



**Natural  
Environment  
Research Council**

**Application Pack for  
NERC Advisory Network  
Members**

**February 2022**

**Closing date for all applications: 19 April 2022**

**Applicants informed of outcome: w/c 30 May 2022**

**Appointment Begins: June 2022**

# APPLICATION PACK NERC ADVISORY NETWORK APPOINTMENTS

## CONTENTS

Page 3	Introduction
Page 4-5	Role and responsibilities of NERC Advisory Network Members
Page 6-7	Person specification
Page 8	Appointments
Page 8	Meeting arrangements
Page 8	Honorarium
Page 9	How to Apply
Page 10	The Seven Principles of Public Life

## INTRODUCTION

NERC - the Natural Environment Research Council - 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 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](#) and the NERC [Delivery Plan](#)

## 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 disciplines and industry to tackle the cross-sector challenges of the 21st century. In particular the potential for new opportunities across core and collective funds, arising as a result of the recent spending review, it is vital NERC continue to benefit from the advice and thinking of a broad range of experts outside NERC to achieve this.

The NERC Advisory Network (from hereon in referred to as the Network) provides a retained, agile and flexible pool of expertise that is drawn on for strategic or policy advice on specific issues, with the capacity to advise on interdisciplinary and cross-sector opportunities to support both sustained and agile action.

NERC is seeking to appoint motivated members to the Network with a particular emphasis on increasing the diversity across several underrepresented characteristics particularly ethnicity, disability, and career stage (including early careers). The Network comprises a mix of researchers across career stages representing core environmental science disciplines; to users of research, including business and UK national governments; 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; and particularly working in a way that fosters diversity and includes diverse perspectives from across the environmental science community;
- 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 comprises approximately 60 members drawn from research and stakeholder communities widely;
- The Network is typically 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 available here: [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.

Applications are sought from a range of disciplines, backgrounds and career stages (including early careers), some of which will be from outside environmental sciences. We invite applications from:

- **Researchers** across the career spectrum and from within the environmental science community; including representation from core environmental science disciplines;
- **Users of Research**, including business and UK governments including devolved administrations;
- **International partners and representative bodies**

### Essential Criteria

- **Knowledge of the Research and Innovation landscape**; 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. and facilitate two-way communication between the community and NERC and UK Research & Innovation
- **Experience** 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.);
- **Understanding of developing, testing and constructively challenging policy** for NERC and UK Research & Innovation or equivalent organisation, in a flexible, adaptable, multi-stakeholder environment;
- Willingness to devote sufficient time to the role with the backing/support of your organisation.)

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

- Government policy development and advisory expertise
- Approaches to increasing diversity, equity and inclusion, preferably in environmental sciences or similar disciplines
- Understanding approaches for engaging the wider public with research outcomes and generating impactful research or capturing impact from research
- Engaging and working with businesses on absorbing and translating research outcomes
- Understanding the importance of blue skies research in sustaining the ideas pipeline of the wider UK system
- National and international perspectives on research and innovation systems and the challenges they face
- Understanding the challenge, approaches and practices of fostering a positive research environment
- Capital and infrastructure and its usage in scientific endeavour
- Data generation, curation and application
- Cross Council bodies, interdisciplinarity; (or ability to involve members of other advisory bodies where relevant).

## APPOINTMENTS

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

At NERC as part of UKRI we believe that everyone has a right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be provided with the appropriate opportunities and tools to flourish and succeed within an ethical and trusted working environment that enables them to do so and that is attractive and accessible to everyone who is interested in developing their career with us.

We also value diversity of thought and experience and are committed to creating systems that value difference so that everyone can feel welcomed, included and nurtured throughout their time with us. For further information, please visit [‘How we support EDI in the workforce’](#)

At NERC as part of UKRI are proud to be users of the [disability confident scheme](#). We will give dedicated consideration at the panel to all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for any of our vacancies. There is a section on the application form to indicate if you would like to be considered under this scheme.

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
- Throughout the year, members will be invited to join both formal and informal work streams through out their time on the Network. The Network is typically deployed via time-limited Task and Finish groups brought together to address specific questions, on which the Executive requires advice. These will be held virtually where possible.
- 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. Support will be provided to those new to sitting on advisory groups/networks.

### 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](mailto:SwindonGDSAdmin@nerc.ukri.org)) by **19 April 2022**. 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:

- Associate Director, Governance and Funding Operations
- Associate Director, Discovery and Highlight Science, Talent and Skills
- Associate Director, Strategy & Insight
- Associate Director, Interdisciplinary Programme Design & Management
- Associate Director, Operations and Change

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

Activity	Timing
Role advertised	28 February 2022
Deadline for applications	19 April 2022
Shortlisting decisions	w/c 23 May 2022
Appointments confirmed	w/c 30 May 2022
Appointment Begins	June 2022

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

By email: [SwindonGDSAdmin@nerc.ukri.org](mailto: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 ex