

Trustee Placement Scheme

Background

As an independent organisation The London Library has always been self-governing. Today, the Library is a registered charity with a general annual turnover of £5 million. Its long-term strategic governance is in the hands of a body of volunteer Trustees drawn from the membership. All members are welcome to volunteer for trusteeship.

What is the Trustee Placement Scheme?

The scheme represents an exciting development opportunity for our younger members and may be particularly interesting to those seeking employment or trusteeship in the charity sector now or in the future. **The scheme is open to members of the Library aged up to and including 35** and benefits the Library by bringing to the Board the perspectives of younger members.

Although the Trustee Placements are not trustees under the Library's Charter and Byelaws and therefore do not have fiduciary responsibility, for all other intents and purposes they are treated as Trustees. They are expected to attend and contribute at all Board meetings, and any specific committees to which they are attached, as well as supporting and representing the Library at member events.

The Trustee Placements are given a thorough induction into the working of the Library by Library staff and additional support and training on any aspects of the role that may be unfamiliar eg how to read financial papers is available. Each placement is given a trustee mentor, who takes responsibility for helping develop them into and fulfil their role.

What is the role of the Trustees?

The Trustees are legally responsible under the Charter & Byelaws for the government and control of the Library. Whilst the issues concerning Trustees vary from year to year, the **Board's remit** is to:

- ensure the long-term well-being and effectiveness of the Library for present and future generations of users;
- ensure that the Library's assets are safeguarded, its financial responsibilities met and its resources applied appropriately in pursuance of its charitable object;
- set or approve strategies, policies, plans and budgets to achieve its object and monitor performance against them;
- appoint the Director (Chief Executive), monitor their performance and provide appropriate support to maximise potential;
- ensure the Library has suitable policies to identify and mitigate the major risks it faces, whether financial, legal, reputational or other, reviewing such risks annually and whenever decisions are required involving significant risk
- ensure that the Library functions within the legal and financial requirements of a registered charity, reviewing on a regular basis the Library's governance arrangements.

What sort of commitment is involved?

Trustee Placements serve a two-year term. They will be expected:

- to attend trustee meetings regularly and contribute appropriate skills, interests and knowledge;
- to reflect the Trustees' agreed policies and concerns whenever acting as a representative of the Trustees; and,
- to champion the cause and reputation of the Library, identifying and engaging potential new supporters.

The Trustees hold **five routine board meetings a year** (usually February/March, May, July, September and November) and others may be called if needed. Board and committee meetings are held at the Library or an adjacent venue on a weekday at 4.30 pm and last about two hours. Trustees are usually also asked to join one or two of the standing committees (Buildings & Facilities, Finance, Membership, Nominations). Each committee generally meets between three and five times a year. Trustees are expected to attend the AGM each autumn and are strongly encouraged to attend fundraising and membership events.

What sort of expertise is needed?

Experience as a Trustee is not a pre-requisite for these positions. All sorts of people make good trustees and a wide variety of knowledge and experience can be put to the service of the Library. First and foremost, as a Trustee Placement, it is important that you should be able and willing to:

- think strategically about the long-term interests of the Library;
- listen to others' views and contribute your own to help reach decisions collectively;
- collaborate effectively with the Library's professional staff; and,
- promote the Library and help find new members and supporters

We are keen to achieve greater diversity among our Board of Trustees so we welcome applications regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or age. While we are interested in some particular skills and experiences that are sometimes associated with professional qualifications, no specific educational or professional qualification is required in order to become a London Library Trustee Placement.

How do I volunteer?

An application form and further information are available from our website (please click on 'Work for us') or by emailing the Director's PA, Sarah Farthing at sarah.farthing@londonlibrary.co.uk.

Deadline

Applications need to be submitted by the end of **Sunday 31 May**.

Selection process

The Nominations Committee reviews all of the submissions and creates a shortlist of applicants who seem to match the Library's particular needs most closely and will benefit most from this scheme. Informal interviews will be held for these applicants to discuss the responsibilities of the scheme and what they have to offer in more detail. Following interviews the Nominations Committee will recommend two candidates to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Interview dates: w/c 15 June or 22 June