

Chair of UK Board of Trustees

We are seeking an enthusiastic Chair with a strong lead on governance and fundraising and an interest in education to lead the UK Board of Trustees to help deliver projects that improve the quality of teaching and learning in Cambodian primary schools.

[SeeBeyondBorders](#) is an internationally award-winning organisation that improves the quality of teaching and learning in Cambodian primary schools. Established in 2009, the organisation has provided teacher training and mentoring support to 523 teachers across 199 schools, positively impacting the education of 27,000 children. Quality and not size is our key goal with an emphasis on partnerships to expand our reach. We prioritise sustainable programming, working with local, regional and national education authorities to ensure teacher professional development activities are embedded into the long-term education strategy for the country. In summary our approach is about people, partnerships, and technology.

Our primary objective is to improve children's learning outcomes. In 2016, SeeBeyondBorders was awarded the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for **Outstanding Performance and Practice in Enhancing the Performance of Teachers** and in 2017, an Honourable Commendation in the Wenhui Awards recognising **Innovations in Teacher Professional Development**. This recognition has given us an enhanced platform from which to pursue our secondary objectives of becoming a recognised centre of excellence and achieving the organisational growth necessary to assure the sustainability of our initiatives integrating grassroots interventions with systemic change.

Why do we need you?

We are seeking to recruit a Chair for our UK Board of Trustees as we move into a period of growth and transition.

SeeBeyondBorders UK was established in 2012 by the original founders of SeeBeyondBorders who had previously emigrated from the UK to Australia. SeeBeyondBorders Australia was the first SeeBeyondBorders entity to be established and was registered in 2009. The UK entity was established to access the support of the founders family and friends and the original UK Trustees reflected that profile. A number of the original active Board members remain, but now the majority of Trustees are fully independent of any family connections.

This is a key moment of transition for SeeBeyondBorders as a whole as it looks beyond COVID-19 and develops its structure to provide greater local autonomy and sense of purpose. Through its International Alliance, the Charity is developing capabilities in Donor countries (Australia, the UK and Ireland to date) to maximise opportunities to fund its work in Cambodia while further strengthening the organisation overall.

Under the terms of the Alliance Agreement, SeeBeyondBorders UK will retain the independence necessary to make its own decisions and maintain accountability to its membership while engaging effectively with the other governing, strategy setting, and policy making bodies of the Alliance.

The purpose for this role is to guide the Board and support the Chief Executive with leading the organisation through this period of development and restructure. The Chair will need to ensure that SeeBeyondBorders UK is in the best position to both meet the changing landscape for charities

in the post-pandemic period and to support the work of Alliance partners as focused on education in Cambodia.

Who are we looking for?

It is vital that all our trustees have a passion for helping those who are disadvantaged overseas. They will likely have an interest in education or another connection with South-East Asia. We are now seeking a Chair who is willing to use his/her connections to help us grow funding for the work we are doing in Cambodia. If you have a keen interest in education or experience in the not-for-profit sector, this would be an advantage but it is not a pre-requisite.

From a practical point of view, our Chair shares the same governance responsibilities as all other trustees. We rely on our Chair and all our trustees to:

- Provide insight, advice through experience and objective judgement on our strategy and activities
- Give advice in individual areas of professional specialisation
- Monitor the performance of the charity
- Ensure there is an adequate governance system for SeeBeyondBorders UK
- Support our fundraising activities e.g., linking contacts, organised events, crowd-funding and online campaigns

We also expect our Chair to support our trustees in their roles by demonstrating leadership, clarity of purpose, and considered decision making while creating an environment for a cohesive and productive Board.

We are particularly interested in recruiting an individual who has previous experience on a Charity Board, or experience in education and/or education research (especially in primary education) and we would love to hear from anyone who would be happy to facilitate connections to corporates, trusts and/or individuals to enable us to broaden our network, raise our profile and, importantly, increase our income.

We expect our trustees to carry out their duties transparently and honestly, in the spirit of openness and integrity, which is so important to SeeBeyondBorders. We value the input of trustees who consider challenges with common sense and a level-headed approach.

We provide as much support as necessary to enable our trustees to represent SeeBeyondBorders to their network of contacts and so help us raise awareness and funds for the work that we do in Cambodia.

For a full and formal explanation of the duties of a Trustee, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>

Location

Your base can be anywhere, but you must be willing to travel to London to take part in at least one face-to-face meeting per year. We have recently made changes to allow our quarterly meetings to take place via video call and we do expect trustees to be able to attend the majority of these quarterly meetings.

Time Commitments

Trustees meet formally four times per year (usually on a weekday evening) and papers are circulated to read before the meetings. On occasion, trustees are asked to attend fundraising and other networking events. As Chair you will need to be accessible to the CEO and to support them including by attending meetings and representing SeeBeyondBorders in the wider community. It is estimated that this may take up to two days per month in total.

Trustees are encouraged to visit SeeBeyondBorders' projects in Cambodia to gain a full understanding of the operations 'on the ground' and will be made very welcome throughout their stay. In the past, trustees have successfully incorporated some visits to SeeBeyondBorders' projects within a planned holiday.

Eligibility

To be eligible as a Trustee, you must not have been disqualified from acting as a charity trustee or company director in the past, you must not have been convicted of dishonesty or fraud, and you must not be bankrupt or entered into a formal agreement with a creditor. You will be expected to complete a DBS Check as part of our safeguarding responsibilities.

This position is entirely voluntary and therefore it is unpaid.

Applications

Please send your CV and a covering letter to uk@seebeyondborders.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

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