

The Postdocs of Cambridge (PdOC) Society Committee Roles and Descriptions

Introduction

PdOC society committee members have the ultimate responsibility for directing the activity of the PdOC society, ensuring it is well run and delivering the outcomes for which it has been set up.

The elected PdOC Society Management Committee should provide leadership to the PdOC society by:

- Setting the strategic direction to guide and direct the activities of the organisation;
- Ensuring the effective management of the organisation and its activities; and
- Monitoring the activities of the organisation to ensure they are in keeping with the founding principles, objects, and values.

Note:

PdOC management committee meetings are usually held in the evening at the Mill Lane Postdoc Centre.

President

The President plays a key role in the PdOC society and in the PdOC society Management Committee. The President acts as a figure head for the society and also ensures that the Committee functions properly, that there is full participation during meetings, that all relevant matters are discussed, and that effective decisions are made and carried out. The President of PdOC must be a current postdoc of the University of Cambridge or in one of its University Partner Institutions.

Duties and responsibilities

The responsibilities of a Chairperson can be summarised under three areas:

1. To represent the PdOC society.

The President may from time to time be called upon to represent the PdOC society and sometimes be its spokesperson at, for example, meetings with senior University and college officials and participate in University Committees where required.

2. To ensure the PdOC Management Committee functions properly.

The President fulfills the role of Chair presiding at PdOC management committee meetings. He/she is responsible for making sure that each meeting is planned effectively, conducted according to the constitution and that matters are dealt with in an orderly, efficient manner. The President must make the most of all his/her committee members and 'lead the team'. This also involves responsibility for identifying and managing the agreed process for renewal of the Committee through recruitment of new members.

3. To ensure the organisation is managed effectively.

The Chairperson must coordinate the Committee to ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the effective management of the organisation.

Vice- President

Duties and responsibilities

1. To represent the PdOC society.

The Chairperson must coordinate the Committee to ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the effective management of the organisation.

The Vice-President plays a key role in supporting the PdOC President and sharing the President's roles where appropriate. The Vice-President will chair the PdOC Society Management Committee in the absence of the Chair. The Vice-President of PdOC must be a current postdoc of the University of Cambridge or in one of its University Partner Institutions.

The Vice-President may along with, or instead of, the President, from time to time be called upon to represent the PdOC society and sometimes be its spokesperson at, for example, meetings with senior University and college officials and participate in University Committees such as the Postdoctoral Matters Committee (PMC).

2. To support and substitute the PdOC President in carrying out his/her duties as outlined above.

Treasurer

The Treasurer has a watchdog role over all aspects of financial management, working closely with other members of the Management Committee to safeguard the organisation's finances. The treasurer is responsible for ensuring that effective financial systems and procedures have been established, are being consistently followed, and are in line with best practice and University requirements for a University society.

Duties and responsibilities

Main responsibilities of the Treasurer:

1. General financial and constitutional oversight

- Oversee and present budgets, accounts and financial statements to the management committee.
- Ensure that appropriate financial systems and controls are in place.
- Ensure that record-keeping and accounts meet the conditions of a University of Cambridge society.
- Ensure compliance with any relevant legislation and constitutional obligations.

2. Funding and fundraising

- Liaise with the Marketing Officer and advice on the organisation's fundraising strategy.
- Ensure use of funds complies with conditions set by funding bodies.
- Ensure effective monitoring and reporting.

3. Financial planning and budgeting

- Liaise with the Marketing Officer, the PdOC committee and working groups (e.g., the events sub-committee) to prepare and present budgets for new or ongoing work.
- Advise on financial implications of future PdOC activities.

4. Financial reporting

- Present a report on PdOC's financial position at each Committee meeting.
- Prepare end of year accounts for audit and liaise with an auditor, as required.
- Present accounts at the AGM.

5. Banking, book-keeping and record-keeping

- Manage bank accounts.
- Set up appropriate systems for book-keeping, payments, lodgements, & petty cash.
- Ensure everyone handling money keeps proper records and documentation.

6. Manage the finance subcommittee

7. To represent the PdOC society

The Treasurer may be called upon to represent the PdOC society, for example, at meetings with senior University and college officials and participate in University Committees where required, especially related financial matters.

Society Secretary

The key role of the Society Secretary is to support the President and Treasurer in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Management Committee.

Duties and responsibilities

The Secretary supports the chair in ensuring that management committee meetings are organised effectively, that the received officer reports are circulated in time, and that the meetings are minuted, and once approved, filed.

In addition, the Secretary maintains a list of contact details of the committee members and relevant organisations, liaises with the PdA administration, and supports the Treasurer in acting as custodians of PdOC's governing documents and digital assets, i.e., PdOC Google Drive.

Finally, the Secretary ensures that AGM elections are in-line with the society's constitution, supports the president in preparing a report of PdOC's activities, and acts as a point of contact for University offices, where relevant.

