



Starfish



BRITISH
SCIENCE
ASSOCIATION

Chair

A welcome from our out-going Chair

Thank you for your interest in the British Science Association (BSA).

We aim to transform people's relationship with science and improve the diversity of science, to ensure that it represents –and can benefit –all of society.

We are a national charity, with 35 staff based mostly in London. We're a thriving organisation and in good financial health. Our rich heritage –combined with our modern, ambitious approach –enables us to have extensive reach and influence amongst a range of audiences.

You will be joining us at an exciting time for the organisation as we work to deliver our new strategy and seek to further sharpen the way we measure and demonstrate our impact.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Best wishes,

Gisela Abbam

Chair, British Science Association



Our Purpose

Science is more than a body of research, people working in a lab or even the wider industry that surrounds that. It's also a way of asking questions, making decisions, and understanding the world. Science is a tool that everyone in the UK can, and should be able to, use. In fact, for us to grow as a society, it's essential that they do.

We want a future where science is more relevant, more representative, and more connected to society.

In that future, everyone has the potential to contribute, whether it's through the ideas they engage with, the jobs they do or the lifestyles they lead.

In that future, scientists understand and include different perspectives, help more communities, and make even more breakthroughs.

In that future, society shapes science. And society is all the stronger for it.

Our vision and mission

Let's break down barriers...

The science sector has many structural and system-wide barriers that it's time to remove. We're working with business leaders, policy makers, scientists, community leaders, teachers, and many others to say goodbye to the old stereotypes of who a scientist 'should be'. With their help, we're bringing more voices into the conversation, to help more people see science (in all its forms) as a relevant part of their lives.

...So good ideas can thrive

The UK is bursting with potential. We're unlocking it. And we won't stop until people and communities who've typically been overlooked by science can confidently play their part.

We're striving for a future where everyone is represented and has their voice heard on the issues that matter to them. So, science goes beyond being a lesson at school and becomes a way of thinking and making decisions –about looking after your health, protecting the planet and choosing and using new technology.

Our Work

The BSA has three core pillars of work:

- Education—engaging students and educators, through programmes including British Science Week & CREST Awards;
- Engagement—engaging public audiences, through programmes including British Science Festival, Community Leaders, Community Buddies and The Ideas Fund;
- Thought leadership—seeking to influence and collaborate with stakeholders from across science, business and policy through events including For Thought and bespoke activities for policy makers, business leaders and the science engagement sector.

Our commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

For the BSA's vision to come to fruition, we need to make science relevant and welcoming for everyone. That's why equality, diversity & inclusion (EDI) is central to our strategy and activities. Our target audiences are people who say they don't have an active relationship with science or say "science is not for me" -and who are underrepresented in science. This includes people from minoritized ethnic backgrounds, people in faith/religious communities, disabled people, women and non-binary people, and many others.

We work directly with our target audiences and with a wide range of partners, networks and influencers to improve the diversity and inclusion of the BSA and the wider UK science/research sector.

Join our board

Established in 1831, we are a Royal Charter charity governed by a board of trustees, known as Council. Council includes three Vice-Presidents, who each specialize in an area of the BSA's work, and a Treasurer and Deputy Chair. The twelve Council members come from a wide range of backgrounds. They are appointed for a term of three years and can serve a maximum of two terms. The BSA has a high-performing executive team who report to Council and work closely with the Chair.

Our current Chair –Gisela Abbam -is stepping down at the end of her term and so we are looking for a new Chair of Council. Find out more about our Council members:

<https://www.britishtscienceassociation.org/our-trustees>



The role & we are looking for

Your role as Chair

Your role as Chair will be to:

- Facilitate Council to effectively fulfil its responsibilities
- Enable collective decision-making
- Provide support and challenge to the chief executive
- Demonstrate leadership on the BSA's commitment to improve equality, diversity and inclusion.

Working with the other trustees, you will:

- Oversee the implementation of our new strategy
- Provide guidance on the key risks, opportunities and challenges facing the BSA
- Safeguard the BSA's reputation and resources
- Represent the BSA externally including with the media, stakeholders & funders.

What we're looking for

We're looking for someone who:

- Cares about our vision, is keen to help us maximise impact for our beneficiaries and can contribute to the BSA's goal of embedding equality, diversity & inclusivity
- Has experience of chairing meetings effectively, and of working in a multi-disciplinary setting
- Has some experience as a trustee or non-exec director in a not-for-profit setting. Understands the principles of effective governance and the distinctive roles of governance vs executive
- Can commit to the time and effort required
- Can think strategically and apply independent judgement
- Is capable of understanding the financial & management information to the level required of a trustee
- Has an ability to support Council to play their role effectively.

We welcome applications from all communities across all four UK nations. You don't need to be a scientist to join the BSA team!

Terms of Appointment

Time commitment

We expect the role to take approximately c.1-1.5 days a month .

There are four formal Council meetings per year. Meetings take place during business hours and last around four hours. The meeting dates are agreed with the chair in advance (2022 meetings are scheduled for 30 March, 22 June, 14 September (in Leicester), and 7 December).

The Chair will be expected to have regular catch-ups with the Chief Executive and Council members, and to attend or host key events in the BSA's calendar, such as during the British Science Festival or For Thought Summit.

The role is unpaid (volunteer) in line with charity sector guidance, although we can reimburse reasonable expenses including travel, childcare, personal care, etc.

Our meetings

Currently around half of Council's quarterly meetings and all of the sub-committee meetings are held virtually, via Zoom or Teams.

We work across the UK so our events and in-person meetings take place in a range of locations.

Our main base is in London, in a modern office building 5-10 minutes' walk from Gloucester Road & South Kensington tube stations. Our office is on the 3rd floor, accessible by stairs or lift.

Parking for cycles and motorbikes is available. Parking for cars is limited and prioritised for disabled people. We have two all-gender toilets, one suitable for wheelchair users.



How to Apply

If you would like further information about the before making an application, please contact:
Rebecca.OConnor@starfishsearch.com

To make an application, please go to <https://starfishsearch.com/jobs/bsa-chair/> and click on the apply now button, with the following prepared:

- An up-to-date CV (maximum 3 pages)
- Supporting statement that tells us why you are interested in applying for this role and how you meet the experience criteria.

We would also be grateful if you would also complete the Equality and Diversity monitoring form on the online application process. This form is for monitoring purposes only and is not treated as part of your application.

Closing date for applications: 31st January 2022

Preliminary Interviews: w/c 14th February 2022

Interviews are due to take place on: w/c 7th March 2022

British Science Association supports the principle that everyone should have the same opportunities for employment, development, and progression. All applications will be considered on their own merit and our recruitment process is competitive and transparent. We are committed to widening diversity across the organisation and we actively welcome applicants living with a disability and those from underrepresented and diverse communities and backgrounds to help us achieve our strategy.

