

Academic Freedom (AF) Lead of the BISA Executive Committee

1. Overall purpose

The AF Lead is responsible for leading on the development of academic freedom strategy and activities.

It is the AF Lead's primary task to work with members of the BISA Executive Committee to improve the visibility of, and our support for, academic freedom issues. BISA considers academic freedom to be central to the scholarly work of its members and to the broader scientific community. It is essential that individuals and institutions are free to undertake research and teaching without fear of discrimination, censorship, or other restrictions that would prevent them from undertaking their work.

The AF Lead reports to the Chair of the Executive Committee.

2. Duties and responsibilities as a member of the Committee

- To explore ways in which BISA's academic freedom agenda can be made more visible and can better serve our members
- To ensure that the Association considers the practical and legal risks that might stem from our work on academic freedom and advising on how best to mitigate such risks
- To lead on the drafting of any statements pertaining to academic freedom issues and to work with the Chair, Vice Chair, BISA CEO and BISA Communications Director on agreeing and publishing these
- To ensure that the Association, and its representatives, act in accordance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements
- To ensure that BISA acts in furtherance of its the charitable objectives, continually striving for best practice in governance
- To ensure the Association applies its resources exclusively in pursuit of its objectives

- To take appropriate professional advice in all matters where there may be a material risk to the Association, or where the Trustees may be in breach of their duties
- To contribute actively to the Committees' (i.e. the Executive Committee and any sub-committees) role in giving firm strategic direction to the Association, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance
- To avoid any personal conflict of interest
- To safeguard the good name and values of the Association
- To manage and use the resources of the Association so as to optimise its potential
- To ensure that robust systems are in place to ensure the financial stability of the Association
- To actively contribute to Committee discussions and workload regarding the activities and ongoing development of the Association
- To participate in tasks, consultation and deliberation processes, as requested by the Officers
- To support measures accepted by the Committee as and when these are put before a General Meeting or wider membership
- To use one's further skills, abilities and experience for the benefit of the Association as appropriate
- To undergo induction upon appointment and to remain aware of one's duties and responsibilities as a trustee.

3. Qualities of the AF Lead

- Good reputation and profile in the International Studies academic community
- Currently a Senior Lecturer or higher, based at a UK institution

- Commitment to, and knowledge of, the work of the Association
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- A high level of strong and effective leadership skills with the experience and drive to support BISA's commitment to academic freedom
- Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort, to act as the AF officer
- Ability to think critically and independently
- Willingness to make challenging recommendations to the Committee, if necessary
- Willingness to work with other professional organisations and relevant bodies that may be able to advise and support BISA's work on academic freedom
- Willingness to be available to the BISA CEO/Director and staff, officers and trustees for advice and enquiries on academic freedom matters on an ad hoc basis
- Commitment to the Nolan principles of standards in public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.

4. Time consideration

- The Executive Committee and its sub-committees meet at least four times a year
- In addition, the AF Lead ought to be prepared to dedicate the equivalent of 1 – 2 working days per month across the year to BISA responsibilities.