

LSE Research Ethics Review Board Invitation for Lay members

The London School of Economics and Political Science is seeking to recruit two Lay (independent) Members to join the LSE Research Ethics Review Board. Lay members are expected to provide a 'lay perspective', representative of the public, and to bring expertise that complements that of the academic members, usually based on direct experience of working in important areas, for example mental health, homelessness, the media, working with the police, young offenders, or similar.

Information about the Board and the role are provided below. An induction session will be provided at a mutually agreed date/time. The role is voluntary (although we will reimburse reasonable travel and expenses if required for the termly meetings). The term of appointment is normally for up to 3 years with potential for renewal.

How to apply: Expressions of interest (explaining the reason you are interested in the role, and the skills/qualities you feel you can bring to the Board) and a CV should be submitted to the Board Secretary, Dr Lyn Grove, via l.grove@lse.ac.uk. The current deadline for expressions of interest is **Tuesday 26th May 2026**¹. You are welcome to get in touch with any questions before applying.

About the LSE Research Ethics Review Board

The Research Ethics Review Board (RERB) is a sub-committee of the LSE Research Committee. Its three core functions are: i) to review and make recommendations on the School's Research Ethics Policy and procedure² and related guidance; ii) to take responsibility for the review and approval of ethics applications submitted by staff and students which are designated as higher risk/requiring RERB review, ensuring that the proposed research has appropriate safeguards in place with respect to both researcher safety and that of any participants or others who will be involved; iii) to provide guidance to staff and students on matters relating to research ethics.

Applications for ethics approval are reviewed by members electronically as and when they are received. Applications are usually reviewed by two or three members. The Research Ethics Managers assign applications to members for review, trying to ensure that workload is distributed evenly over the course of each term whilst at the same time taking into account members' areas of expertise. At the busiest times of year (usually February to June) a member can expect to review up to two applications a month.

In addition to the review of applications, the Board meets face-to-face once a term to discuss Board business such as the review of policy and guidance, or complex issues that have arisen during the term.

The full Terms of Reference of the REC, as well as details of current membership, can be found at: <https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/research-and-innovation/research/committees-and-working-groups/Research-ethics-committee>

Role of LSE Research Ethics Review Board Lay member

The role of the Lay member is similar to that of the LSE/academic members of the Board. However, the lay member is expected to add a 'lay perspective' to the Board's policy discussions and reviews of applications. Formal training in research ethics is not a requirement, but it is hoped the Lay member would bring knowledge and experience of relevance to the sometimes complex issues dealt with by the Board.

A more detailed role description can be found at: <https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/research-and-innovation/research/Assets/Documents/PDF/Role-Lay-member-RERB-May2026.pdf>

¹ If you miss this deadline do please get in touch to enquire if we still have vacancies

² <https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/research-and-innovation/research/research-ethics/research-ethics>