

upReach Trustee

upReach are seeking to appoint a Trustee to join the Board as we look to enhance our reach and impact. The ideal candidate will offer expertise in the higher education sector, bringing a deep understanding of student experience and widening participation to the Board of Trustees.

upReach is an award winning national charity supporting less advantaged undergraduates to secure top jobs. We help these young people achieve their career potential by providing an intensive programme of career support that addresses socio-economic barriers to graduate employment. This position will help to guide our strategy and ensure that student experience is at the core of all upReach activities.

Role:	upReach Trustee
Application Deadline:	9am on Monday 15th March 2021
Duration:	Three-year term (with possible extension to a maximum of three terms)
Reporting to:	Chair of the Board of Trustees
Positions available:	One

About upReach

A student from a disadvantaged background who gains a first class degree from a top university is less likely to secure an elite job than a more privileged student with a 2.2. upReach works to address this progression gap, supporting students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds to secure graduate jobs after university, aiming to reach our vision of a society in which everyone has the opportunity to reach their full career potential, regardless of social background.

We achieve this through partnerships with employers and universities. Building on the success of the past five years, upReach's current partners include Allen & Overy, Bank of America, the Civil Service Fast Stream, Deloitte, McKinsey & Company and Slaughter and May. We also partner with universities including Exeter, King's College London, Liverpool, Warwick and Manchester.

This academic year, over 2,000 undergraduates (we call them upReach Associates) will be supported through our unique programme of application guidance, soft skills workshops, video forums (small group, online seminar-style sessions), mentoring and professional experience. We aim to support 2,500 per year by 2022, while maintaining our personalised approach and expanding the support offered.

Our impact is clear; a 2019 analysis by the University of Exeter shows that the Exeter students we supported outperformed their more advantaged peers. Despite the many barriers to graduate success, upReach's tailored programme of support is helping Associates outperform fellow students long after graduation.

upReach is a dynamic organisation. We have invested in class-leading technology to facilitate, deliver and evaluate our programmes. The upReach Graduate Employability Framework (GEF), against which all of our activities are mapped, enables students to understand their employability and plan their learning. We built [getEmployable](#) to provide all students with a means to measure their employability using the GEF. Our contextualised grade model, [REALrating](#), is used to better

understand academic potential rather than relying on grades alone. Our latest initiative is the [Social Mobility Network](#), platform built by upReach to enable students from less-advantaged backgrounds to access a network of professionals who work in a broad range of industries.

In October 2019, upReach won the Charity of the Year Award (income < £1m) in the prestigious Charity Times Awards, and in May 2020, upReach was announced as the winner of the “Embracing Digital” Charity Governance Award.

To find out more about upReach and how we support our students, visit our [website](#) and read our latest [Annual Report](#) and [Impact Report](#).

About the role

upReach are seeking to appoint a trustee who can bring deep expertise within the higher education sector. Their guidance will help us to grow our university partnerships and ensure that student experience is at the forefront of our strategy.

The ideal candidate requires:

- A passion for social mobility and knowledge of the broader social mobility sector, including the type of work undertaken by upReach
- Senior management experience in a university or within the wider HE sector, with a deep understanding of the student experience and/or widening participation agenda
- Prior trustee or other senior governance experience

It is expected that all Trustees should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Board reach sound decisions. This will involve scrutinising board papers in advance of meetings, leading discussions, focusing on key issues, and providing advice and guidance requested by the Board on new initiatives, or other issues relevant to the area of upReach’s work in which the Trustee has special expertise.

We particularly welcome applications from groups currently underrepresented at board level, including women and BAME/PoC applicants.

About the Board

- The upReach Board consists of ten trustees including the Chair and three “upReach Alumni” who were formerly upReach Associates.
- There are 4 board meetings per year (normally held after working hours) plus an annual strategy day.
- Up to a further 2 days a year may be required to attend events or otherwise support the charity.

How to apply

To apply, please submit your CV and a supporting letter (maximum 2 pages).

If you would like to have an informal chat and ask questions about the position please contact Sara Furness (Chief of Staff) at sara.furness@upreach.org.uk. Applications must be submitted to

sara.furness@upreach.org.uk by **9am on Monday 15th March 2021**.

Video interviews will be held in March and April by current members of the Board.