



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

APPLICANT PACK

Trustees

British Museum

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Introduction

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is enthusiastic for and has a genuine interest in the British Museum's collection and an understanding of the Museum's work in the UK and internationally. We are looking to recruit up to 4 Trustees, Generalists and including a Trustee with Historic Buildings Conservation expertise.

The British Museum is the world's largest museum. In 2022/23, its iconic home in Bloomsbury received 4.5 million visitors, while a further 4 million people saw objects from the British Museum's collection elsewhere in the UK, thanks to nearly 2,000 objects loans to institutions around the country, including partner organisations and community groups with whom the Museum co-curates the display of loaned objects.

As we move towards its 275th anniversary in 2028, however, the Museum is entering into an exciting new era with a long-term masterplan to renew and rethink how we tell the common story of human culture by revitalising the Museum estate and improving how visitors experience the collection in London, across the UK, and around the world.



Approximately 1000 people



London



Founded in 1753

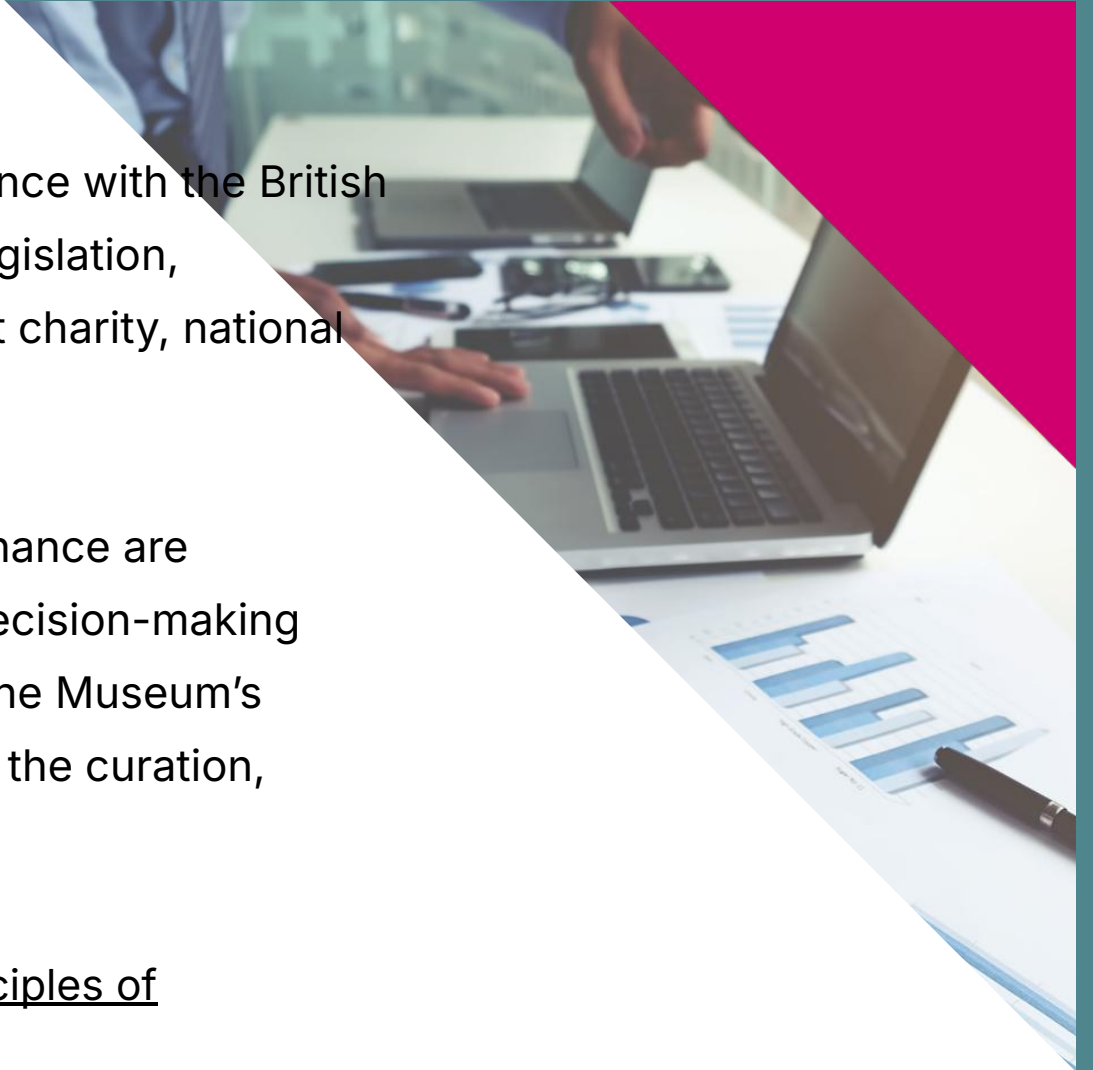


The role of the Board

The role of the Board is to ensure the Museum is run in compliance with the British Museum Act (1963), the Charity Act (2011) and other relevant legislation, and the values and principles relevant to the Museum as an exempt charity, national institution and public body.

The Board also ensures that high standards of corporate governance are maintained and that the Museum has robust control systems, decision-making processes and management in place. It advises and supports the Museum's senior management to ensure the effective operation of the Museum and the curation, conservation and exhibition of its collection.

The Board is also subject to the Seven Principles of Public Life, the 12 Principles of Public Life and the Code of Practice.



Background



- The British Museum is an exempt charity and Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The Gallery seeks four new Trustees for appointment by the Prime Minister in Spring 2024.
- Established by Act of Parliament in 1753, the British Museum is the oldest national public museum in the world. Its mission is to house, curate, conserve, research and exhibit a collection of world cultures. With a collection totalling eight million objects, the British Museum is unique in bringing together under one roof the cultures of the world, which allows us to explore the extraordinary diversity of human culture, to discover the many forms and expressions human beings have given to every aspect of life, and to realise how closely they are interconnected.

Background

- The British Museum is the world's largest museum. In 2022/23, its iconic home in Bloomsbury received 4.5 million visitors, while a further 4 million people saw objects from the British Museum's collection elsewhere in the UK, thanks to nearly 2,000 objects loans to institutions around the country, including partner organisations and community groups with whom the Museum co-curates the display of loaned objects.
