

Specialist provider panel members: Role description and person specification

1. We are establishing a time-limited committee of the OfS board (the panel) which will assess submissions from providers who meet our initial eligibility criteria as set out in our ‘consultation on an approach to the funding of world-leading specialist providers’.¹ Eligible providers will make submissions and panel members will need to make decisions about whether the provider is world-leading against the criteria set out in our invitation to submit and using the information in the provider’s submission.
2. The following role description and person specification have been identified by the chair of the panel and the OfS director (both members of the panel) to ensure there is a breadth of expertise for the assessment of submissions by providers against the criteria for being world-leading. The assessment of the expertise required was determined by reflecting on the types of subjects that specialist providers in England primarily offer, reflecting the analysis we undertook and published as part of the consultation.
3. Note we have recently consulted on the approach to funding of world-leading specialist providers and are currently analysing responses. Therefore, the criteria and approach are subject to change. However, we need to start the nominations process for establishing a panel concurrently to the analysis of consultation responses, to ensure we make decisions in advance of the 2022-23 academic year.

Role description

Key responsibilities are:

- To prepare for panel meetings by reading relevant papers (including submissions made by providers)
- To attend meetings either in person or remotely (via Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.)
- To contribute to the discussions and decision-making that take place during meetings utilising the knowledge, experience and expertise which is specific to your specialism
- To adhere to guidance provided to committee members.

¹ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/consultation-on-an-approach-to-world-leading-specialist-provider-funding/.

Person specification

Nominations will be assessed against the essential criteria:

Knowledge and experience

Essential

- Expert knowledge of a specialist academic subject and of providers (both in the UK and overseas) that offer it, which is both wide and deep. Such expert knowledge may have been gained as an academic or practitioner with an internationally recognised reputation of their own, or in a senior role with a leading employer recruiting from, or public sector body with some oversight of, the subject area concerned. In order to ensure coverage of the subjects that specialist providers primarily offer, we are particularly interested in nominations for subjects in:
 - Agriculture and veterinary science
 - Architecture
 - Business and management
 - Creative arts and design
 - Law
 - Medicine and allied health
 - Music
 - Other performing arts (covering dance, drama, media studies)
 - Theology.
- Experience of working effectively in high-level multi-disciplinary groups and/or non-executive roles.

Skills

Essential

- Ability to take part in constructive debate and present views succinctly, both in meetings and by electronic means.
- Able to absorb, analyse and draw objective conclusions from data and qualitative information and form rigorous evidence-based judgements about whether a provider is world-leading on the basis of its education and related activities in its specialism.
- Able to work as part of a team, constructively influence the team, and accept collective decisions, respecting the strict confidentiality of the committee's business.
- Able to bring professional expertise or experience of working with others to create fair or equitable situations, and to demonstrate an understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion issues.

Desirable

- Demonstrable understanding of the higher education experience of students from a wide range of backgrounds.