



RESEARCH CAREERS AND TRAINING ADVISORY GROUP EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (OPEN CALL)

About the Research Careers and Training Advisory Group (RCTAG)

The AHRC's RCTAG was established in January 2013 and provides advice on postgraduate support and career development for researchers, and on future strategy in these areas.

The **Terms of Reference** for the Group are as follows:

1. To provide advice to the AHRC on postgraduate and researcher development matters - including both advising on the AHRC's longer-term strategy in this area, as well as alerting the AHRC to issues and developments in the university sector.
2. To advise the AHRC on skills-development needs in discipline areas both within and outside academia. For example, health of discipline concerns and ways in which these might be addressed.
3. To provide advice on existing or developing schemes, as required, as they evolve to meet emerging needs.

The Group reports to the AHRC's Advisory Board, and is chaired by a member of the Board. Its advice forms the basis of policy development within the AHRC. Membership of the Group is for an initial period of two years, and will commence from 1 January 2015. The Group normally meets three times a year (twice as a Group and an annual meeting with the Network). Members are also consulted on issues outside of the formal meetings.

For more information about the Group please refer to: <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/What-We-Do/Research-careers-and-training/Pages/Research-Careers-and-Training-Advisory-Group.aspx>

Call for new members

The AHRC is seeking to replace several members who have reached the end of their term with the Group. Potential candidates should have an active interest in researcher development issues. We are looking to recruit:

- An academic from the Arts and Humanities
- An arts or humanities PhD student, who can be at any stage in their research and who does not have to be AHRC-funded. This is a good development opportunity and will allow them to gain new insights into policy and strategy for support of researchers
- An early career researcher in the Arts and Humanities - in this context, any individual who is within eight years of their PhD or equivalent professional training, excluding career breaks, and who is pursuing a career in academia (including those undertaking part-time teaching or lecturing)

- A representative from the non-academic sector – applications are welcome from any sector with an interest in, and engagement with, the Arts and Humanities.

Expressions of interest are welcome from representative of all of these groups, as the AHRC wishes to maintain a balance of different perspectives in RCTAG's composition.

In determining membership of the Group, the AHRC will ensure that a range of institutions and subjects is covered, though it does not expect individual members to represent their institution or subject. We are particularly keen to attract applications from practice-based subject areas to ensure this perspective is brought to the Group's discussion.

Process

To be considered for membership of RCTAG, please complete the online form here: http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/RCTAG_Open2014, also uploading a CV (maximum two-sides), and submit these by **Friday 10 October 2014**.

Applications will be considered on the basis of the case that applicants have made for their potential contribution to the group and how well this is supported by the applicant's experience in this area. In reaching a decision on the composition of the Group, the AHRC will consider not only the individual strengths of applicants, but also the balance of expertise and equality of representation, including regional coverage.

All applicants must have an interest in, understanding of, and engagement with researcher development issues at the postgraduate and/or postdoctoral level and beyond. There are a variety of ways in which this can be demonstrated, which will depend on the capacity in which applicants are proposing to join the Group.

The AHRC will be looking for some evidence of engagement with these issues, whether this is through a formal or professional role at an institution, or through membership of a body concerned with researcher development matters. We do not wish to be prescriptive about the type of activities that applicants might include as we are open to a variety of experience that might demonstrate an active interest and engagement with researcher development.

For queries about this call, please contact Researcher.Development@AHRC.ac.uk