

Tumuaki | President of the Council (2027-2030)

- Are you passionate about science and research shaping Aotearoa New Zealand's future?**
- Are you a recognised leader committed to implementing the Society's [long-term strategy](#)?**
- Are you an experienced chair with a track record of inspirational, collegial leadership?**

The Royal Society Te Apārangi advances and promotes science, technology and the humanities. As outlined in our long-term strategy, our role is to grow pathways of knowledge so that science and research can be shared for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

The Society's functions include:

- Promoting public understanding of science and research;
- Enabling and celebrating excellence in science and research;
- Supporting science teachers, rangatahi and early career researchers;
- Providing expert advice to government and communities to inform decision-making; and
- Connecting the New Zealand research system to the world.

As an independent, not-for-profit membership organisation, and the country's 'national learned academy', the Society plays a unique role in supporting New Zealand's research, science and innovation system.

PŪTAKE TŪRANGA – PURPOSE

The President plays a critical leadership role in the Society, working with the Council, CEO and wider membership to ensure the Society achieves its strategic objectives.

As the external face of the Society, the President is a recognised and respected leader in the science and research system. The President has the trust and mana to speak expertly and influentially about the system, and to represent the interests of the Society and its membership of over 1,500 individual members and 60 member organisations.

As Chair of the Council, the President ensures the integrity and effectiveness of the governance of the Council and maintains regular dialogue with the CEO on operational matters.

The President, along with other members of the Council, is fully accountable for the health of the Society, as defined by legislation and expectations of good practice.

HAEPAPA MATUA – PRIMARY DUTIES

Consistent with the Council's Governance Charter, as Chair of the Council, the President's role is to:

- Govern the Society, and to advance and protect its long-term interests;
- Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the Society and in so doing, to support the organisation in fulfilling its mission and discharging its accountabilities; and
- Provide stewardship and guidance to strengthen the Society and enable it to continue to deliver its Object and Functions as set out in the Royal Society of New Zealand Act 1997.

Each Council member, including the President, shares in the collective responsibility of the Council to:

- Adhere to the Society's values (Appendix 1) and [Code of Professional Standards and Ethics](#);
- Ensure the Society adheres to high standards of ethics and organisational behaviour.
- Ensure the Society's goals are clearly established, and strategies are in place for achieving

them (typically, these would originate from the CEO and their management team).

- Establish policies for strengthening the performance of the Society.
- Monitor organisational performance against agreed objectives (via the Business Planning process).
- Ensure the Society's financial statements are true and fair and otherwise conform with law, and take whatever steps are necessary to protect the Society's financial position and the ability to meet its debts and other obligations when they fall due.
- Ensure the Society has appropriate risk management/regulatory compliance policies in place.
- Appoint the CEO, setting the terms of the CEO's employment contract and where necessary terminating the CEO's employment with the Society.

Each Council member, including the President, shall apply the level of skill and judgment that may reasonably be expected of a person with their knowledge and experience.

All Council members with specialist skills and knowledge are expected to apply that skill and knowledge to matters that come before the Board.

ĀHEINGA TANGATA – REQUIREMENTS OF THE ROLE

Normally, the President is a Fellow of the Royal Society Te Apārangi. It is expected that the President has the following characteristics, knowledge, skills and experience:

Recognised standing (mana) in the science and research system, including:

- Recognised leadership and governance experience in the science and research system;
- An expansive understanding of science and research;
- A willingness to recognise, value, and represent the wide range of academic disciplines and activities within the Society; and
- Familiarity with the long-term strategy and priorities of the Society, including its bicultural commitments.

Demonstrated governance track record in the science and research system, including:

- Demonstrated governance experience, preferably as Chair;
- A sound understanding of the role, responsibilities and accountabilities of governance;
- A track record of working successfully in a Board environment (preferably in a not-for-profit organisation); and
- A commitment to teamwork and a collegial working style, including working positively with a Chief Executive in a Board-Executive relationship.

