

Election to the  
**UKCGE Executive  
Committee**

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# Welcome from the Chair



**T**hank you for your interest in becoming a member of the UKCGE Executive Committee, which is what we call our board of trustees. The Council plays a key role in supporting the development of the postgraduate sector with a wide range of activities at both the national and international level.

You would be becoming a trustee at the Council at an exciting time. We are actively championing equity, diversity and inclusion activities in postgraduate education. For example, in 2023 and 2024 we ran international conferences on EDI at PGR level.

Our policy impact is also growing - for example, through the work we did in response to a request from the Economic and Social Research Council to recommend ways in which funders can provide greater support to research supervisors.

By volunteering as a trustee, we hope you would help us to build on these activities, as well as to ensure that we continue to be well governed, accountable and effective.

The Council is a small charity with a collegiate ethos. To be as effective as we are, we rely on the voluntary support of representatives of the postgraduate sector. By putting yourself forward to be a trustee, you really are helping us to live up to our motto of being 'by the sector, for the sector'. Thank you.

**Professor Doug Cleaver**

**Chair of Trustees, UKCGE**

# What is a UKCGE trustee?

## What is the time commitment?

Executive Committee members can expect to spend at least 6 days per year volunteering for the UKCGE. This is predominately taken up with attending meetings or events, but can also involve auditing paperwork and taking part in selection processes.

Volunteering as a trustee for the UKCGE is usually treated as a major professional development opportunity by employers, but please do check that this is the case before you apply.

## What is involved?

As a trustee, your main tasks are to ensure that we are fulfilling our charitable objectives and that we are managing our charitable resources effectively and responsibly.

The Executive Committee meets a minimum of 3 times a year for board meetings, in which progress against the strategic plan is monitored.

Executive Committee members are also actively involved in Working Groups set up by the Council (attending meetings etc), organising conferences and workshops, drafting material and commenting on various aspects of the Council's work.

Executive Committee meetings are usually held online, but sometimes alternate between the Midlands and London. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

## What is the UKCGE Strategic Plan?

Our current strategic priorities are:

- Strengthening the Council's representation of the sector
- Building on the Council's trust and credibility
- Setting standards and expectations
- Sustaining the impact of the Council's events
- Developing the Council's role as a knowledge exchange facilitator.

Our trustees are responsible for ensuring that we live up to our objectives, and also for providing guidance on how we can better achieve our goals.

## Who should apply?

If you are engaged in postgraduate education through your work in a UKCGE member institution, and if you have an interest in engaging in and shaping the sector on a national level, we would love to hear from you.

UKCGE trustees play an active role in supporting the Council's operations and contribute to its annual programme of activities and reports, and as such make a significant contribution to the sector while also developing their own skills and networks.

To find out more about what's involved in being a charity trustee, please check the [Charity Commission's website](#).

# Trustee profiles



**Professor Hala Mansour | Head of Doctoral Programmes, Royal College of Art**

## **Current role**

As the postgraduate research lead, my role is focused on supporting and guiding postgraduate research students as they pursue their advanced degree. I also work closely with students and supervisors to understand students needs and help them navigate the complexities of the research process. Additionally, I collaborate with supervisors to ensure that postgraduate research programmes are of the highest quality and effectively preparing students for successful careers in their field. My goal is also to creating an inclusive environment for doctoral students and promote EDI in doctoral education.

## **Why did you apply to be part of the UKCGE Executive Committee?**

Working as a trustee for the UK Graduate Education Council (UKCGE) is an important opportunity for me because I am committed to advancing and improving graduate education in the UK. By serving as a trustee, I can have a direct impact on the direction and policies of the UKCGE, and play a key role in shaping the future of graduate education in the country. In addition, serving as a trustee allows me to

work with other professionals in the field of graduate education, and to collaborate on initiatives and projects aimed at improving the quality of graduate education. This can be a valuable experience for personal and professional growth, and can also helped me stay up-to-date with the latest developments and best practices in the field.

Furthermore, being a trustee of the UKCGE can demonstrate my commitment to EDI for graduate education and can serve as a testament to my dedication and expertise in this field. It can also help me to build my reputation as a thought leader and expert in graduate education and can open up new opportunities for my professional development and growth.

## **What has been your experience of being a UKCGE Trustee?**

Being a Trustee for the UK Council for Graduate Education (UKCGE) provides me with opportunity to advocate for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in graduate education. By serving on the UKCGE Executive Committee, I am keen to use the platform and influence to help promote and advance the principles of EDI in graduate education. This can involve developing policies and initiatives aimed at creating a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all graduate students, regardless of their background, ethnicity, gender, and other factors. As a UKCGE trustee, I am keen to demonstrate a commitment to EDI and to make a meaningful impact in the field of graduate education.

## What advice would you offer to someone considering applying to be a UKCGE trustee?

The UKCGE is looking for individuals with a range of skills and experiences and from different backgrounds. It is important to reflect on your own skills and experience and determine how they can support the work of the UKCGE. Your application should clearly articulate why you want to be a UKCGE trustee and how your skills and experience align with the goals of the council. It is important to demonstrate your commitment to EDI for doctoral education and your passion for advancing equality and diversity in the field.



**Rachel Van Krimpen | Faculty Director of EDI & People (Science), University of Nottingham**

### Current role:

I am the Faculty Director of Equality, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) and People for Science at the University of Nottingham. Prior to this, I have spent over a decade managing cohort-based doctoral training programmes (DTPs) at two universities including the Nottingham BBSRC DTP, with a background in student support and community engagement.

