



**MATERIALS
RESEARCH
SOCIETY®**

Advancing materials. Improving the quality of life.

*Engaging members across generations
to advance their careers and promote
materials research and innovation.*

Materials Research Society Board of Director and Officer Candidate Guide

Since 1973, Materials Research Society (MRS) has focused on the big picture—providing an intellectual home for big ideas and big discoveries with big impact across our global field. Rather than approaching materials research through a narrow lens, MRS takes a wide-angle view of our multidisciplinary landscape, uniting materials researchers from academia, national laboratories, and industry across specialties—all of whom play a role in advancing our global field and quality of life. With more than 13,000 Members from 90 countries, our researchers represent diverse skills and expertise, including chemistry, biology, physics, engineering and beyond.

Please see more about **MRS's Mission, Aspirations, Vision and Values** at mrs.org/mission-vision-values

The MRS Board of Directors is responsible for governing the Society, including: setting the Society's strategy and goals; overseeing operations; and ensuring that the organization operates in compliance with legal and ethical standards.

Board Fiduciary Responsibilities

MRS Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to the organization as required by law. These responsibilities are:

Duty of Care: The obligation to be reasonably informed, act in good faith, and ensure prudent use of all assets

Duty of Loyalty: The obligation to make decisions that are in the best interest of the Society

Duty of Obedience: The obligation to comply with legal, regulatory, and reporting requirements and to serve as a guardian of the Society's mission

Terms

- Directors serve a three-year term beginning January 1st
- Those selected as President-Elect will have a three-year commitment as President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past President

Minimum Expectations

- Attend at least two full Board Meetings per year
- Attend more than 50% of governing committee activities and/or meetings
- Participate in more than 50% of any voting conducted outside of traditional Board Meetings
- Prepare for all Board Meetings, regardless of plans to attend
- Actively participate in Board discussions and decision-making

MRS utilizes a competency and multi-representational model of Board member selection.

MRS recognizes that broad perspectives and experiences drive innovation and excellence in organizational leadership and consistently seeks to ensure a diversity of skills, experience, and thought leadership on our Board of Directors.

MRS uses a competency-based model for the composition of the Board of Directors in order to enable efficient and effective governance of the Society and build from the skills, career experiences, and strategic thinking abilities of our Directors and Officers. The goal is to have a Board of Directors that collectively demonstrates the competencies and experience listed below.

The MRS Talent Development Committee has the responsibility to identify where talent needs may exist and recommend a slate of candidates to the MRS Board that will best serve the organization. Individuals who possess the competencies, experience, and expertise identified in this guide are encouraged to apply.

Required Competencies and Experience

Integrity

Honest with strong ethical principles and the ability to create an environment of trust and accountability within the board.

Commitment / Capacity

Willing to make a commitment to MRS with the time and capacity to fully engage in board work.

Reputation

Has made impactful contributions to MRS and/or the materials community through career and volunteer experiences.

Background in the materials field

Possesses significant expertise in the materials field along with broad career oversight experience in other areas (i.e. science advocacy, technology / digital innovation, business and finance) in order to contribute to the knowledge base of the board as it considers critical strategic issues and assesses related implications.

Knowledge of and record of service to MRS

Demonstrates a keen interest, understanding, and passion for MRS and our programs; has a record of leadership in the organization and a desire to enact improvements for the benefit of society membership.

Desired Competencies and Experience

Communication

Has the ability to effectively convey information to others; open to listening to differing viewpoints in order to understand and respond appropriately.

Relationship-building

Able to nurture the development and cohesion of a team by building trusting relationships with fellow directors and management.

Teamwork / Collaboration

Respects the needs and contributions of others; prioritizes collaborative problem-solving over individual interests; exchanges information freely, explores alternatives, supports group decisions, and contributes to and accepts consensus; understands the need for emphasis on global collaboration.

Effective

Possesses the capacity to positively affect the behavior, decision-making, and leadership abilities of others; able to inspire and guide individuals/groups towards goal achievement as well as ask for and gain commitment to actions.

Strategic Thinking

Demonstrates the ability to analyze events, identify trends, anticipate changes, recognize opportunities and threats, and provide foresight; be able to apply this information to making decisions that support MRS's overarching mission and strategy.

Innovative Thought Leadership

Possesses an entrepreneurial orientation with a willingness to: innovate; create and consider new ideas, solutions and approaches; be proactive; and take measured risks.

Organizational Leadership

Leadership experience within an organization, including serving as a role model and mentor, and working with diverse communities.

Non-Profit Leadership

Possesses non-profit leadership and governance experience, preferably as a volunteer leader (Board of Director member / Officer) in a Society or Association of comparable or greater size to MRS (revenue, members, and geographic reach).