

Volunteer Role Description

Role title: Research Network volunteer

How long and how often

The primary activity of the Network is to review research applications. Volunteers receive about a batch of 4-6 applications, roughly 4 times a year. However, the minimum that Research Network volunteers are expected to do is to review one batch of applications a year. There is a period of 1 - 2 months in which to return your scores and comments.

There are many other ways to be involved in research via the Research Network, depending on your interests and availability. The role is flexible – you can do as much or as little as you would like to.

Location

Home-based, volunteers welcome from England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Why we need you...

Alzheimer's Society spends £10 million annually on research into the care, cure and cause of dementia. A major component of Alzheimer's Society's research programme is the involvement of people affected by dementia via our [Research Network](#).

The Network consists of over 270 people living with dementia, carers and former carers based throughout the United Kingdom. Research Network volunteers are involved in every step of our research programme as 'experts by experience' to ensure high quality, relevant research.

Have you got what it takes to help people affected by dementia?

This role will suit you if you are...

This role will suit you if you have personal experience with dementia and are interested in being involved in dementia research.

The impact you'll make...

The Research Network gives people with experience of dementia the opportunity to directly influence dementia research projects. As a Research Network volunteer you will help to ensure that the Society invests in research that will make a difference to people affected by dementia.

What's involved?

Basic Expectations

- Reading, prioritising and commenting on research funding applications

Optional extra opportunities:

- Monitoring and supporting research projects funded by Alzheimer's Society
- Taking part in grant advisory panels that contribute to research funding decisions
- Act as ambassadors to raise the profile of Alzheimer's Society research
- Support the development of research applications
- Support researchers funded by other organisations to design and carry out their research

Have you got what it takes?

As a Research Network volunteer you have the opportunity to influence dementia research based on your personal experience of dementia.

- Only people living with dementia and those with experience of caring for someone with dementia (family carers/ non-professional) can join the Network
- An academic or research background is not necessary
- The role can be undertaken from home
- The role can be taken on jointly between two people.

What's in it for you?

- Learn about how research processes work
- Learn about new developments in dementia research
- Develop skills in reading about and reviewing research
- Provide valuable input to research projects
- Opportunity to support the work of Alzheimer's Society

What can you expect from us?

- You will receive support from the Research Engagement team, based in London
- You will receive support from a local Research Network Area Coordinator – an experienced Network volunteer
- Training on the research process and how to write a lay review is available
- Training (online and face-to-face) is also available for the additional opportunities
- You will have access to Alzheimer's Society's training and educational resources to assist you in your role as an Alzheimer's Society volunteer.
- You will be invited to the annual Alzheimer's Society conference to learn more about ongoing research
- You will receive a monthly mailing with updates and information about developments within Alzheimer's Society and the dementia research field
- Agreed out-of-pocket expenses, such as travel, will be reimbursed, in accordance with Alzheimer's Society policy



How to apply...

Return the Research Network application form to ResearchNetwork@alzheimers.org.uk or post a copy to:

Matt Murray (Research)
Alzheimer's Society
43-44 Crutched Friars
London
EC3N 2AE

We will contact you within 2 weeks to confirm that we have received your application. As part of our application process, we invite all potential volunteers to an induction talk with their local Area Coordinator – a Research Network volunteer who supports fellow Network volunteers in their Area. This is an informal conversation, which may be done in person or over the phone and is an opportunity for you to discuss the role with an experienced volunteer.

After your induction talk you will receive a welcome pack with more information on the role. You will then be ready to start your volunteering journey as a Research Network volunteer.

Volunteer today

If you have any questions, or need more information about the role, please contact the engagement team at ResearchNetwork@alzheimers.org.uk or phone 020 7423 3603.

Not what you were looking for?

Visit www.alzheimers.org.uk/volunteers for more opportunities to unite with us against dementia.