



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Public Appointments

British Museum x4 Trustees

[Apply on Public Appointments Website](#)

Deadline: 17 August 2026



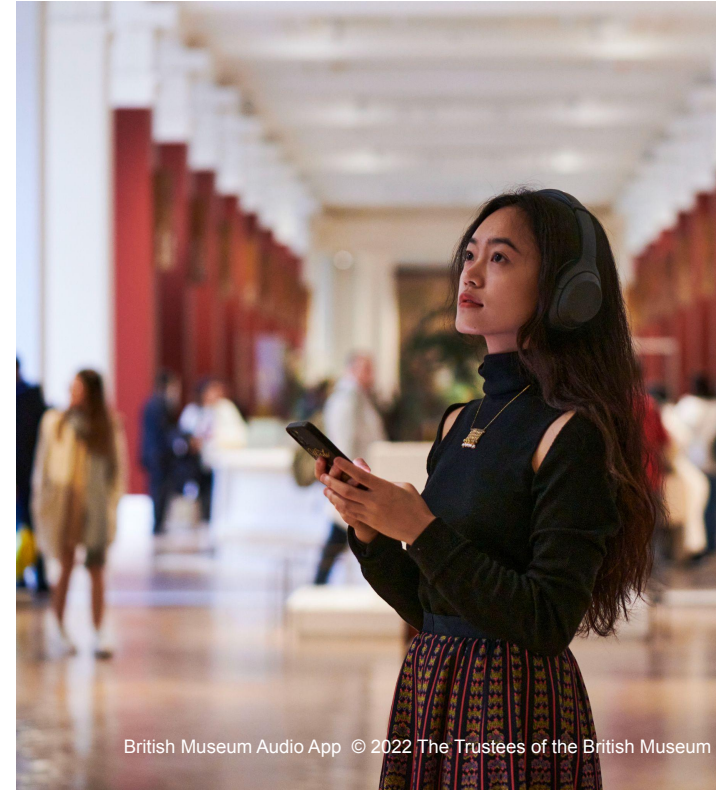
Introduction

The Prime Minister is seeking to appoint four new Trustees to the British Museum board.

We are seeking to appoint Trustees with strong generalist skills and those with experience/expertise in one of the following areas:

- Community Engagement
- Capital Projects
- Finance / Business Leadership

The British Museum is an exempt charity and Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.



British Museum Audio App © 2022 The Trustees of the British Museum

About the Board



The Museum's Board consists of 25 Trustees, one of whom is appointed by The Sovereign, 15 by the Prime Minister, 5 by the Board itself and 4 by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the recommendations of the British Academy, the Royal Academy, the Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries of London respectively.

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, regulations and principles relevant to the Museum as an exempt charity, national museum 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. In doing so, it advises and supports the Museum's executive, led by its Director, Dr Nicholas Cullinan, to ensure the effective operation of the Museum and the curation, conservation and exhibition of its collection.

About the British Museum

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.

In 2024/25, its iconic home in Bloomsbury received 6.5 million visitors, while a further 8 million people saw objects from the British Museum's collection elsewhere in the UK, thanks to nearly 2,000 object loans to institutions around the country, including partner organisations and community groups with whom the Museum co-curates the display of loaned objects.



Adrian White © The Trustees of the British Museum

About the British Museum (cont)

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 2024/25 it loaned nearly 1,500 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.



Art Play Workshop © British Museum

Time Commitment



The likely total time commitment is the equivalent of one-two days per month.

The role includes attending four half-day Board meetings per annum, one of which is part of an annual Board Away Weekend. Trustees will typically serve on a number of Sub-Committees of the Board, most of which meet four times per year.

The role also involves attending and hosting British Museum events and other engagements such as openings and dinners. Some additional time to study papers and provide ad hoc advice will be required as necessary.

In addition, Trustees will be encouraged to buddy with one of the Museum's departments and to spend time outside of formal Board meetings or BM events with the department. This is entirely voluntary and at the discretion of the individual Trustee, with no set or fixed time commitment attached.

Other key details



Location: Three of the four Board meetings are held in the Museum building in Bloomsbury, one meeting a year is held outside London (alternately within and outside the UK). This is part of an annual Board Away Weekend (with a programme that typically runs from Thursday evening to Saturday lunchtime in September).