Proven strategic leadership and influence, including:

- Demonstrated strategic leadership and ability to articulate vision, purpose and values;
- Demonstrated ability to effectively engage and influence at senior levels;
- A track record in effective communication and advocacy;
- A track record in engaging effectively with a wide range of members and stakeholders;
- Experience in facilitating change where necessary; and
- Wide networks across research, science, education, government and political leaders.

Other characteristics, skills and experience, including:

- Impeccable integrity and trustworthiness;
- A commitment to working in alignment with the Society's values (Appendix 1);
- Demonstrated financial literacy;
- An understanding of compliance (e.g. health/safety, HR, privacy, financial reporting);
- A commitment to enhance diversity and cultural safety, and reduce unconscious bias;
- The ability to appropriately hold and manage confidential information; and
- Having the available time to undertake the role and the ability to travel as required.

The Royal Society Te Apārangī embraces diversity in all we do, as set out in the long-term strategy. Accordingly, we encourage applications from a wide range of academic, professional, and personal backgrounds and experience.

WHAKATŪTANGA ME TE ROANGA O TE WĀ – APPOINTMENT AND TENURE

Every third year, the Society seeks the appointment of a President-elect. The President-elect automatically succeeds to the role of President at the end of the tenure of the incumbent President (in the present case, on **1 July 2027**).

The President is appointed for a term of 3 years.

While the role is not remunerated, meeting-related expenses will be met. Appropriate insurance is provided for all Council members, and professional development may be provided as relevant.

NGĀ KAWENGA – TIME COMMITMENT AND TRAVEL

The President attends 4 full-day Council meetings and a planning day each year. A similar time commitment is expected for meeting preparation. Council meetings are usually held in-person in Wellington, but can allow for virtual attendance. Additional Council meetings may be arranged during the year with the agreement of the Council.

An estimated 14 days or part-days of further attendance are expected for in-person engagement with members around New Zealand. The preparation time required for this engagement varies.

While the time commitment will vary from year to year, approximately 20 days a year can also be expected for other Society-related travel domestically and internationally (e.g. to attend Society and externally-hosted awards and events, or to meet with senior stakeholders).

In addition, from time to time, it is expected that the President will attend online meetings hosted by the Society or our international counterparts.

The President meets on a regular basis with the Chief Executive, both in person and online.

Normally, the President is a Fellow of the Royal Society Te Apārangī and is therefore eligible to serve on the Society's Academy Executive Committee. The Committee meets 6 times a year, mostly online.

In total, the President role has an estimated time commitment of up to 60 days per annum.

PĀNGA RONGORUA – CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The President will be free of significant conflicts of interest and declare, as they arise, any matters that may impact on their performance as a member of the Council of the Society.

Appendix 1

NGĀ UARA – THE SOCIETY’S VALUES
Mahi Tahi Collaboration • We listen, share, and embrace others’ views. • We ask for input and offer assistance. • We actively collaborate on projects to ensure the best outcome. • We actively build trust with internal and external stakeholders.
Kanorautanga, Mana Ōrite, Manaakitanga Diversity, equity and inclusivity • We seek, embrace, and value diversity. • We bring our whole selves to work. • We treat everyone fairly and equitably. • We value the thoughts and perspectives of everyone.
Whakaaro Arohaehae Critical thinking • We use peer-reviewed evidence in our decision-making. • We draw on the most recent and local evidence available. • We test facts and evaluate their applicability to our work. • We value appreciative enquiry and are open to constructive challenge.
Pono Acting with integrity • We listen. • We tell the truth. • We show discretion and respect confidences. • We treat everyone with respect as we would like to be treated. • We stand up for what is right. • We stand firm when required, and follow through on promises and commitments. • We provide frank and fearless advice.
Toitūtanga Sustainability • We act in ways that reduce our impact on the planet. • We embrace innovation to reduce our footprint. • We use our resources – time, funding, and materials – wisely.
Pūrangiaho Transparency • We set clear expectations of ourselves and others. • We lead by example and through our actions. • We encourage open discussion and active listening. • We share information openly, while protecting sensitive information. • We are able to say ‘no’ when we need to, and why we cannot meet the request.