years.

MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

- Members are expected to attend an annual conference of all Network members with the aim of exchanging knowledge and experience and allowing the Executive to provide an update to all members on broader strategic context and priorities for NERC
- Members will be invited to join both formal and informal work streams though out their time on the Network
- It is expected that members will need to commit up to 8 days to the Network work per year
- Every effort will be made to support remote participation to Network activities, if this is appropriate

Location

Meeting will be held in various UK locations.

HONORARIUM

An attendance fee of £170 will be paid, where eligible.

HOW TO APPLY AND HOW MEMBERS WILL BE SELECTED

To apply, candidates should submit a CV (limited to two sides) and a completed application form to Gemma Davies (SwindonGDSAdmin@nerc.ukri.org) by **21 July 2019**. If you have any questions about the recruitment process please also contact Gemma Davies.

Once the deadline has passed, all applications (CV and application form) will be acknowledged and then passed to the selection panel (see below) to review the applications against the person specification.

Please note, we will not be holding interviews. The office will notify all candidates once the panel have made their selection.

At the final appointment stages, where applicants are as qualified on merit, the selection panel will seek to achieve a balanced membership in terms of, for example, diversity, expertise and experience.

The selection panel for the Network appointments will comprise:

- Director Research & Skills
- Associate Director Research & Skills
- Corporate Affairs representative
- Head of Research and Funding Operations

The timescale for selection and appointments is in the table below.

Activity	Timing
Role advertised	18 June 2019
Deadline for applications	21 July 2019
Shortlisting decisions	Aug 2019
Appointments confirmed	Aug 2019
Appointment Begins	1 September 2019

Please send the completed application, stating clearly the appointment you are applying for, to:

By email: SwindonGDSAdmin@nerc.ukri.org Attention of: Gemma Davies.

Or by post:

Attention of: Gemma Davies

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Polaris House
North Star Avenue Swindon
SN2 1EU

The Seven Principles of Public Life

In 1995, the Committee on Standards in Public Life defined seven principles, which should underpin the actions of all who serve the public in any way.

Consistent with the Commissioner's Code of Practice, applicants will be assessed on merit, and all candidates for public appointment will need to uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Seven Principles of Public Life. These will be tested as part of the selection process and the selection Panel must satisfy itself that all candidates for appointments can meet these standards; which are:

Selflessness

Holders of Public Office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or other friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

Carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