Social and Networking Events Officer

Duties and responsibilities

- To chair and lead the Events subcommittee.
- To report to the monthly PdOC management committee on the activities of the events subcommittee.
- To plan, deliver, and evaluate PdOC society social events. This includes identification and booking of suitable activities and venues (including College venues) with the support of the Society Secretary, ordering catering and speakers/trainers/entertainment where appropriate.
- To organise the regular PdOC welcome events.
- To liaise with the Treasurer to plan the full costings of events, including charges to PdOC members.
- To liaise with the Communications and Marketing Officers to ensure advertisement and updated social media channels.

Researcher Development Initiatives Officer

Duties and responsibilities

- To chair and lead the Researcher Development Initiatives.
- To report to the monthly PdOC management committee on the activities of the Researcher Development Initiatives.
- To plan, deliver and evaluate PdOC society RD events. This includes identification and booking of suitable activities and venues (including College venues), ordering catering and speakers/trainers/entertainment where appropriate. To liaise closely with the Social and Networking Events Officer in planning the events.
- To ensure compliance with the Society's understanding of the University's Postdoctoral Research Development agenda.
- To liaise with the Treasurer in planning the full costings of events.

Communications Officer

Duties and responsibilities

- To chair and lead the Communications subcommittee.
- To report to the monthly PdOC management committee on the activities of the Communications subcommittee.
- Write and distribute weekly newsletter to the PdOC membership and mailing list.
- Write and edit content for PdOC website and social media presence (facebook and twitter).
- To liaise with the Marketing Officer.

Marketing & Social Media Officer

Duties and responsibilities

- To chair and lead the Marketing subcommittee.
- To report to the monthly PdOC management committee on the activities of Marketing subcommittee.
- Maintain and update PdOC brand.
- Design and maintain the marketing literature for PdOC society, including posters, leaflets, banners etc.
- To liaise with the Communications Officer and Events Officers to ensure social media presence.
- Support the Treasurer with fundraising activities.

Entrepreneurial Officer

Duties and responsibilities

- To chair and lead the Entrepreneurial subcommittee.
- To report to the monthly PdOC management committee on the activities of entrepreneurial subcommittee.
- To support the postdoctoral community in their efforts to bring their ideas to the market.
- To liaise closely with the Researcher Development Officer and Events Officer to arrange opportunities for postdocs to engage with each other as well as potential industry partners or features speakers.
- To maintain PdOC's entrepreneurial budget and to liaise with the Treasurer to ensure the availability of a suitable budget for corresponding events and activities, such as competitions.

- To liaise with the Communications Officer and the Marketing Officer to ensure timely distribution of relevant material and advertisement.

College Affiliation Officer

Duties and responsibilities

- To create awareness of postdoctoral College affiliations and supporting Postdocs who apply for these, *e.g.* advertising College Affiliations on the newsletter; the guide to Postdoctoral Affiliations on the website.
- Encouraging Colleges to increase the number and improving the quality of College affiliations for Postdocs by talking to Colleges representatives in various fora.
- Supporting Colleges to improve integration of Postdocs after they are affiliated *e.g.* working with the Postdoc Academy (PdA) initiative of a College postdoc representative network and other contacts in Colleges.
- To inform postdocs (via newsletter) of current opportunities.
- To provide guidance to the Cambridge Colleges on development of postdoctoral provision where requested.

Welfare and ED&I Officer

Duties and responsibilities

- Champion equality, diversity, and inclusion as well as health, wellbeing and family support for postdocs.
- Seek to understand the factors that disadvantage some groups of postdocs at the University of Cambridge. and represent these, along with possible solutions, to University offices/groups.
- Represent postdocs on the University Equality & Diversity Committee and the University Health & Wellbeing Working Group. The Committees are at quite a high level in the University, so they offer good platforms to address issues.
- Organise relevant events, like yoga classes, mindfulness sessions, info sessions on mental health topics, social events for families or postdocs related to equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- Liaise with staff support services like Occupational Health, Staff Counselling, Childcare Office, University Wellbeing Champion, as well as the University Diversity Networks: <https://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/diversity-networks>.

Department Officer

Duties and responsibilities

- Facilitate the communication between Department Representatives (DepReps) and the PdOC Management Committee.
- Liaise with new departments and or departments without DepRep.
- Maintain a list of DepReps with the Society Secretary.
- Organise and chair regular DepRep meetings.

Sub-Committee Members

Duties and responsibilities

- To attend meetings of the PdOC society committee (approximately 1 per month) plus AGM
- To play an active role in the PdOC society committee supporting the named role holders.
- To join a subcommittee(s) of your choice (representation, communication, or events) led by one of the PdOC Society Committee members. Subcommittee meetings are arranged by the head of each subcommittee.
- To act as the accountable mechanism for PdOC, as a University Society, to be held responsible to its members and the University.
- To contribute to the strategic direction of the PdOC society.