

## Background

TASO are seeking individuals to join 3 of our Theme Working Groups (TWG).

- **TWG 1: Effectiveness of Widening Participation Outreach** (1 participant)
- **TWG 3: Employment** (~7 participants)
- **TWG 4: Mental Health and Disability** (~7 participants)

The groups act as external advisory bodies for TASO and provide guidance on decisions affecting our research programmes. Their role includes responsibility for reviewing the current evidence base, reviewing applications into TASO commissioning rounds, making recommendations for funding awards and monitoring funded projects. A list of current members can be found [on our website](#).

## Experience

We encourage applications from a range of individuals, we would particularly welcome expressions of interest from:

- Students (specifically individuals with disabilities or mental health conditions)
- Student success practitioners and HE professionals
- Evaluators
- Researchers
- Policy professionals
- Graduate employers

Applicants should be able to demonstrate sustained experience relating to the research theme in question. We will prioritise individuals who can demonstrate some understanding of research/evaluation in HE but they do not have to have conducted research/evaluation themselves.

## Responsibilities

Theme Working Groups meet every 3 months to coincide with key milestones in the TASO research programme. Each meeting takes 2-3 hours and pre-reading is required (e.g. reviewing research proposals). Meetings normally take place in central London and TASO is able to cover travel expenses occurred as a result of attending the meetings (although they are likely to take place remotely for the foreseeable future). Moderate pre-reading will be a requirement of each meeting.

At these meetings the group discuss and shape TASO's research activities. Specific responsibilities include:

- Reading reports relevant to the theme which will be provided by TASO.
- Making recommendations to shape TASO's commissioning strategy.
- Reviewing applications to the commissioning rounds and advising on which applications should be successful.
- Scrutinising the progress of the funded projects by reading update reports.

## Term

We envisage panel members serving initially until April 2022, when the initial period of funding for the centre ends.

## How to Apply

Individuals wishing to join the Theme Working Group should submit an expression of interest (of no more than one page) [info@taso.org.uk](mailto:info@taso.org.uk) using the subject line "TASO Theme Working

Group application". Please specify the TWG you are interested in joining, outline your suitability for this position and any relevant experience, as well as any potential or actual conflicts of interest.

**The deadline for application is 18th August 2021.**