



nesta

Appointment brief

Appointment of Trustees

July 2023

Reference: BUWJ

About us

We are Nesta - the UK's innovation agency for social good. We design, test and scale new solutions to society's biggest problems, changing millions of lives for the better.

We believe that innovation offers more potential now than ever before. We see opportunities to mobilise citizens and influence behaviour. Private and public capital that can be used more creatively. A wealth of data to mine.

And so we draw on these rich resources by bringing together diverse teams. Data scientists, designers and behavioural scientists. Practitioners, academics, entrepreneurs and people with lived experience.

Together, we design, test and scale new solutions to society's biggest problems. We partner with frontline organisations, build new businesses and work to change whole systems. Harnessing the rigour of science and the creativity of design, we work relentlessly to put new ideas to the test.

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The arrival of Ravi Gurumurthy as our fourth Chief Executive in December 2019 marked a new chapter in Nesta's history. In order to achieve the impact needed to tackle society's biggest challenges – from ingrained health and income inequalities to the climate crisis and the UK's lack of productivity (all amid the damage wrought by the Coronavirus pandemic) – our new 10-year strategy will see Nesta adopting a more focused strategy that will enable more sustained efforts across our three new Missions.

Crucially, the ability to deliver impact at scale will be at the heart of our new approach, along with a renewed commitment to collaborative and evidence-based working.



Our Vision

Nesta will pursue three innovation Missions. Each Mission is a response to a generational societal challenge, one where we believe innovation has a big part to play in driving large-scale change.

We have set bold goals for our Missions that may seem unrealistically ambitious, but which we hope will act as a lodestar that lifts our sight.

For each Mission we will continuously assess what is and is not working, deciding what to continue with and what to stop on the basis of its potential for impact at scale.

A Fairer Start

Our mission is to narrow the outcome gap between children growing up in disadvantage and the national average.

A Healthy Life

Our mission is to increase the average number of healthy years lived in the UK, while narrowing health inequalities.

A Sustainable Future

Our mission is to accelerate the decarbonisation of household activities in the UK and improve levels of productivity.

To succeed we will need to build strong working relationships with families, frontline workers, service delivery organisations, policymakers and academics.

Our solutions will need to work at different levels of the system, from small improvements to how a service is delivered to grander interventions that rewrite how policies or market forces work.

Our Missions are ambitious and we are prepared to fail and learn rapidly along the way. Nonetheless, we believe that a fairer, healthier, more sustainable future is within reach, and that innovation can help us to achieve it.

The role of Trustee

With two trustees coming to the end of their terms on the board in the coming 6 months, Nesta are looking to appoint two new trustees.

Nesta's trustees are ultimately responsible in law for the charity, its assets and ensuring its activities further its charitable objects. Nesta's trustees are also responsible for Nesta's role as a trustee of the Nesta Trust (which holds Nesta's endowment).

Key responsibilities for all Trustees:

- Work with the fellow trustees to provide good governance and strategic oversight;
- Work with the Chair and fellow trustees to ensure that Nesta is meeting the core objectives of its strategic plan and that these objectives are in line with Nesta's Missions and values;
- To ensure the Board of trustees fulfils its governance, fiduciary, regulatory, and risk management responsibilities;
- Maintain appropriate fiscal oversight to ensure the financial sustainability of Nesta and the Nesta Trust;
- Ensure Nesta and the Nesta Trust fulfil their legal and compliance obligations;
- Along with the Board of trustees, establish and implement systems for support and appraisal of the Chief Executive and Executive team;
- Develop effective relationships with the government, charities, relevant public and private sector organisations, academic bodies, the media, and other key external stakeholders in the UK and internationally to maximise Nesta's engagement;
- Act as an enabler and promotor of innovation;
- Maintain an awareness of local and national policy and how it impacts on Nesta's work;
- Act as an ambassador for Nesta, championing its interests locally, nationally and internationally, representing the Nesta effectively to external stakeholders;
- Maintain absolute integrity, independence and professionalism in view of the exposure to delicate and confidential issues at Board level.



The person

Nesta is looking to appoint two exceptional individuals with specific expertise to support the Nesta's Missions. Ideally, the candidates will have experience in more than one of the following areas:

- Commercial and/or entrepreneurial background
- Innovation and policy making in a complex environment
- Private markets illiquid investments, particularly early stage venture capital preferably with strong impact/ ESG characteristics
- Fund management and fund raising experience
- Local Government/ Frontline Delivery
- Chartered Accountancy
- Voluntary Sector/ Frontline Delivery
- Food and Beverage sectoral knowledge
- Public Health (ideally Obesity focus)
- Experience of managing endowments or charitable foundations

For all roles, candidates will also ideally be able to demonstrate most of the following characteristics:

- A commitment to innovation as the key to progress in the economy and society;
- Comfortable operating across the public, private and non-profit sectors and ability to galvanise stakeholders across sectors;
- Ability to use networks to advance Nesta's work and influence;
- Ability and enthusiasm to contribute to the Board of Nesta as a trustee and potentially a Board committee member;
- Willingness to provide support and guidance to the Executive Team on the area of expertise you bring;
- Open and transparent.

Time commitment

The Board of Trustees usually meets six times per year, which includes an away day. Each meeting lasts 3-4 hours with the away day being a full day's time commitment. A trustee may also be a member of one or more of the Board committees. Occasionally, there may be additional short ad hoc meetings to address urgent matters which may arise from time to time.

Additional time will also be needed for attending Nesta events and providing advice to the Executive and other staff.

The typical time commitment for the role is likely to be approximately 1-2 days per month.

Location

All Board and committee meetings are normally held in Central London. There is flexibility for geographically diverse candidates to join some meetings remotely.

Remuneration

As a charity, Nesta does not pay its Trustees other than reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

Duration of Appointment

The appointment will be for a term of three years with the expectation of re-appointment for a further three years with Board approval.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Nesta aims to have a diverse mix of skills and backgrounds amongst the members of the Board of Trustees. They would therefore welcome applicants from all backgrounds and particularly those with personal lived experience connected to our Mission areas or those that identify with a protected characteristic.

We expect all applicants to be passionate advocates for equity, diversity and inclusion who can speak comfortably to their own experience of amplifying the voices of others in previous roles

Terms of appointment

This is an unremunerated position

The Board of Trustees meets six times a year with an additional away day. Each Trustee is expected to sit on at least one committee, which meet four times a year.

The appointment will be for a term of three years with the expectation of re-appointment for a further three years with Board approval.

Board and committee meetings are usually held in central London. Our registered office is 58 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0DE.

How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to NESTA on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments, using code **BUWJ**.

Click on the '**apply**' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Friday 4th August 2023**.

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please **do not** include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.



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