

Academy Committees

Purpose and Aims

The mission of the Royal Irish Academy's multidisciplinary committees is to promote co-operation across and within relevant scholarly disciplines; to advise, contribute and guide Academy policy in these areas; and to engage the public on issues of topical interest, on an all-island basis. The committees will undertake to approach their work from a multidisciplinary perspective while allowing for consideration of important discipline based issues, should they arise.

The committees exist to provide scientific and scholarly expertise and to promote the value of the sciences, humanities and social sciences. They will strengthen the engagement of these communities in national and international scholarship.

Duties of the Committee

- ▶ To address and raise issues, including those of public concern, relevant to its expertise
- ▶ To advise the Academy on the formulation of policy at national, European and international levels
- ▶ To enhance the Academy's capacity for increasing the engagement of its Members in its activities and affairs
- ▶ To improve the Academy's capacity to engage with the wider scholarly community in Ireland
- ▶ To provide support for grant and award review panels
- ▶ To be the national adhering mechanism for relevant international unions where appropriate
- ▶ To undertake such activities as might be appropriate



Membership of the Committee

There will normally be no more than 20 on the committee and there should be a balance of Members and outside experts. In order to achieve this, the membership might normally comprise up to ten Members (MRIsAs). Initially the Officers will appoint up to five MRIsAs to convene the committee. The remaining membership will be appointed in a suitably transparent and open manner.

Term of Office

Members of the committee will normally serve a four-year term. Members may be appointed for a second term. There may be some rotation in membership after two years.

Officers of the Committee

The committee will be chaired by an Academy Officer for its first meeting as a newly constituted committee. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary shall be elected at the first meeting. The Chair will normally be a Member of the Academy.

The Academy Officer will not vote on the election of the Chair.

Chairpersons and Secretaries will serve until the end of the term in which they are elected. Chairpersons and Secretaries may not succeed themselves in office.

Meetings of the Committee

Meetings should be held as often as is deemed necessary and no less than twice per year. Meetings will normally take place in Academy House, but may be held elsewhere. Notice will be sent at least two weeks in advance of a planned meeting.

The Chair of the committee will be a member of the Academic Board (Board) and will represent the committee at meetings of this Board. If the Chair is unavailable another nominated member of the committee may substitute. The committee will submit an annual report to the Academic Board. The Board may suggest themes and activities and may propose public engagement programmes to the committee.

The committee may establish time-limited Working Groups (WGs) for task-specific projects. Membership of WGs may be open to membership outside of the committee. These WGs for task-specific projects will cease on completion of the task. Working Groups will be required to report to the multidisciplinary committee under which they are established.

Annual Report

A brief annual report of the activities and planned activities will be submitted to the Academic Board.