



2019 ELECTION OF MRS CHAIR-DESIGNATE

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

ELECTION NOTICE

The MRS Main Board is currently undertaking an MRS governance review, and one issue under consideration is a reduction in the size of the MRS Main Board, since it is felt to be currently too large for optimal performance. In order to manage this planned transition the Main Board has decided not to recruit or re-elect Main Board members in the forthcoming period. Therefore, with the exception of the position of Chair-Designate (discussed below), there will be no MRS Main Board positions subject to election during the next election period. As stated, however, we are looking for a Chair-Designate for MRS and invite nominations for this role. The ballot for MRS Chair-Designate election for the year from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 will take place early in 2019.

WHY STAND FOR ELECTION?

Serving on the MRS Main Board as Chair-Designate and, after one year, as Chair, is a rewarding way of influencing the development of MRS and the sector it serves, and working for the benefit of the 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. The Chair-Designate (once they become Chair) is responsible for leading the MRS Main Board to achieve this mission.

As part of the MRS Main Board's thought leadership role, Main Board Members and the Chair/Chair-Designate 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, including the Chair Designate, each 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. The Chair-Designate may also be asked to deputise for the Chair if required.

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

The post of Chair-Designate was created to ensure that the MRS Chair has at least one year's experience as Chair-Designate before taking on the key role of leading the Main Board. Although MRS is relatively modest in size, it is a very complex organisation. We now have an election for the Chair-Designate role every second year, rather than the Chair.

The MRS Chair-Designate/Chair serves for a term of three years: one year as Chair-Designate and two years as the MRS Chair subject to ratification by the Main Board. In all other respects the Chair-Designate is a Main Board member.

The Chair-Designate receives 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 and the Chair/Chair-Designate role fits with the operational and financial responsibilities of the Executive. This is supported by the Main Board Handbook.

Although MRS Main Board Members and the Chair/Chair-Designate 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 2006 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 including the Chair-Designate 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 CHAIR-DESIGNATE must have been CERTIFIED MEMBERS or FELLOWS for at least two years (including any period as a "Full Member" prior to the re-designation of that category) and have not served as Chair for at least two Election Years immediately prior to this election.

NOMINATIONS PROCEDURE

CERTIFIED MEMBERS OR FELLOWS wishing to nominate candidates for the post of Chair-Designate are invited to do so, provided that their subscriptions are fully paid up. A candidate must be proposed/supported by SIX CERTIFIED MEMBERS OR FELLOWS, 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 p.m. on 7th January 2019. 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 400 words for Chair-Designate. 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. All election statements will be agreed with candidates before election materials are circulated. Statements received by the Chief Executive of MRS after 5.00 p.m. on 7th January 2019 will not be circulated to members.

ELECTION CODE OF CONDUCT AND COMPLAINTS

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

Complaints about issues not covered in the MRS Code of Conduct for Elections 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.



**2019 ELECTION OF CHAIR-DESIGNATE
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)

MRS CHAIR-DESIGNATE

Name of proposer.....	(FULL NAME IN CAPITALS)
Signature of proposer.....	M'Ship Number:
Name of second supporter.....	(FULL NAME IN CAPITALS)
Signature of second supporter	M'Ship Number:
Name of third supporter.....	(FULL NAME IN CAPITALS)
Signature of third supporter	M'Ship Number:
Name of fourth supporter.....	(FULL NAME IN CAPITALS)
Signature of fourth supporter	M'Ship Number:
Name of fifth supporter.....	(FULL NAME IN CAPITALS)
Signature of fifth supporter	M'Ship Number:
Name of sixth supporter.....	(FULL NAME IN CAPITALS)
Signature of sixth supporter	M'Ship Number:

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

Signature of Candidate M'Ship Number:

Completed nominations (duly signed by Proposers and five other Supporters and their Candidate) must be received by the Chief Executive of MRS at The Old Trading House, 15 Northburgh Street, London EC1V OJR, by email to samantha.driscoll@mrs.org.uk or by fax +44 (0) 20 7490 0608 no later than 5.00 p.m. on 7th January 2019.