I have particular professional interests in EDI in postgraduate research and research culture more widely.

## Why did you apply to be part of the UKCGE Executive Committee?

I had attended UKCGE events and conferences, and was aware of the organisation's strong reputation within the postgraduate sector. I have a particularly strong interest in EDI in postgraduate research and seeing that this aligned with one of UKCGE's strategic aims made me start thinking about whether I could contribute to the development of an area of work I'm really passionate about in a broader context through taking on a more active role in UKCGE.

I was (and am) really interested in making a positive difference beyond my own University and the programme I manage and this felt like a great way to do that.

I also felt that taking on a Trustee role was a great professional development opportunity in terms of the chance to develop broader networks, develop my strategic thinking skills and learn more about the business side of the organisation.

## What has been your experience of being a UKCGE Trustee?

It is hard to overestimate how much I've enjoyed, and how much I've got out of, my time as a UKCGE Trustee over the last three-and-a-half years.

I have found the Executive Committee welcoming and benefited from a thorough induction when I first joined, which helped me feel secure about what being a trustee involves and the responsibilities that come with it, but also made me feel very comfortable working with the UKCGE team and the executive officers from the outset.

I've had the opportunity to support the delivery of focus groups on behalf of UKRI around research supervision, develop new online workshops which have brought

together brilliant speakers from across the sector, be involved in discussions around business planning, work to develop UKCGE's professional networks and to start to think practically about how UKCGE embeds EDI in its own practices as well as advocating for it within the sector.

### **What advice would you offer to someone considering applying to be a UKCGE trustee?**

This isn't an opportunity just for those working in leadership roles – caring about postgraduate education, understanding key issues and having the energy and drive to dive into actively grappling with them is all you really need.

To find out who else is on our board of trustees, please [check our website](#).

# How to apply

## Joining the Executive Committee

Election to the Council's Executive Committee from our membership is central to our claim to be the 'voice of the postgraduate sector' and delivers our ethos of being a charity driven by the sector for the benefit of the sector.

## Eligibility

Anyone from a UKCGE member institution may apply to become a member of the Executive Committee.

A full list of current UKCGE member institutions is available on the UKCGE website.

## Applying

Anyone wishing to apply should fill in the online form on the UKCGE website.

## Nominations

Applicants have to be nominated by two representatives of different UKCGE member institutions.

Contact details of who you have been nominated by should be included in your application form. We will contact them as part of the process.

## Election process and key dates

All applications are put to a vote.

The election ballot is run using a single-transferable vote at the institutional level, which is cast by your institution's institutional representative (typically your UKCGE Link Member).

The key dates for the election are as follows:

- Monday Feb 10th 2025 — Closing date for nominations; please note this will close at midday.
- Monday Feb 24th 2025 — Election ballot papers sent to institutional representatives.
- Friday March 7th 2025 — The election closes at midday.
- Wednesday March 12th 2025 — Notification of results sent to nominees.
- Friday March 14th 2025 — Election ratified at UKCGE AGM.

# About the UK Council for Graduate Education

## Who we are

Established in 1994, the UK Council for Graduate Education (UKCGE) is the national representative body for postgraduate education and research. The UKCGE is the third largest representative body of its kind in the world, representing 92% of all postgraduate research provision and 85% of all postgraduate taught provision in the UK.

## What we do

We champion and enhance postgraduate education and research by enabling collective leadership on the development of postgraduate affairs across UK HEIs, research agencies and funding bodies. We do this by providing learning and professional development events, commissioning research, sharing best-practice developments, and by gathering information and evidence to support policies which promote a strong and sustainable postgraduate sector.

## Why we do it

The institutional autonomy of UK Higher Education providers creates a vibrant and diverse higher education sector which meets the needs of a wide range of students and researchers. In that context, we enable collective leadership and foster inter-institutional exchange, to ensure that the postgraduate sector as a whole can learn and benefit from the actions and innovations of individual institutions.

Understanding the importance of postgraduate education and research for individuals, for the economy and for society

more broadly, we use our collective voice to ensure that postgraduate education and research is properly resourced, structured and recognised within institutional and national policies. Among our charitable objectives, we have specific remits to promote the status, education and training of postgraduates and to advocate for equity and inclusiveness in postgraduate education and research.

## Who we work with

We work with, and represent, everyone involved with postgraduate education and research: Pro-Vice Chancellors and Deputy Vice Chancellors with responsibility for postgraduate education and research; Research Supervisors and Doctoral Candidates; Deans and Directors of Graduate Schools, Doctoral Training Partnerships, and Centres for Doctoral Training; Graduate School and Doctoral College Managers; PGT Course Directors and Masters students; and Academic Developers. We also work with research centres; regulators; funding bodies and other interest groups.

## How we do it

The Council is an independent educational charity which relies on voluntary contributions from individuals and institutions in the postgraduate sector. We are governed by elected representatives of the postgraduate sector, who serve for a 3-year term. We raise funds through membership subscriptions, event registration fees, and commercial sponsorship.

# Our values

1.

## Vision

An equitable and inclusive postgraduate sector which delivers academic excellence and offers high-quality supervision, effective leadership and outstanding professional services.

2.

## Mission

To enable collective leadership on the development of postgraduate education and research and to provide an evidence-led and trusted voice for the postgraduate sector.

3.

## Values

We are run 'by the sector for the sector'. Our values are: mutuality, openness, collegiality, and joint enterprise.



UK Council for  
**Graduate Education**

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