- In addition to the audiences in London and around the UK, the Museum has deep connections with museums, collections and communities around the globe. In 2022/23 it loaned nearly 1,700 objects internationally and worked with partners from Iraq to Nigeria to Tahiti, helping to ensure that the Museum remains a museum in and of the world.
- Like many major museums, the British Museum has faced significant challenges in recent years. As we move towards its 275th anniversary in 2028, however, the Museum is entering into an exciting new era with a long-term masterplan to renew and rethink how we tell the common story of human culture by revitalising the Museum estate and improving how visitors experience the collection in London, across the UK, and around the world.



Time Commitment

- The Board meets four times a year, with most meetings and associated activities lasting half a day and one meeting usually spent away from the Museum over a weekend. Some Trustees also serve on one or more Board committees or advisory groups, each meeting between two and four times a year.
- Additional time will be required to study papers, to attend events at the Museum, including fundraising events, and to represent the Museum at other functions.

Remuneration

- The role is unpaid but reasonable expenses will be paid.

Term of Appointment

- The term of appointment is four years.



Essential Criteria

- An enthusiasm for and genuine interest in the British Museum's collection and an understanding of the Museum's work in the UK and internationally.
- An understanding of and commitment to the objectives and work of the British Museum as a museum of the world for the world.
- A commitment to Trustees' fiduciary responsibilities, which are to preserve and enhance the collection for the benefit of present and future generations, and to make it as freely accessible as possible.
- A commitment to supporting the Museum's role in preserving cultural heritage, and in using the collection to support education and the understanding of British and world cultures and history.
- Proven ability to take responsibility and demonstrate sound judgement in strategic decision-making ability.
- A commitment to supporting fundraising activities and to work with the Museum's advancement team to contribute to the delivery of fundraising ambitions.
- Excellent communications and representational skills.
- A clear understanding of the principles of good corporate governance with experience of collective decision making at a senior level and the ability to work effectively as part of a team, actively contributing to Board discussions and decision-making.

Essential Criteria: Historic Buildings Conservation

In addition to the essential criteria outlined above, candidates for the Historic buildings conservation Trustee appointment will be expected to demonstrate the following experience:

- Expertise and experience in architecture and historic buildings conservation;
- Experience in developing the potential of heritage sites;
- Understanding of the workings of high-level capital projects and the strategic management of extensive estates.

