

CONFERENCES AND TRAINING PANEL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Term: 5 years **Time commitment:** A minimum of 3 meetings per year, plus preparation and occasional activity between meetings

The Conferences and Training Panel oversees and agrees a financially viable and balanced programme of scientific and training events. It also helps shape the Society's training, public engagement and careers-related activities, identifies gaps in provision and considers the needs of the wider bioscience community.

To see the current make-up of the Panel, visit the [Conferences and Training Panel webpage](#).

The Public Engagement Representative will bring expertise and insight in engaging public audiences with science to the Panel. They will help ensure that public engagement is considered in the development of the Society's events and training programme and advise on approaches that are purposeful, inclusive, accessible and informed by good practice.

They will be expected to bring curiosity, sound judgement and a willingness to consider different perspectives, helping the Panel ask the right questions, identify opportunities and consider how engagement can create meaningful benefit for public audiences and the bioscience community.

Role responsibilities

- Attend and actively participate in Panel meetings.
- Read and consider papers in advance of meetings and contribute constructively to discussions.
- Provide advice on the Society's involvement in public engagement events and activities, including their purpose, audiences, accessibility, format and potential impact.
- Review relevant event, training and sponsorship proposals from a public engagement perspective and identify opportunities to strengthen audience involvement and benefit.
- Encourage proportionate evaluation and learning so that the Society can understand the reach, quality and outcomes of its public engagement activity.
- Advise on inclusive and ethical approaches to engaging diverse public audiences, including identifying and reducing barriers to participation.
- Ask questions and respectfully challenge assumptions where appropriate.
- Where appropriate, draw on relevant professional networks and share external developments, insight and good practice with the Panel.
- Support effective coordination of public engagement activity with relevant Society committees, staff teams and external partners.

Requirements

- Knowledge or practical experience of public engagement within science, gained through employment, research, education, volunteering or community activity.
- An understanding of effective, inclusive and audience-centred public engagement practice.
- Able to communicate ideas clearly and confidently and engage constructively with different perspectives.
- Able to assess proposals thoughtfully, considering intended audiences, accessibility, feasibility, outcomes and learning.

- Willing to ask questions and challenge assumptions respectfully.
- Respectful, open-minded and willing to consider alternative viewpoints.
- Able to prepare for and attend meetings, complete agreed actions within the required timescales, and handle sensitive information appropriately.

The following would be an advantage but are **not essential**:

- Experience of designing, delivering or evaluating public engagement activities, events or programmes.
- Experience of working with community organisations, schools, cultural organisations, science centres or other public-facing partners.
- Knowledge of the molecular biosciences or experience of making complex scientific topics accessible to non-specialist audiences.
- Experience of collaborative working across organisations, disciplines or sectors.

Previous committee experience is **not required**. We are interested in what candidates could bring to the role and their willingness to learn and contribute.