



## **2025 ELECTION OF MRS CHAIR DESIGNATE & MRS MAIN BOARD MEMBERS**

### **REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS**

#### **ELECTION NOTICE**

The ballot for the MRS Chair-Designate and MRS Main Board elections for the year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 will take place early in 2025. It is therefore time to invite nominations for the position as MRS Chair Designate and two vacancies on the Main Board (our Board of Directors).

#### **WHY STAND FOR ELECTION?**

Serving on the MRS Main Board as a member or as Chair-Designate/Chair is a rewarding way of influencing the development of MRS and the sector it serves and working for the benefit of the diverse and eclectic membership of individuals and organisations whose livelihoods are derived from research, insight, data and evidence.

#### **WHAT DOES IT ENTAIL?**

The MRS Main Board is responsible for the fulfilment of the MRS mission, by shaping and guiding the strategies and policies which support it, as well as their financing and implementation. The Chair-Designate (once they become Chair) is responsible for leading the MRS Main Board to achieve this mission.

As part of the MRS Main Board's thought leadership role, Main Board Members and the Chair/Chair-Designate develop relevant initiatives, engaging the support of members and others for these projects. The MRS Main Board meets regularly to review and decide on strategy, policy, priorities, and resource allocation. A reasonable commitment of time is therefore necessary to attend meetings and to undertake work between meetings.

Main Board members, including the Chair Designate, each take an interest in a specific dimension of MRS activities or future plans. They may also be asked to chair advisory boards, task forces, or other projects addressing both policy and the detail of implementation in specialist areas. The Chair-Designate may also be asked to deputise for the Chair if required.

#### **THE ROLE OF MRS**

MRS is the world's leading research association for all those who need, use, generate or interpret the evidence essential to making good decisions for commercial and public policy.

MRS is dedicated to the support, promotion and enrichment of the research and business world, helping members to innovate, create sharp intelligence, insightful advice and rigorous data. These are the building blocks of effective evidence generation. MRS safeguards the generation of trusted evidence with the most respected and recognised Code of Conduct.

MRS exists to encourage and promote research as a force for democracy, commerce and society.

## **THE COMMITMENT REQUIRED**

The post of Chair-Designate was created to ensure that the MRS Chair has at least one year's experience as Chair-Designate before taking on the key role of leading the Main Board. Although MRS is relatively modest in size, it is a very complex organisation. We now have an election for the Chair-Designate role every second year, rather than the Chair.

The MRS Chair-Designate/Chair serves for a term of three years: one year as Chair-Designate and two years as the MRS Chair subject to ratification by the Main Board. In all other respects the Chair-Designate is a Main Board member. Main Board Members serve for a term of three years. Those elected in this current election will be in place for the period 2025-2028.

The Main Board members and Chair-Designate/Chair receive an induction to familiarise them with the scope of existing MRS policies and activities, and to brief them on how the policy-making role of the Main Board and the Chair/Chair-Designate role fits with the operational and financial responsibilities of the Executive. This is supported by the Main Board Handbook.

Although MRS Main Board Members and the Chair/Chair-Designate serve in a non-executive capacity, they are statutory Directors of MRS and are registered at Companies House as Directors. This is a formal requirement of the Companies Act 2006 and should not affect candidates' contracts of employment, but they should, of course, ensure that their appointment will not conflict with other obligations. The legal responsibilities are the same as for any other Company Director.

No fees or emoluments are paid, but expenses may be reclaimed. Upon appointment, all Main Board members including the Chair-Designate must make a standard declaration of interest listing relevant material financial interests, including investment, contracts and consultancies (held personally, as a trustee or as an effective controller of a company) plus memberships of other organisations and any relevant voluntary and non-financial interests or connections.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Candidates for CHAIR-DESIGNATE must have been CERTIFIED MEMBERS or FELLOWS or for at least two years (including any period as a "Full Member" prior to the re-designation of that category) and have not served as Chair for at least two Election Years immediately prior to this election.

Candidates for MRS MAIN BOARD post must be an MRS MEMBER (Fellow, Certified Member or Member) and have not served a maximum continuous term on the MRS Main Board in any voting capacity of six years and may not stand for re-election or be co-opted to the Main Board for at least two Election Years after a continuous six-year term. Where the Main Board identifies a specific serving Main Board member who is required for the Main Board's activities, that Main Board member can serve additional terms as agreed in writing by the Main Board.

## **NOMINATIONS PROCEDURE**

CERTIFIED MEMBERS OR FELLOWS wishing to nominate candidates for the post of Chair-Designate are invited to do so, provided that their subscriptions are fully paid up. A candidate must be proposed/supported by SIX CERTIFIED MEMBERS OR FELLOWS, must personally have given written confirmation of willingness to stand for election, and must have supplied an Election Address.

MRS Members wishing to nominate candidates for the Main Board posts are invited to do so provided that their subscriptions are fully paid up. A candidate must be proposed by TWO MEMBERS, must personally have given written confirmation of willingness to stand for election, and must have supplied an Election Address.

A nomination form is attached. This form, accompanied by an Election Address, must be received by the Chief Executive of MRS not later than 5.00 p.m. on 7th January 2025. The form may be submitted by post or scanned as an email.

## **ELECTION ADDRESS**

Each candidate should ensure that his/her Nomination Form is accompanied by a personal statement which will be circulated to members with the ballot papers.

Statements are limited to 400 words for Chair-Designate and 200 words for Main Board members. The word count includes definite and indefinite articles and numbers. Candidate photos, word clouds, websites, social media links, sales pitches, QR codes, logos or symbols, or similar cannot be included in election statements, i.e. statements must be prose-based only.

Statements that exceed the word limit or contain prohibited information/formatting will be edited.

To support the written election statement candidates may also submit a visual recorded statement. For recordings to be eligible for inclusion in the election process they must:

- Be a maximum of two minutes long. Should a video statement be over two minutes, we will cut that video statement at the point it reaches two minutes.
- Feature only the candidate for election. No person other than the candidate shall appear or be heard in the video statement.
- Feature static shot of the candidate talking to camera (not walking about). The candidate can be either sitting or standing.
- Be plain background but can be an office or room. The background must not be intended to distract from the speaker or include any text, logos or other persons.
- Contain video statements which are one continuous shot, i.e. no editing or splicing of different takes.
- Contain no introductory text or slides. A standard 'intro' screen detailing the candidates name and information regarding the election will be added when the video is put on the election website.
- Be supplied in one of the following formats: '.AVI', '.MP4', '.FLV', or '.MOV'.

All election statements and visual recordings will be agreed with candidates before election materials are circulated to members. Statements and visual recordings received by MRS after 5.00 p.m. on 7th January 2025 will not be circulated to members.

Contact [Samantha.driscoll@mrs.org.uk](mailto:Samantha.driscoll@mrs.org.uk) for details on how to submit securely a visual recorded statement.

## **ELECTION CODE OF CONDUCT AND COMPLAINTS**

Copies of the MRS Code of Conduct for Elections, including the process for complaints, will be sent to all candidates and their proposers. The [Election Code](#) is available on the MRS website, as are copies of this notice and the nomination form.

Complaints about issues not covered in the MRS Code of Conduct for Elections will, in the first instance, be dealt with by the MRS Company Secretary and/or the MRS Chief Executive; serious matters may be referred to the MRS Market Research Standards Board for consideration.