

## **Autistic board apprentices**

As part of our commitment to including autistic people across the organisation and to empower autistic people to play an influential role across the charity sector, Autistica, the UK's autism research charity, is looking to recruit two board apprentices.

We ran this scheme successfully in 2018-19 and are seeking to build on the success of our pilot.

Board apprentices will be placed on the Autistica board of trustees for one year to observe and gain first-hand experience of the workings and dynamics on boards. This in turn will grow and widen the pool of board-ready autistic people

### **How the meetings will work**

There are four meetings per year (three half days meetings and one full day meeting). Meetings are held in Central London. We pay travel expenses but as this is a board-level role it is an unpaid volunteer role.

Board apprentices will be paired with a "buddy", an existing trustee who will meet with them before each meeting and support them in meetings.

### **Charity boards**

Every charity has a governing body (most often called a board of trustees) that takes overall responsibility for its work. A board consists of trustees who work together to ensure the charity is meeting its stated goals. Being on a board is a significant role. They support the strategic direction of the organisation, agree plans and budgets, and hold the Chief Executive and team to account for the delivery of these plans. Members of the board also have the opportunity to participate in sub-committees – such as the finance committee, fundraising committee and strategy committee.

### **The benefits of being a board apprentice**

Being a board apprentice will give you direct experience of how a board and charity works. We hope the experience will give autistic people the knowledge, skills and confidence to become a trustee or board member in the future. You will also get to learn about how Autistica makes decision and how the charity operates.

### **Who we are looking for**

We are looking for board apprentices who

- have a diagnosis of autism
- have a genuine interest and passion for the vision, mission and activities undertaken by Autistica
- have a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to be an apprentice
- understand the importance of confidentiality
- are interested in strategic conversations and the charity sector
- have an interest or experience in an area related to the activities of Autistica, including: communications, finance, fundraising, human resources marketing, policy, research and strategy.
- are willing to listen to and respect different points of view

You do not need to have previous Board or charity experience.

### **Process for applying to become a board apprentice**

1. Complete a questionnaire by 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
2. Candidates will be notified if they have been shortlisted by 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
3. Candidates will be reviewed internally
4. Candidates will be interviewed by Autistica staff and trustees
5. Chosen candidates will then be offered a place on the board.