

Open Call for John Smith Trust Trustee

About the John Smith Trust

The John Smith Trust supports the development of sustainable, fair and inclusive societies in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (the EECCA region). We do this by inspiring and nurturing a collaborative community of people working for change in governance, climate action and social justice, and who want to make a positive contribution to society.

We run regular fellowship programmes for exceptional individuals aged 25-35 from 12 countries across the EECCA who are working in the field of climate and sustainability, governance and justice, or equality, diversity and inclusion. Our hybrid programmes consist of online discussions and workshops followed by a residential programme in the UK. They are built around three pillars – unique insight into UK institutions, personalised professional meetings and leadership skills development – which together offer both a broad picture and an individual focus.

Individuals become Fellows for life, and we support our network further by running online and in-person events, which enable Fellows to continue connecting, sharing and collaborating with each other and with counterparts in the UK.

About the role

The John Smith Trust is looking for experienced professionals with diverse backgrounds, skills and experiences to join our Board as a Trustee. Our small but dynamic [Board of Trustees](#) is comprised of highly experienced and respected professionals from across the political spectrum. We are seeking one or two new Trustees to join the Board to increase representation of diverse sectors, backgrounds, ethnic groups, ages, genders and to increase our resource-raising, HR and media/communications capacity.

As a member of our Board of Trustees, you'll have the opportunity to play a role in steering the organisation's strategic direction, ensuring that our work is impactful, and our resources are well-managed. You will have a chance to contribute your professional expertise to a cause that matters now more than ever, whilst working alongside a passionate group of like-minded individuals with diverse political, professional and personal backgrounds.

Key information

- The Board of Trustees meets four times per year (3 x online; 1 x in person in London or Edinburgh)
- Trustees share their time and expertise on a voluntary basis but they are compensated for costs incurred while carrying out Trust business, including participation in board meetings
- It is the collective responsibility of Trustees to ensure that the Trust is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit and to plan and review the Trust's work on a regular basis
- Apart from board meetings, Trustees are regularly invited to participate in JST's programme activities, including at times overseas
- Trustees are appointed for a minimum of two years

Essential criteria

- Understanding of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of [a charity Trustee](#)
- Commitment to the Trust's [values](#)
- Demonstrated interest in/understanding of governance, climate action and social justice in Eastern Europe, Russia, the South Caucasus and Central Asia
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Experience/expertise in one or more of the priority areas for development mentioned above

We actively encourage applications from underrepresented groups.

Competencies

According to 'The Good Trustee Guide' by the NCVO, there are 6 key areas of Board Competence as follows:

- Contextual – Understanding of the Board's Mission and Environment.
- Educational – Continue to learn and evaluate your own performance.

- Interpersonal – Do not let strong personalities dominate the Governance process – encourage group decision making instead.
- Analytical Skills – cultivate these by taking a step back and take the long term view.
- Political – Maintain good relationships among members, volunteers, clients, government agencies and community groups.
- Strategic – Take responsibility for the organisation’s long term success or failure.

How to apply

If you are interested in applying, please send a cover letter (no longer than 1 page) and your CV to admin@johnsmithtrust.org. If you would like to arrange a conversation with the director or an existing trustee before applying, please contact outlining your questions admin@johnsmithtrust.org.