

8 May 2020



## LRG is seeking new Trustees

The Landscape Research Group is governed by a board of trustees and we are seeking candidates for the next board elections, which will take place online on 18 June 2020.

LRG is an international, independent and not-for-profit organisation that promotes landscape research for the public benefit. We exist to ensure that landscape research thrives and contributes fully to the attainment of justice and sustainability in the world<sup>1</sup>.

The trustees are crucial to LRG's work. They ensure that the charity is well run, and they decide how the charity should go about meeting its aims, which are to advance landscape research and support an active community of interest. They set priorities for LRG's activities and for the use of LRG's funds.

Individual trustees also often lead and get actively involved in particular aspects of LRG's work that suit their interests and skills, such as our journal and digital publications, our events, our research grant scheme and our support for networks of LRG members.

### Who are we looking for?

Any member of LRG, in any country, can put themselves forward as a candidate for election to the board. A good level of written and spoken English is required. If you wish to become a member, [click here](#).

The board has 14 members<sup>2</sup> and this year we are looking to recruit 2 new trustees to provide a good balance between continuity and refreshing the board's membership.

LRG needs committed trustees who are motivated by our goals of ensuring that landscape research thrives and contributes in the fullest possible way towards the attainment of justice and sustainability in the world.

### *Diversity*

LRG has the objective of ensuring that its board is appropriately diverse. A diverse board is more likely to contain a broader range of skills, knowledge and experience than one which is more narrowly based. A diverse board can also help to ensure that the charity is fair and open in all its dealings and activities. It is important that charities seek to increase or at least maintain the diversity of their trustee boards<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on LRG's purpose and activities see <https://landscaperesearch.org/>

<sup>2</sup> For details see <https://landscaperesearch.org/about-us/who-we-are/>

<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/finding-new-trustees-cc30/finding-new-trustees](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/finding-new-trustees-cc30/finding-new-trustees);  
<https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/governance/improving-your-governance-practice/trustee-diversity/how-to-increase-diversity-among-trustees>

An analysis of LRG's strategic objectives and of the membership of our board over the last 20 years suggests a need to increase the diversity of the board in a number of specific ways. To help achieve this, we wish to see a greater diversity of candidates standing for election and, particularly, more:

- **Students and early career people:** LRG has the objective of supporting people in the earlier stages of their career, but the proportion of early career trustees has declined over the last 20 years. To ensure that we can provide the best support we can to students and early career people, this section of our community should be better represented on the board. Equally, this provides a personal opportunity for somebody at the beginning of their career, and we welcome applications from candidates with skills and interests regardless of level of experience.
- **Women and people who identify as non-binary:** in 2018, the board was 53% male, but in 2019 this increased to 71%. We are keen that the gender balance of the board changes to reflect the balance in wider society;
- **People from countries outside the EU:** one of LRG's strategic objectives is to encourage researchers to work across boundaries of nation and culture. To help us meet this objective, we need an internationally and culturally diverse board. LRG began as a UK-focused organisation, but has since developed into an international one. Reflecting this, in the last 20 years, the board has gone from being 95% UK by nationality to 36% UK, 36% EU and 28% outside the EU. However, of the non-EU nationals, only one is resident outside of the EU. We wish to maintain and extend our international and cultural diversity, and welcome nominations from non-EU members.
- **Researchers and practitioners working in the public, private and third sectors:** LRG has always championed inter-disciplinary research and collaboration across sectors. We seek to help researchers and those who can shape, inform and use research to engage effectively across the boundaries of discipline and sector. The board is currently made up of 71% academic sector trustees, 7% public sector and 21% private or third sector. It is important of LRG to maintain strong connections with academia, but we also need public, private and third sector researchers and practitioners on the board to help us meet our objectives.

### *Skills, interests and experience*

The board as a whole needs to have the range of skills, interests and experience to govern the charity properly, to set and maintain its strategic direction and to lead on the development and delivery of its activities.

If you can contribute in any of the areas outlined below, and are interested in the opportunity, we look forward to hearing from you!



We need people with skills, interests and experience relating to LRG's activities, i.e.:

- Publications – our international journal, Landscape Research, and (coming soon!) a major new digital resource and multimedia publication;
- Events – our international events programmes enables people to share and learn about current research, to meet and collaborate and to shape what LRG does;
- Funding – our grants support research projects and student research;
- Networks – we participate in various international networks to promote landscape research and we provide funding and support for LRG members to run networks in particular geographical regions or on a particular theme.

We also need trustees who can help ensure that the charity develops successfully and is well run, with skills and interest in areas such as:

- Governance of charities or other public benefit organisations;
- Income generation and diversification, ensuring the sound management of finances;
- Membership development and engagement;
- Communications.

### **What's involved?**

Minimum commitment:

- Participation in 2 Board meetings per year. Traditionally the meetings have been held in person in the UK. Recently we have sought to enable board members to join remotely where needed. In May 2020 we will hold our first fully-virtual meeting. We plan to continue to expand the opportunities for trustees to join meetings remotely.
- In between meeting, trustees review board papers and contribute when needed to electronic discussions and decisions on strategic issues.

In addition, trustees can volunteer to take on particular roles in the governance of LRG or the development and delivery of its activities, as fits their individual capacity and their individual skills and experience.

LRG is a registered as a charity in the UK, and therefore subject to UK charity law. To find out more about what is expected of charity trustees, you should consult the [Charity Governance Code](#), and the straightforward [guidance](#) provided by the UK Charity Commission.

The role of LRG trustee is a voluntary one and not paid. However, trustees are reimbursed for any reasonable expenses incurred in attending board meetings or carrying out other duties in their trustee role.



## How to put yourself forward

The process and timetable for nominations is:

- Late May: further details and nomination forms will be posted on the LRG website and LRG members will be notified when this happens;
- 28th May: submission of nomination opens. You can nominate yourself, and you do this by filling out and submitting the nomination form that will be available on the LRG website;
- 14th June: nominations close;
- 15th June: candidate information made available to all LRG members and online voting opens. Trustees are elected annually by the LRG membership;
- 18th June: voting closes and the results are communicated at the Annual General Meeting (which will be a virtual event this year) and subsequently to all LRG members.

## Get in touch

If you wish to discuss standing for election to the LRG board, please contact the Chair of the board, Chris Dalglish at [chris@landscaperesearch.org](mailto:chris@landscaperesearch.org)