Trustees are asked to attend meetings in person so that they can join visits within the Museum, however, meetings have remote attendance options (via Teams).

Term Length: 4 years. There will be the possibility of re-appointment for a further term, at the discretion of Ministers.

Expenses: While trustees are not paid, Trustees can claim reimbursement for reasonable travel and subsistence costs which are incurred on official business, in line with the British Museum's expenses policies and rates.

Essential Criteria

- **Equality, diversity and inclusion:** A commitment to promoting and widening access to the British Museum collection for everyone, considering the needs of all visitors/users, with a purpose of fostering greater social cohesion; access and engagement objectives;
- **Knowledge:** A clear understanding of the work, priorities and challenges of the British Museum and the context within which it operates domestically and internationally;
- **Commitment:** 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;



Essential Criteria (cont)

- **Judgement:** Effective decision-making skills with the ability to critically analyse a wide range of information to make clear and objective evidence-based recommendations to support the delivery of the British Museum's objectives;
- **Fundraising:** The ability and commitment to supporting fundraising activities and to work with the Museum's advancement team to contribute to the delivery of fundraising ambitions;
- **Communication:** Strong communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to listen, accept challenges and constructively challenge others with clarity and respect;
- **Governance:** The ability to operate at board level, with a focus on performance monitoring, and strategic thinking.



Desirable Criteria

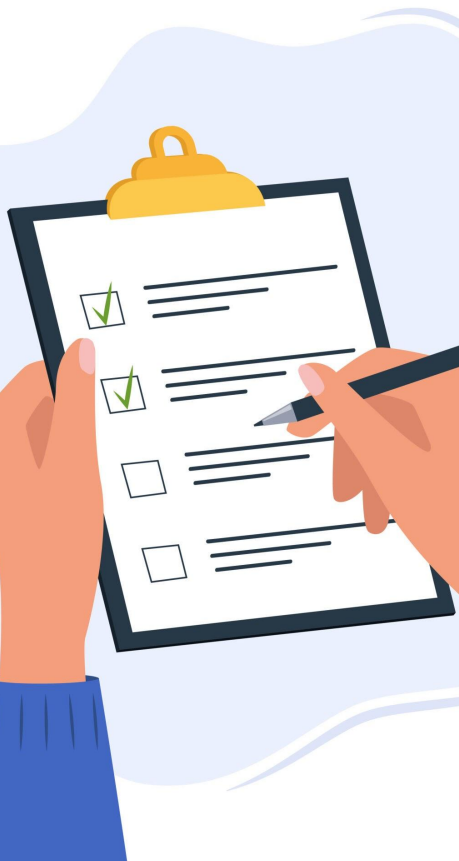


The Reading Room © British Museum

In addition to the essential criteria outlined above, we would welcome applicants with experience in one of the following areas:

- **Community Engagement:** Experience of spearheading public programmes that broaden access to and/or improving opportunities for people of all backgrounds;
- **Capital Projects:** Oversight of major building or infrastructure works (particularly in historic buildings);
- **Finance / Business Leadership:** Experience in financial and investment planning and /or expertise in business leadership with reference to large-scale project management.

How to apply



In order to apply you will need to [create an account](#) or [sign in](#).

Once you are logged into your account, click on 'apply for this role' and follow the on-screen instructions.

To apply, all candidates are required to provide:

- equality information
- information relating to any outside interests or reputational issues
- a Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- a supporting statement
- a short professional biography (150 words)

We will ask you to check and confirm your personal details to ensure your application is accurate. You will also have the opportunity to make a reasonable adjustment request or apply under the disability confident scheme before you submit your application.

As part of your application, you will be asked to provide equality information including special category data (which may identify your race/ ethnic background or health); you have the choice to opt out from sharing any equality data, by selecting 'prefer not to say'. DCMS will use your data in line with our [privacy policy](#).

Questions?

The full role advert including eligibility criteria is available on the [HMG Public Appointments Website](#)

To discuss the appointment process please contact publicappointments@dcms.gov.uk or emily.nixon@dcms.gov.uk.

Should you encounter any issues with your online application please get in touch with publicappointments@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

