



Trustee Recruitment Information for Candidates

We are seeking a new Trustee to join our Board at the AIM Foundation. This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in the development of our family foundation, as we integrate a new generation of family trustees and strengthen our environmental grantmaking to help restore the UK's rivers and coasts.

About The AIM Foundation

[The AIM Foundation](#) (AIM) is a grantmaking family foundation based in the UK, providing core, unrestricted and project funding to a range of charitable organisations. Our funding has three key objectives (changing the system, strengthening the sector & direct support) and three core programmes (Early Years, Young People & the Environment). In this financial year AIM will distribute around £750,000 in grants.

AIM was established in 1971 by Ian & Angela Marks, and today many of their descendants are still involved. In 1989 AIM was strengthened by proceeds from the sale of the Marks' family business, Trebor and up until last year AIM owned [Cytoplan](#). This was divested in 2023 to a newly establishing grantmaking charity, the [Nutritional Wellbeing Foundation](#), which is focused exclusively on funding nutrition for health and wellbeing.

AIM's grantmaking is supported by its endowed investment portfolio, the management of which is aligned with our overall mission in terms of sustainability & impact.

AIM is a registered charity governed by seven Trustees: three are children of our Founders; three are grandchildren, who have recently become Trustees; and one is independent. The involvement of the next generation of Mark's family has created the opportunity for an ongoing strategic review of AIM's funding programmes, which has renewed our passion for the restoration & protection of the UK's river and coastal systems.

We recruited two independent trustees to our board in 2022 and they have added considerable value to Board discussions through their expertise and experience. One of them has recently decided to stand down and therefore we are seeking a replacement who can help us build our environmental expertise.

The Trustee Role

We are particularly keen to hear from candidates who have experience of environmental grantmaking or a background in environmental sciences (marine biology, biodiversity, or other types of conservation).

We are also looking for a Trustee who has:

- A commitment to the goals of AIM and our guiding principles (respect for those working in the sector, openness & collaboration)
- The ability to work effectively as a member of a team and to take decisions for the good of AIM and those we seek to support
- Good, independent judgement & financial literacy
- An ability to think strategically
- A willingness to speak their mind and challenge where appropriate
- An understanding of the legal duties & responsibilities of charity Trusteeship
- An ability to dedicate sufficient time to the role

The main duties of AIM Trustees are to:

- Ensure that AIM complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- Help shape the strategic direction of AIM
- Act as an advocate for AIM and those we fund
- Ensure the good financial management and proper investment of AIM's funds.

The statutory responsibilities of Trustees are clearly set out in the Charity Commission's publication [CC3: The essential Trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do](#).

We welcome applications from anyone regardless of their age, disability, ethnicity, heritage, sexuality, gender and socio-economic background.

Commitment

Trustees will need to prepare for & attend four board meetings per year (in person in London twice a year, and online twice a year). Trustees will also be expected to support the Foundation in between meetings, for example, to represent the Foundation at meetings, take part in strategy days, or visit the organisations we fund. We estimate the commitment to be at least 6 days per year.

The appointment is expected to commence in September 2024 for a three-year term, in the first instance.

The post is voluntary and unremunerated. Reasonable expenses will be paid including travel costs to attend meetings in London from other locations in the UK.

How to Apply

If you would like to put yourself forward as a potential Trustee, please send us your current CV and a covering letter of no more than two sides of A4 outlining how your skills and experience relate to the role and what you would bring as a Trustee.

Please send these to Sarah Irving, Foundation Director (sarah@theaimfoundation.org.uk) by 5 p.m. on Friday 16th August 2024.

Successful candidates will be invited to interview in early September.

If you have questions or would like to discuss this role before applying, then please contact, Caroline Marks, AIM's Chair, by email (caroline@theaimfoundation.org.uk).

Further Information

You can find more information about The AIM Foundation at:

<https://theaimfoundation.org.uk/>

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/263294>

Further guidance on being a Trustee can be found at:

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

<https://www.gettingonboard.org/>