



2020 ELECTION OF MRS MAIN BOARD MEMBERS

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

ELECTION NOTICE

The ballot for MRS Main Board elections for the year from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 will take place early in 2020. It is therefore time to invite nominations for five vacancies on the Main Board (our Board of Directors).

WHY STAND FOR ELECTION?

Serving on the MRS Main Board is a rewarding way of influencing the development of MRS and the sector it serves, and working for the benefit of a diverse and eclectic membership of individuals and organisations whose livelihoods are derived from research, insight and evidence.

WHAT DOES IT ENTAIL?

The MRS Main Board is responsible for the fulfilment of the MRS mission, by shaping and guiding the strategies and policies which support it, as well as their financing and implementation. In the last 2 years the size of the Main Board has been reduced to 12 (13 in the years when the Chair Designate is in place) – to allow for greater focus and agility in a fast-changing market environment.

As part of the MRS Main Board's thought leadership role, Main Board Members develop relevant initiatives, engaging the support of members and others for these projects. The MRS Main Board meets regularly to review and decide on strategy, policy, priorities, and resource allocation. A reasonable commitment of time is therefore necessary to attend meetings and to undertake work between meetings.

Main Board members will be asked to take an interest in a specific dimension of MRS activities or future plans. They may also be asked to chair advisory boards, task forces, or other projects addressing both policy and the detail of implementation in specialist areas.

This online brochure explains the role of MRS Board member in more detail. <https://www.mrs.org.uk/about/mrs-main-board-vacancies-in-2020>

THE ROLE OF MRS

MRS is the world's leading research association for all those who need, use, generate or interpret the evidence essential to making good decisions for commercial and public policy.

MRS is dedicated to the support, promotion and enrichment of the research and business world, helping members to innovate, create sharp intelligence, insightful advice and rigorous data. These are the building blocks of effective evidence generation. MRS safeguards the generation of trusted evidence with the most respected and recognised Code of Conduct.

MRS exists to encourage and promote research as a force for democracy, commerce and society.

THE COMMITMENT REQUIRED

Main Board Members serve for a term of three years, so those elected in this current election will be in place for the period 2020-2023.

New Main Board Members receive an induction to familiarise them with the scope of existing MRS policies and activities, and to brief them on how the policy-making role of the Main Board fits with

the operational and financial responsibilities of the Executive. This will be supported by the Main Board Handbook.

Although MRS Main Board Members serve in a non-executive capacity, they are statutory Directors of MRS and are registered at Companies House as Directors. This is a formal requirement of the Companies Act and should not affect candidates' contracts of employment, but they should of course ensure that their appointment will not conflict with other obligations. The legal responsibilities are the same as for any other Company Director.

No fees or emoluments are paid, but expenses may be reclaimed. Upon appointment, all Main Board members must make a standard declaration of interest listing relevant material financial interests, including investment, contracts and consultancies (held personally, as a trustee or as an effective controller of a company) plus memberships of other organisations and any relevant voluntary and non-financial interests or connections.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Candidates for MRS MAIN BOARD posts must be an MRS MEMBER (Fellow, Certified Member or Member).

NOMINATIONS PROCEDURE

MRS Members wishing to nominate candidates for the Main Board posts are invited to do so provided that their subscriptions are fully paid up. A candidate must be proposed by TWO MEMBERS, must personally have given written confirmation of willingness to stand for election, and must have supplied an Election Address.

A nomination form is attached. This form, accompanied by an Election Address, must be received by the Chief Executive of MRS not later than 5.00 pm on 7th January 2020. The form may be submitted by post, fax or scanned as an email.

ELECTION ADDRESS

Each candidate should ensure that his/her Nomination Form is accompanied by a personal statement which will be circulated to members with the ballot papers.

Statements are limited to 200 words per candidate for Main Board Members. The word count includes definite and indefinite articles and numbers. Candidate photos, word clouds, websites, social media links, sales pitches, QR codes, logos or symbols, or similar cannot be included in election statements, i.e. statements must be prose-based only.

Statements that exceed the word limit or contain prohibited information/formatting will be edited.

To support the written election statement candidates may also submit a visual recorded statement. For recordings to be eligible for inclusion in the election process they must:

- Be a maximum of two minutes long. Should a video statement be over two minutes, we will cut that video statement at the point it reaches two minutes.
- Feature only the candidate for election. No person other than the candidate shall appear or be heard in the video statement.
- Feature static shot of the candidate talking to camera (not walking about). The candidate can be either sitting or standing.
- Be plain background but can be an office or room. The background must not be intended to distract from the speaker or include any text, logos or other persons.
- Contain video statements which are one continuous shot, i.e. no editing or splicing of different takes.
- Contain no introductory text or slides. A standard 'intro' screen detailing the candidates name and information regarding the election will be added when the video is put on the election website.
- Be supplied in one of the following formats: '.AVI', '.MP4', '.FLV', or '.MOV'.

All election statements and visual recordings will be agreed with candidates before election materials are circulated to Voting members. Statements and visual recordings received at the MRS offices after 5.00 p.m. on 7th January 2020 will not be circulated to Voting Members.

Contact Samantha.driscoll@mrs.org.uk for details on how to submit securely a visual recorded statement.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once all the nominations have been received, the Nominations Board will review these and agree which candidates best meet the Main Board's current criteria of required skills and knowledge. Election papers will then be issued to all voting members with Main Board preferred candidates identified on the election statements but not the ballot paper.

ELECTION CODE OF CONDUCT AND COMPLAINTS

Copies of the Election Code of Conduct, including the process for complaints, will be sent to all candidates and their proposers. The Code is available on the MRS website, as are copies of this notice and the nomination form.

Complaints about issues not covered in the Election Code of Conduct will, in the first instance, be dealt with by the MRS Company Secretary and/or the MRS Chief Executive; serious matters may be referred to the MRS Main Board for consideration.



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NOMINATION FORM

TO: The Chief Executive
The Market Research Society
The Old Trading House
15 Northburgh Street
London EC1V OJR

Date:

We proposeas a candidate for:
(FULL NAME IN CAPITALS)

MAIN BOARD MEMBER

Name of proposer.....	(FULL NAME IN CAPITALS)
Signature of proposer.....	M'Ship Number:
Name of seconder.....	(FULL NAME IN CAPITALS)
Signature of seconder	M'Ship Number:

I declare my willingness to stand for election and enclose my Election Address.

Signature of Candidate

Completed nominations (duly signed by Proposers, Seconders and their Candidate) must be received by the Chief Executive of MRS at The Old Trading House, 15 Northburgh Street, London EC1V OJR or by email to samantha.driscoll@mrs.org.uk not later than 5 p.m. on 7th January 2020.