

Job Description



Trustees (4)

Unpaid but expenses will be covered

About SIET

The Scottish International Education Trust has been helping remarkable young Scots fulfill their potential for over half a century. We make grants of up to £3,000, typically to those seeking to pursue postgraduate education overseas. Over the decades we have had the pleasure and privilege to help establish the careers of young people who have gone on to become leaders in academia and science, public life and business, and the performing and visual arts.

Originally founded with the support of such well-known names as Sean Connery and Jackie Stewart, the Trust has made thousands of awards since it was established. The current trustees are as grateful to our initial donors as we are to the individuals and organisations that have continued to support our work in the years since.

Grants from the Trust are targeted at those who might otherwise struggle to afford opportunities that allow them to achieve their potential. However, we know from long experience that awards provide more than just financial assistance. In the words of one recent recipient: "The award has been, for me personally, much more than just financial help. It was a really huge confidence boost to know that someone believed in me."

We want to carry on helping young Scots have transformational international experiences that provide not just an educational and professional boost, but also help our awardees gain new advantages on their world. To expand our work, we have recently launched a new fundraising drive to strengthen our reserves and increase the number of grants we are able to award.

About the role

Over the last six months, the board has undertaken a full review of its role and aims, and has set itself challenging targets for the number of future awards it will be able to make, and the associated fundraising and profile raising this will require. As part of that, we have reimagined our own role to be 'activist trustees', taking forward various fundraising initiatives ourselves and generally 'getting our hands dirty'.

We are now seeking new colleagues to help take this forward by sharing their skills, experience and commitment to the transformative power of international education.

The role involves:

- Attending four hybrid board meetings per year, as well as other occasional meetings and gatherings
- Reading in preparation for meetings, including two sizable reports each year outlining applications from awardees
- A willingness to take part in fundraising activities
- Opportunities to lead on particular projects with support from other members of the board

Key responsibilities of trustees include:

- Strategic responsibility for the current and future direction and health of the trust
- Ensuring that grants are awarded in accordance with the trust's aims and values
- Sharing expertise with the trust through ad hoc advice as required

- Acting in the best long-term interests of the trust, including diligent attention to their governance fiduciary responsibilities as trustees

We are particularly keen to hear from would-be trustees with experience in the following areas:

- Fundraising, especially in the context of widening access to educational opportunities
- Charitable governance, especially in the context of trusts
- Liaising with the Scottish diaspora overseas, especially but not exclusively in North America
- Higher education with particular emphasis on student mobility and widening access

While we are particularly aware of our needs in these areas, that does not in any way mean that we are not keen to hear from applicants who would bring expertise in other areas.

We are also particularly keen to receive applications from:

- Former recipients of our awards
- Former donors or those involved in philanthropic networks

We also recognize the need for our board to reflect the communities we serve. We are continually trying to improve our practice in this area and ensure that our processes and perspectives take account of the realities of unfair power relations and structural inequalities in society. We would particularly welcome applications from women, people of colour, disabled people and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Given our area of work, we also welcome applications from those with experience of navigating higher education from widening participation backgrounds.

Terms of appointment:

These roles are unremunerated but all reasonable expenses will be paid.

Trustees serve for terms of four years and are limited to no more than two terms.

Meetings are usually held in Edinburgh or Glasgow, although many trustees attend these remotely.

Applications:

Further information about the trust is available on our website: www.siet.scot. To arrange a discussion of the role, please contact the chair, Nick Bibby, on chair@siet.org.uk.

To apply, please submit a CV and covering letter, outlining the networks, skills and experience you would bring to the role to contact@siet.org.uk.

Applications should be submitted by 11.59pm on 21 September 2025. Interviews will be held in early October.