Co-Chair, DDD Network: Information for Applicants

The UK Council for Graduate Education (UKCGE) is looking for a Co-Chair of its Doctoral Deans and Directors (DDD) Network. This is a voluntary role.

About UKCGE

UKCGE is an independent membership organisation and charity, created by the postgraduate sector for the postgraduate sector.

Mission: to strengthen postgraduate education through collective leadership, shared knowledge and evidence-informed practice.

Vision: a postgraduate sector that is recognised, prioritised and valued for its contribution to society, the economy, research, innovation and advanced skills.

Ethos: we believe our mission is best served by a community of practice ethos, captured in our motto, “by the sector, for the sector”. Our values are mutuality, openness, collegiality and joint enterprise.

Over the next three years UKCGE will focus on three strategic themes:

1. **Championing Postgraduate Education:** Postgraduate education and the people who are part of it are central to research, innovation, advanced skills and workforce development.
2. **Navigating Change:** The postgraduate sector is experiencing significant organisational, financial and policy change.
3. **Building the Future of Postgraduate Education:** Artificial intelligence, wider technological change, evolving learner needs and new forms of collaboration are reshaping postgraduate education.

About the DDD Network

The DDD Network is a forum for senior postgraduate education leaders. It is open to deans and directors of graduate schools and doctoral colleges, and to those in related roles such as directors of doctoral training entities[1]. Members share experience, discuss common challenges and make collective recommendations on managing postgraduate provision. The network’s discussions help to inform UKCGE’s strategy and priorities.

The role

The network has two Co-Chairs at any one time, who lead it jointly in partnership with UKCGE’s Events Officer. The term is three years, starting in February 2027. As a Co-Chair you will:

1. set the network’s programme in consultation with members, including three one-hour online sessions a year;

[1] Doctoral training entities may be partnerships, programmes, landscape awards, focal awards.

2. design, plan and host the annual residential workshop, a 24-hour in-person meeting for confidential peer discussion;
3. attend the UKCGE Annual Conference in July and host the network's symposium there;
4. give a short presentation to the Board of Trustees once a year on the network's activities;
5. be the main point of contact for members with ideas, concerns or suggestions;
6. work with UKCGE's other professional networks;
7. champion the role of those who lead doctoral education, and the value of doctoral education.

UKCGE is also open to new ideas for building the community, including ways of strengthening communication between meetings.

Time commitment

The time depends on how the two Co-Chairs share the work, however, we estimate about 6 to 9 days per year of voluntary commitment from each Co-Chair. The residential workshop takes about three days, and the Annual Conference about two days, in both cases including travel. The work comes in peaks around the residential, normally in late February, the July annual conference and the presentation to the Board. The UKCGE Events Officer provides logistical and administrative support for all events, including booking and promotion. The UKCGE Communications Officer provides support with marketing and communications regarding the network.

What UKCGE offers

1. UKCGE covers all travel costs to the Annual Conference, and you receive a free place.
2. UKCGE covers your travel and accommodation for the annual residential workshop, and you receive a free place.
3. UKCGE acknowledges and recognises the post holder on its website and in its materials. The role is voluntary and carries no payment.
4. Support from the Events Officer, the Communications Officer and the other Co-Chair.

Who can apply

You must work at an institution that is a member of UKCGE. You are expected to meet and be sympathetic to UKCGE's ethos, aims and strategy, as set out above.

What we are looking for

Trustees will assess applications against the following criteria. Please give evidence for each one.

1. Understanding of the leadership and management of doctoral education, and of the challenges facing heads of doctoral schools, colleges and equivalent roles. Tell us about your strategic responsibility for doctoral education, or a closely related area such as a doctoral training entity, and what it has taught you about the pressures DDD members face. We do not require a particular job title, and the role may be an academic or a professional services post.

2. Ability to convene and lead a professional network. Tell us about your experience of setting a programme, facilitating discussion among senior peers, chairing meetings or events, or building and supporting a community, including in settings where people need to speak openly.

3. Commitment to fostering a collegial, inclusive and supportive community. Tell us how you would help colleagues from different institutions and backgrounds feel welcome and heard.

4. What are your priorities for the Doctoral Deans and Directors' network? Tell us about your vision for the DDD network. How do you think a national network like this can help to address some of the challenges you may have identified in section 1?

Trustees also consider the balance between the two Co-Chairs, including their institutions and roles. You do not need to address this in your application.

How to apply

To register as a candidate for the role of Doctoral Deans and Directors' Network Co-Chair please complete this form **by 6pm on December 21st 2026.**

Please tell us in your application if you have a close personal or professional relationship with a trustee or a member of UKCGE staff. This will not count against you. Trustees declare any possible conflicts of interest before they consider applications, and the Chair of Trustees decides how each is managed.

The Board of Trustees makes the appointment. Before applying, you are welcome to contact the current Co-Chair, Dr Nigel Eady (nigel.eady@kcl.ac.uk), to talk about the role.