



BECOMING A TRUSTEE OF EIL UK



About EIL UK

At EIL UK our fundamental aim is to advance people's understanding, respect and appreciation of different cultures and ways of life through opportunities to live and learn together that enrich their lives and make the world a better place.

We offer a range of cultural education programmes, adopting a distinctive and personal approach that brings positive outcomes for both participants and hosts, opening hearts and minds to others, and enhancing lives. The majority of our programmes provide opportunities for incoming participants but we also offer placements to UK participants seeking to develop a deeper understanding of other cultures and countries overseas.

Our cultural immersion programmes include study abroad, family homestays, group educational programmes, training and language courses. For example:

Study Abroad

We offer a School Cultural Exchange Programme to overseas students who spend 3-6 months studying in a UK High School while gaining a truly immersive cultural experience through living with a host family throughout their stay.

Volunteer training

Through this EU funded initiative, we deliver training to European volunteers coming to the UK, enabling them to quickly adjust to living and working in a different culture.

Individual Homestays

We provide a range of opportunities to those overseas participants seeking to experience UK life by living with a host family. For example, we offer weekend homestays to international students studying at UK universities, enabling them to experience our culture beyond the student environment.

Established in 1936, EIL UK is part of Federation EIL, one of the oldest and most established hosting organisations in the world. The Federation was awarded Peace Messenger status by the UN Secretary General in 1989.

How do trustees support EIL UK?

Our trustees are volunteers who generously give their time to support the charity and ensure robust governance of the organisation. They determine the overall direction and development of the charity, ensuring that it adheres to the purpose for which it as established.

Trustees have certain statutory responsibilities including monitoring performance and safeguarding the good name and values of the charity. In addition, they play an active role in the growth and success of the charity by lending their experience, skills and enthusiasm to support the work of the Chief Executive and staff.

There is a formal requirement to attend meetings of the Board of Trustees, normally held four times a year, currently on Saturday mornings at a Worcestershire venue. We welcome trustees from all parts of the UK and now run hybrid meetings, enabling trustees who live further afield to join by video conference. Meetings typically last for up to 3 hours. Travel expenses are reimbursed where required.

What is expected of the trustees of EIL UK?

As board members, trustees are expected to attend all board meetings and relevant committee meetings as well as the EIL AGM. However, to be truly effective trustees need to keep in regular touch with the charity, updating themselves on activities and progress.

In addition to the contribution they make through meetings, our trustees use their skills and experience to support specific projects and activities (e.g. funding bids, meetings with stakeholders etc).

We also expect trustees to undertake induction training and other ad hoc development activities.

Trustees are appointed for a renewable 3-year term.

What qualities does EIL UK look for in its trustees?

To make a real contribution to the Board, trustees must have the following personal skills and qualities:

- a strong personal commitment to and empathy with the vision and mission of EIL UK
- a willingness to meet the minimum time requirement
- integrity
- strategic vision
- good, independent judgement
- the ability to think creatively
- a willingness to speak their mind
- an understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, role and responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship

- an ability to work effectively as a member of a team and to take decisions for the good of EIL UK
- a willingness to act as an advocate in promoting the work of the organisation both within their personal networks and to the wider world.

What skills and experience are currently required?

Our current Board members bring a diverse range of experience to the charity but we have identified some gaps which we are keen to fill. In particular we would like to engage new Trustees who can bring skills and experience in one or more of the following fields:

- Income generation and enterprise
- International development
- Multi-cultural initiatives and activities
- Education sector
- Working with local communities
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
- Business growth and development

Other requirements

- An enhanced DBS check, in line with EIL's safeguarding policy and procedures
- A declaration of interests
- A signed acceptance of the Seven Principles of Public Life

Interested? To find out more.....

If you would be interested in finding out more about the role and how our Board operates, please get in touch with our Chair of Trustees or Chief Executive, as follows:

Chair

Deirdre Myers

Email: Deirdre.myers@btinternet.com

Tel. 07855 250045

Chief Executive

Katherine Davis

Email: Katherine.davis@eiluk.org

Tel. 01684 562577

More about the charity can be found at: www.eiluk.org