Desirable Criteria, All Trustees:

- A commitment to supporting fundraising activities and to work with the Museum's advancement team to contribute to the delivery of fundraising ambitions.

Key dates

(Please note these are subject to change)

OPEN FOR
APPLICATIONS

28/01/2025

DEADLINE FOR
APPLICATIONS

29/02/2025

PANEL SIFT

**Week
Commencing
14/03/2025**

INTERVIEWS

**Week
Commencing
18/04/2025**

Diversity and inclusion

DCMS is committed to equality of opportunity and is committed to ensuring that public appointments better represent the views of the communities which they serve. We particularly encourage applicants from underrepresented groups, those based outside London and the South-East and applicants who have achieved success through non-traditional educational routes. We want to ensure any appointee is committed to promoting diversity, in its broadest possible sense. This will include embedding a commitment to the principles of levelling up and championing opportunity for all across the organisation, helping to ensure that the organisation is one in which a genuinely diverse range of views can be expressed, without fear or favour.

We ask all applicants to complete a diversity monitoring form. We hope you will help us by providing this information. Your data is not disclosed to the panel, but allows us to constantly evaluate any potential barriers to becoming a public appointee and what we can do to encourage a more diverse field to apply.

We try to guarantee an interview to anyone with a disability whose application meets the minimum criteria for the role. By 'minimum criteria,' we mean that you must provide evidence in your application, which demonstrates that you meet the level of competence required under each of the essential criteria.

If you wish to apply under this scheme, either state this in the covering email or letter when submitting your application, or contact the team. This will in no way prejudice your application.

Reasonable adjustments

If you would like a confidential discussion regarding any reasonable adjustments during the process, please indicate this in the covering email or letter or communicate with the public appointments team, who will be happy to discuss this with you.





STEP 1

CV

on no more than 2 sides of A4



STEP 2

Statement of suitability

Describe how you meet the criteria for this role, on 2 sides of A4.



STEP 3

A Conflict of Interest form and a Disability Monitoring Form, completed via the portal.

How to apply

Completed applications should be submitted on the Public Appointments website:

<https://apply-for-public-appointment.service.gov.uk/roles>

For any queries/issues please contact:
publicappointments@dcms.gov.uk

Please put 'British Museum Trustee' in the Subject line.



This appointments process adheres to the Cabinet Office Governance Code on Public Appointments, which is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Eligibility Criteria

You cannot be considered for a public appointment if:

you become bankrupt or make an arrangement with a creditor

your estate has been sequestrated in Scotland or you enter into a debt arrangement programme under Part 1 of the Debt Arrangement and Attachment (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 17) as the debtor or have, under Scots law, granted a trust deed for creditors;

you are disqualified from acting as a company director under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986;

you have been convicted of a criminal offence, the conviction not being spent for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (c. 53);

you become subject to a debt relief order or a bankruptcy restrictions order;

you fail to declare any conflict of interest.

Conflicts of Interest and Due Diligence

If you have any interests that might be relevant to the work of The Gambling Commission, and which could lead to a real or perceived conflict of interest if you were to be appointed, please provide details in your application. If you have queries about this and would like to discuss further please contact the Public Appointments Team.

Given the nature of public appointments, it is important that those appointed as members of public bodies maintain the confidence of Parliament and the public. If there are any issues in your personal or professional history that could, if you were appointed, be misconstrued, cause embarrassment, or cause public confidence in the appointment to be jeopardised, it is important that you bring them to the attention of the Advisory Assessment Panel and provide details of the issue(s) in your application. In considering whether you wish to declare any issues, you should also reflect on any public statements you have made, including through social media.

As part of our due diligence checks we will consider anything in the public domain related to your conduct or professional capacity. This will include us undertaking searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information. This information may be made available to the Advisory Assessment Panel and they may wish to explore issues with you should you be invited to interview. The information may also be shared with ministers and the Cabinet Office.

Contact us

Interested in
other DCMS
Appointments?

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS TEAM

publicappointments@dcms.gov.uk

Campaign Manager: Victoria Watts

victoria.watts@dcms.gov.uk

JOIN THE DCMS PUBLIC
APPOINTMENTS NETWORK

Hear about vacancies that match your
interests, attend events, and more.

[Click here](#) or email the address
above.