**BU Studentship Funding Panel:**

**Process and criteria for selecting panel members**

January 2022

**Call for EoIs**

There will be a call for expression of interest (EoI), led by Doctoral College, inviting those who are interested to put forward a short case (maximum length of one page for Chairs/Deputy Chairs and half a page for other panel roles) as to why they are interested in being a panel member and the knowledge, skills and experience they think they could bring to the panel. The EoIs are submitted to a central mailbox in Doctoral College. EoIs should specify the panel member role to which the applicant is applying.

**Process for selecting the Chair/Deputy Chair**

EoIs for the Chair/Deputy Chair role will be reviewed against the selection criteria detailed in this document by the Research Performance and Management Committee (RPMC). In the event of there being just one EoI received for a particular panel member role, the RPMC will still review it using the selection criteria to ensure they are suitable for the role.

The RPMC will give each EoI a score out of 15, based on how well they score against the criteria outlined below. These are equally weighted with each criterion carrying a total possible score of 5. EoIs will then be ranked with the Chair/Deputy Chair roles offered to the applicants with the highest ranked EoIs. A member of the RPMC will provide feedback to all applicants.

* **Knowledge and experience of BU PhD Studentships and PGR supervision (scored out of 5):** The Chair and Deputy Chair must have knowledge and experience of the BU Studentships allocative process and of PGR Supervision. This should be evidenced in their EoI.
* **Experience of chairing meetings and reaching consensus to ensure sound decision-making (scored out of 5):** The Chair and Deputy Chair will need to be able to chair meetings effectively. They will need to ensure processes are followed in terms of peer review, reaching panel consensus and prioritising applications for funding. They will need to ensure prioritisation decisions are made in alignment with BU2025, the BU Studentship allocative process. They should be able to articulate how this will be achieved.
* **Plans for leading the BU Studentship agenda across the University (scored out of 5):** The Chair and Deputy Chair are responsible for motivating the research community to undertake excellent research degree supervision in support of enhancing the research degree student experience and meeting PGR targets set out in BU2025. They are expected to encourage applications for GCRF funding and facilitate the cross-fertilisation of ideas. They should have ideas for how they will do this.

**Process for selecting the other panel members**

Once the Chair is identified he/she will convene a team (comprising Chair, Deputy Chair, and a member of RPMC) to review the EoIs received for other panel roles. They will review the EoIs against the selection criteria detailed in this. In the event of there being just one EoI received for a particular panel member role, the review team will still review it using the selection criteria to ensure the applicant is suitable for the role.

The review team will give each EoI a score out of 10, based on how well they score against the criteria outlined below. These are equally weighted with each criterion carrying a total possible score of 5. EoIs will then be ranked. The diversity of the funding panel will be considered as part of the selection process to ensure representation from all faculties, a good spread of disciplinary knowledge, and representation on the panel in terms of gender and ethnicity. The team will then select the panel members based on the highest scoring EoIs. The Chair will provide feedback to all applicants.

* **Experience of peer review and/or scoring funding applications (scored out of 5):** One of the panel’s main roles is reviewing and scoring funding applications. Their experience of this should be evidenced in their EoI.
* **Knowledge of the BU Studentship allocative process and PGR supervision (scored out of 5):** Panel members should have knowledge of the BU PhD Studentships allocative process and of PGR supervision. This should be evidenced in their EoI.