



Finance and Governance Trustee Recruitment - Introduction

The mission of Ocean Stars Trust (OST) is ‘to identify and overcome the barriers to equal opportunity for children in Sri Lanka through education and social enrichment, sharing friendship, hope and joy’.

OST was founded in 2005 following the Boxing Day 2004 tsunami. It works primarily through the local Sri Lankan registered charity Ocean Stars Lanka (OSL) and currently provides education for over 800 pre-school children. Several community projects are also supported, aiming to provide local people with opportunities to develop employment and business skills.

The need for additional volunteer OST Trustees

This is driven by our expectation of growth as the coronavirus pandemic eases. The OST Trustee Board plans to recruit at least two Trustees by December 2021, following the Charity Commission (CC) guidance contained in:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trustee-board-people-and-skills>

CC guidance for potential Trustees may be found in

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>

General Requirements

As OST grows and evolves, we are looking for committed individuals to expand our range of Trustee skills. We expect Trustees to contribute actively to the Board by giving strategic direction, defining goals, setting targets, evaluating performance and ensuring effective and efficient administration and finances. Overall, we are looking for people who share our passion for the work we do.

Specific Requirements

Currently, we are looking specifically for experience in Finance and Governance. A potential Trustee should be able to demonstrate experience in these areas, preferably in the context of a medium-sized charity or small business.

- **In Finance**, OST’s activities are underpinned by a detailed Budget. The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the need for financial flexibility in line with changing needs in Sri Lanka. Primarily due to the pandemic, adjustments have already been made to this year’s budget. Work will soon need to begin on the FY2023 Budget.
- **In Governance**, OST complies with a Trust Deed, (registered with the CC), that is the core of the OST Constitution, which governs matters specific to OST. As OST has expanded its work the number of essential processes and procedures has grown to ensure the continuing clarity and transparency of OST’s operations. Ownership and responsibility for application of these processes and procedures is shared amongst the Trustees.

Trustees are expected to:

- Attend up to six meetings a year, (usually Thursday evenings in Fleet, Hants), and an annual Awayday;
- Understand and support the work carried out by OSL in Sri Lanka – experience of comparable work, perhaps through another charity, would be advantageous;
- Be committed to working as a member of a team.

Trustees are also encouraged to share in the organisation and support of local fundraising activities

Other Skills and Experience

Whilst we’ve listed some requirements, we would also like to know what other skills and experience you could bring to OST.

We are very aware that our board has a need to diversify and would be keen to receive applications from those with a BAME, and especially a South Asian, background. A passion for the work that we do is our number 1 priority so if you are interested in joining with us, please do get in touch.

More Information

For further information, please go to <https://oceanstars.org.uk>, or contact either the OST Chair Maureen oceanstarstrust@gmail.com or the OST founder and Head of Operations Dilanee Bunter at oceanstarstrust@gmail.com

Process

Please apply to **Maureen Johnston** at oceanstarstrust@gmail.com not later than **9th October 2021** with the relevant CV information and indicate how you could contribute to our team. We look forward to hearing from you.