



John Schofield Trust

Trustee recruitment pack
Supporting aspiring journalists

**John Schofield
Trust**



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in joining our board of trustees. We are a small charity that punches above its weight in impact. We are looking for capable and driven volunteers to help steer the organisation towards a more sustainable future.

The John Schofield Trust's mission is to unlock the potential of talented aspiring or early career journalists, regardless of their family income, ethnicity, gender, disability or sexuality, through mentoring, masterclasses and networking opportunities.



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Our history

The John Schofield Trust was founded in 1996 by the family and friends of John Schofield, a young journalist who was killed whilst reporting on the war in Croatia for the BBC. John's widow, Susie Schofield MBE, remains heavily involved in the charity today, as do many of his friends and colleagues.

We enjoy wide support from the sector, with many of the media organisations funding our activities and a range of journalists mentoring for us.



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Susie Schofield MBE

“We have been immensely fortunate in the trustees we have had since we began in 1996 and our success is due in no small measure to their input, insight and counsel. Trustees are the backbone of what we do.”

Susie Schofield MBE, Founder, John Schofield Trust



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Our activities

Early career and apprentice scheme

Our most well-known programme supports journalists who have two to five years' experience in the sector by pairing them with an experienced journalist for 12 months of mentoring support and networking.

Students of journalism

We are partnered with 11 universities and offer individual mentoring to a cohort of students from each.

Emerging young talent of the year award

Since 1996, we offer an annual award to recognise young journalists in conjunction with the Royal Television Society.

Masterclasses and networking

We host in-person or virtual events on a monthly basis for the whole network.

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Our numbers

- 750+ early career and apprentice journalists mentored since 2012
- 350+ mentors since 2012
- 200+ students mentored since 2023
- 2,100+ participants at our online events since 2020

Our impact: 2024 early career mentees

CATEGORY	2024	NATIONAL SECTOR BENCHMARK*
Non selective state school	66%	43% privately educated
Ethnic minority	41%	12%
First generation in university	45%	Data not available for sector
Disabled	25%	22%
LGBTQ+	37%	6%
Free School Meals	29%	80% journalists from 'highest social classes'

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*figures from annual NCTJ report, Ofcom, Sutton Trust

What we're looking for

- Committed individuals who believe in the power of a free and diverse press.
- Those with experience in one or more of the following:
 - Leadership and management
 - Charity governance
 - UK or Irish media and journalism
 - Fundraising and/or corporate giving
 - Social mobility and equality & diversity
 - Finance management
 - Higher education
 - Partnership building
- Strategic thinkers with a passion for good governance and fundraising.
- Individuals with strong networks in the media or corporate fundraising sector.



Expectations

As a trustee, you will:

- Attend at least five meetings per year, mostly remotely, with at least one in-person away day per year.
- Play a vital role in shaping the Trust's future strategy and growth.
- Provide expert guidance, and support the Trust's staff and beneficiaries.
- Contribute to a collaborative and rewarding board environment.
- The role is unpaid and voluntary. The Trust will cover all reasonable expenses to attend meetings and events.

The normal term for a trustee is three years, with the possibility of an extension after that point.

Further information on the role of a trustee can be found on the Charity Commission website, including its 'What you need to know as a trustee' guidance pack: bit.ly/trustees-guide.

We offer you:

- The opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of aspiring journalists.
- The chance to work with a passionate and dedicated team.
- The satisfaction of contributing to a vital cause.

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How to apply

We are looking to fill more than one vacancy on the board.

There is no deadline for applications. We will review and interview on a rolling basis and reserve the right to close the applications once we have filled the vacancies that exist.

If you are interested and would like a conversation about the role, you can contact us at info@johnschofieldtrust.org.uk.

To apply, please submit a CV and a short expression of interest in whatever medium you are most comfortable using, e.g. in writing (no longer than two sides of A4) or by video (3 mins max).

Your expression of interest should cover:

- Why you want to become a trustee at the John Schofield Trust.
- How your unique skills and experience make you a great candidate to be a trustee – you will want to refer to the specific person specification of a trustee, treasurer or chair, which is available separately to this pack.
- Why the mission of the John Schofield Trust is important to you.

Please email your CV and expression of interest to: info@johnschofieldtrust.org.uk. We may take up references.

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johnschofieldtrust.org.uk