

## Role Description: PRESIDENT

### *Background*

The Royal Meteorological Society is the UK's Professional and Learned Society for weather and climate and its mission is **to advance the understanding of weather and climate, and application for the benefit of all**. The Society plays a key role as the custodian of both the science and the profession of meteorology in the UK and has an important role to play internationally as one of the world's largest meteorological Societies.

### *Role*

The President of the Society plays a very important role in presiding over all of the Society's activities and strategic developments working very closely with the Executive Team, especially the Chief Executive. The President will typically be a highly respected individual within the community with leadership experience in the science or application of meteorology in a national and international capacity.

The President is nominated and elected in accordance with the Society's Charter and By-Laws. The Society is a registered charity and as such, each elected Member of Council serves as a Trustee of the Society (see Annex A detailing the Code of Conduct of Trustees Role).

### *Responsibilities*

The main responsibilities of the President are:

- act as a figure-head for the Society in promoting and representing the interests of the organisation to key stakeholders;
- trustee of the Society and chair the Council meetings, the Awards Committee, Nominations Committee and the Annual General Meeting;
- lead engagement and dialogue with relevant sectors of the community and provide advice to Council in the development of strategy, cross-cutting themes and programmes of work;
- oversee the development of initiatives to support the achievements of the Society's strategic aims;
- work closely with the trustees, in particular the Treasurer and General Secretary, in order to ensure the approach, activities and budgets are closely aligned and meet charitable purpose and that the charitable resources are effectively used and managed;
- contribute to developing and to approve the agenda for the three Council meetings each year;
- deliver at least one Presidential Address during their term of office;
- make recommendations on strategic partnerships;

In addition to the specific roles defined here, the President may take up membership of whichever of the Society's committees they wish to become involved with.

### *Requirements*

The successful candidate will ideally have:

- a high level of authority and credibility within the meteorological community;
- knowledge of relevant UK research and innovation priorities or policy matters; or the interfaces between academia and industry;
- a track record of developing strategy and thinking creatively and strategically without becoming too involved in the detail;
- experience of chairing senior committees and an understanding of inclusive leadership;
- understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship;
- a commitment to the purpose, objectives and values of the organisation as a charity and recognising the contributions from a diverse membership;
- excellent judgement;
- good attention to detail;
- an ability to maintain confidentiality on sensitive and confidential information;
- an ability to analyse information and, when necessary, challenge constructively;
- a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort, and complete tasks in timely manner;

### *Term of Office*

The President serves a four-year term of office: one year as Vice-President (President elect), two years as President and one year as Vice-President (outgoing President).

### *Commitment and Support*

The role will be supported by the Chief Executive and the Executive Team. This is a voluntary role and it is estimated that to fulfil this role involves around 2 days a month of time commitment. Expenses will be reimbursed in line with the Royal Meteorological Society Expenses Policy.

### *Equity, Diversity and Inclusion*

The Royal Meteorological Society values diversity of background and perspective and is committed to treating all people equally and with respect irrespective of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. We value diversity of background and perspective.

## **Annex A: Code of Conduct of Trustees Role**

All trustees:

- are committed to the charity's cause and have joined its board because they want to help the charity deliver its purposes most effectively for public benefit
- recognise that meeting the charity's stated public benefit is an ongoing requirement
- understand their roles and legal responsibilities, and, in particular, have read and understand:
  - the Charity Commission's guidance [\*The Essential Trustee \(CC3\)\*](#)
  - the charity's governing document - Charter and By-Laws
- are committed to good governance and want to contribute to the charity's continued improvement.