NERC seeks to recruit experienced researchers who can demonstrate that they are publishing and proposing research of a quality that they would be asked to identify as part of the peer review process. These individuals should have proven research leadership skills, the respect of their peers and a strong interest in the delivery of NERC science. They should be willing to act in an unbiased and objective manner (and one which is consistent with NERC policies and procedures) towards identifying the highest quality research for funding.

1. **Essential criteria for all Peer Review College members**
2. **Additional guidelines for research users wishing to apply for PRC membership**
3. **Additional criteria for core panel members**
4. **Criteria for Chairs**

### Essential criteria for all Peer Review College members

**Eligibility:**

1. Be based in the UK.
2. Otherwise meet the eligibility requirements (as PI, Co-I or New Investigator) to apply for NERC Research Funding.

**Scientific credentials**

3. Be research active in an area relevant to NERC remit and held in high esteem by their peers.
4. Have recent (within the last five years) experience of applying for and holding (as PI or Co-I) Research Council grants or equivalent funding from other UK or international bodies.
5. Have a strong publication and citations record.
6. Have experience of reviewing proposals for NERC and/or other funding organisations.
7. Have experience of leading a substantial research project, with responsibility for the overall management of the research and related activities.

**Personal attributes and approach**

8. Be able to provide unbiased, objective, fair and detailed assessments of grant proposals either as a reviewer or moderating panel member.
9. Be able to commit sufficient time to the College to review proposals and attend panel meetings.
10. Be reliable and prepared to keep in regular contact with NERC.
11. Be willing to assess multidisciplinary proposals.

**Knowledge and experience**

To be eligible to be a PRC member, you are required to:

12. Be able to demonstrate a broad awareness of NERC activities and funding assessment processes.
13. Be able to demonstrate other relevant experience; eg membership of committees for other funding organisations, editorial role for scientific (or other academic) journals, membership of relevant national or international advisory committees.

**Additional guidelines for research users wishing to apply for PRC membership**

For research users essential criteria two, four & five may not apply. The following additional criteria will be considered in selecting PRC members from the user community:

14. Experience of involvement in the use of the results of research.
15. Experience of commissioning or overseeing research activities.
16. Experience in managing projects and people
17. Undertaken policy-making, business or regulatory activities.
18. A broad overview of environmental research and the needs of their user community.
19. An appreciation of mechanisms for collaboration, engagement and KE between the research base and those who make use of research outcomes.

**Additional criteria for core panel members**

Core panel members must meet the above criteria but additionally should:

20. Be able to demonstrate a sustained track record of winning NERC, other Research Council grants or equivalent funding from other UK or international bodies (or similar funding) as PI.
21. Currently be serving or have previously served on the PRC for at least 12 months or if not, applicants should be able to demonstrate a current understanding of NERC policies and procedures;
22. Have a strong record of performance during their time as a PRC member and/or when otherwise requested to review/attend meetings by the NERC ie replied promptly to NERC requests, completed good quality reviews and if appropriate, have been a constructive panel member;
23. Have appropriate expertise in an area of NERC remit which is not already sufficiently covered by existing core panel members;
24. Not be based at, or affiliated to an institution already represented (at an appropriate level) by existing core panel members.

**Criteria for Chairs**

**Scientific credentials**

1. A first-rate environmental scientist and active senior researcher, with an excellent track record of grant funding and publishing in high impact journals.
2. Recent experience of leading Research Council-funded grants (ie in the last three years) in an areas relevant to NERC remit and the panel portfolio to which they are applying/have been nominated;
3. For appointment of a Chair, an individual's scientific expertise may significantly overlap with one or more core panel members.

**Personal attributes and approach**

4. Objective, fair and independent in their assessments of proposals in a wide range of disciplines.
Proven Leadership skills

5. Candidates must have proven management/leadership experience.

Knowledge and experience

Knowledge of NERC, its systems, strategy and policy issues and its communities.

6. Ideally, candidates will currently be serving, or have previously served on the Peer Review College and preferably as a core panel member.
7. Experience of chairing large committees or panels, preferably those making funding decisions.
8. Extensive experience as a reviewer of Research Council funding proposals;
9. Awareness of the needs of the end users of research and the government's impact agenda.

Recognition and respect

10. Candidates should have recognition and respect within the NERC community appropriate to the senior position for which they are under consideration.