



Northern Ireland Advisory Committee

Advertisement template

Chair, Northern Ireland Advisory Committee

UK

Northern Ireland

Belfast

UK Region

Attachment

Pay band: Unremunerated but reasonable UK travel and expenses reimbursed

Requirements: Candidates must have the right to work in the UK

Closing date and time: **3 November 2021 at 23:59 UK Time**

About us

Our purpose is to build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language.

We work in two ways – directly with individuals to transform their lives, and with governments and partners to make a bigger difference for the longer term, creating benefit for millions of people all over the world.

We help young people to gain the skills, confidence and connections they are looking for to realise their potential and to participate in strong and inclusive communities. We support them to learn English, to get a high-quality education and to gain internationally recognised qualifications. Our work in

arts and culture stimulates creative expression and exchange and nurtures creative enterprise.

We connect the best of the UK with the world and the best of the world with the UK. These connections lead to an understanding of each other's strengths and of the challenges and values that we share. This builds trust between people in the UK and other nations which endures even when official relations may be strained.

British Council Northern Ireland brings the best of international education and arts to Northern Ireland and helps students, teachers, artists and others connect professionally with people around the world. We enrich people's lives here in Northern Ireland and abroad by encouraging and supporting this interplay of ideas, skills and experiences.

The British Council draws on strategic advice from three Country Advisory Committees - for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - which report to the Board of Trustees.

Our equality commitment

The British Council is committed to a policy of equality and to valuing diversity. We are actively working to improve diversity across all our governance structures so that they reflect the societies in which we work. We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

We aim to abide by and promote equality legislation by following both the letter and the spirit of it to avoid unjustified discrimination, recognising discrimination as a barrier to equality of opportunity, inclusion and human rights. All staff worldwide are required to ensure their behaviour is consistent with our policies.

The British Council has Disability Confident Employer Status. We offer a guaranteed interview scheme for disabled applicants who meet the essential criteria for the role. Applicants are encouraged to highlight any specific requirements or adjustments needed to enable participation in the recruitment process.

The opportunity

The Northern Ireland Advisory Committee advises the Country Director Northern Ireland and acts as an advocate for our work in Northern Ireland.

The role of the Chair is to advise the Country Director in a non-executive capacity to maximise the impact that British Council can make in and for the

relevant UK country. As Chair, you will lead the Northern Ireland Advisory Committee to fulfil its purpose and objectives as set out in the Terms of Reference.

The Chair of the Committee is appointed for a three year term, renewable for a further three years. Country Advisory Committee Chairs are co-opted on a rotating basis to serve on the British Council Board of Trustees for a two-year period, representing all three Country Advisory Committees which meets in London (occasionally meetings are held virtually).

Terms and Conditions

Committee Chairs are appointed for a three-year term, renewable for a further three years.

Positions on the Northern Ireland Advisory Committee are not remunerated but reasonable UK travel and expenses will be reimbursed at standard British Council rates. Candidates must have the right to work in the UK.

Key focus areas of the post include

- Leading the Committee to fulfil its purpose and objectives outlined in the Terms of Reference
- Chairing Committee meetings, normally three a year (and possibly an away day)
- Acting as advocate for the British Council's work in Northern Ireland and in the UK as a whole
- Hosting and speaking from time to time at events organised by British Council Northern Ireland
- Attending other relevant British Council meetings and functions
- Reviewing the papers for six Board of Trustees meetings a year and providing comments to the Chair of one of the three Country Advisory Committees currently serving on the British Council's Board of Trustees
- Attending the annual meeting of the Chairs of the three Country Advisory Committees with the Chair of the British Council, which may sometimes take place virtually.

When on the Board of Trustees:

- Preparing for, and full participation, in six Board of Trustees meetings a year in London (some may take place virtually) and an away day
- Acting in a representative role by consulting the Chairs of the other two Country Advisory Committees in advance of Board of Trustees meetings (virtually or otherwise)

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- Presenting a short note summarising key opportunities, risks and issues arising from each Committee at Board of Trustees meetings. This note is included in the Chair of the British Council's written report to the Board of Trustees
 - Making a brief report during Board of Trustees meetings and feeding back to the Chairs of the other two Country Advisory Committees

What we require of the successful candidate

- Experience of a senior role within a major private, public or voluntary sector organisation in a management and/or Board capacity
- Significant recent experience in one or more of the three pillars (core business areas) of British Council activity – Arts & Culture, Education, and English and Exams
- Varied range of contacts in Northern Ireland
- Belief in, understanding and knowledge of, what Northern Ireland can contribute on the world stage
- Capacity to act as a 'critical friend' to Northern Ireland Country Director
- Highly effective communication skills
- Understanding and knowledge of one or more of the main geographical regions in which the British Council works
- Strong international background and/or interests
- Excellent interpersonal skills

If you would like to understand more about this post then please see the documents attached:

ROLE PROFILE

NORTHERN IRELAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Further details

If you are interested in the post and feel that you are suitable for the role, then we would really like to hear from you.

Please apply by sending:

- 1) a copy of your CV
- 2) a Supporting Statement (up to 600 words) highlighting how you meet the criteria as set out in the role profile for this position
- 3) a completed Equality Monitoring Form

by **3 November 2021 at 23:59 UK Time** to: Sarah Brisbane, Operations & Equality Manager, British Council Northern Ireland,
sarah.brisbane@britishcouncil.org