

2025–2027 FEMS Board Member vacancies

FEMS is seeking three members to join its Board of Directors who are committed to advancing the Federation of European Microbiological Societies' (FEMS) mission and purpose. As an executive body, the Board is a group of committed volunteers consisting of the President and seven Board members. Together, they guide the future of the Federation by influencing its strategy and ensuring the charitable objectives of the organization are met.

As a global network of over 50 Member Societies from 41 countries, connecting with 30,000 individual microbiologists, FEMS is a not-for-profit organization consisting of passionate volunteers from across Europe and a dedicated staff based in Delft, The Netherlands. FEMS supports microbiologists, offering grant schemes, publishing scientific research in its Journals, and organizing events. As a Board Member, you will bring expertise and leadership to FEMS. This is a unique opportunity to help shape the future of FEMS, support microbiologists throughout their careers, and be a part of advancing microbiological research and knowledge globally.

Role & responsibilities

The primary focus of the FEMS Board is to govern the Federation, ensuring financial oversight and regularly evaluating that programs and services aligned with its strategic plan. As a Board member you will engage with the Executive Director and the FEMS Office, volunteers, and the global microbiology community to enhance our public standing. You may also be asked to play an active role as the liaison with a sub-committee(s) of FEMS, based on your area of expertise or experience.

It is a commitment requiring attendance and active participation in the scheduled meetings of the Board (around 4 in-person, mostly in Delft and additional ones online) and a willingness to represent FEMS through participation in projects and conferences.

All Board member positions are voluntary without economic support except for reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in performing their duties, in accordance with the FEMS expenses policy.

Benefits of becoming a Board Member

Serving as a FEMS Board Member offers professional recognition, visibility, and networking opportunities. It is an important responsibility, yet it offers numerous positive aspects that can be personally and professionally enriching.

- The role provides opportunities for gaining valuable **experience in governance and leadership roles** as well as the opportunity for acquiring new skills
- It provides a chance to **interact with established researchers, peers and leaders** in the microbiology community
- As a Board Member, individuals have an **opportunity to help shape the strategic planning and decision making** of an established and prestigious microbiological organisation
- It provides **increased visibility within the microbiology community** and an opportunity to be recognised for leadership
- **Collaborating with a diverse group of individuals** who share a common passion for a specific cause brings new insights from across Europe and the world . FEMS Board Members work as part of a multi-national and multicultural team and are supported by a dynamic and motivated team of FEMS employees (based in Delft, The Netherlands).

Skills you will contribute to FEMS

Proven performance as a leader

A solid track record of using one's knowledge, talent, skills and vitality to contribute to the success of programmes, events or projects is essential for this position. Different from the role of a manager, a leader inspires and motivates stakeholders to achieve these successes.

Strong problem-solving and decision-making skills

Experience of adapting to unexpected circumstances combined with the ability to think critically and make swift, sound decisions regarding a course of action.

Strategic and generative thinking skills

Board members are individuals with vision. They identify and articulate opportunities for FEMS. They recognise the relationships that exist among various bodies within the Federation and try to ensure that there is as much synergy as possible.

Commitment to teamwork

Many people contribute their efforts toward the realisation of FEMS goals and objectives. It is essential for Board members to have well-developed interpersonal and intercultural communication skills, collaborating with the FEMS office and consistently attending Board meetings.

Sound judgment and integrity

The role will require a commitment to the wider goals of FEMS and this will at times mean subordinating special interests for the greater good of the charity, including the need to make decisions that may not be popular.

Commitment to FEMS Values

A strong commitment to the values, mission, and goals of FEMS, dedicating the necessary time and effort to serve the organization.

Election criteria

FEMS strives to have a diverse Board with geographic representation, gender balance and diversity in experience and microbiology specialization.

FEMS enthusiastically encourages young professionals and early career scientists to actively consider putting themselves forward to join the FEMS Board of Directors. We believe in fostering diversity and fresh perspectives within our leadership, recognizing the invaluable contributions that emerging talents can bring to the governance and strategic direction of our organization. By becoming a part of the FEMS Board, young professionals have the unique opportunity to contribute to the advancement of microbiology and gain valuable experience in leadership roles within an international scientific community.

General requirements:

- Experience of developing strategy and managing change.
- Well-developed interpersonal and intercultural communication skills and a track record of effective teamwork.
- Ability to demonstrate commitment to the organisation and its mission and goals, in addition to dedicating the time to serve.
- A track record of supporting and engaging with a range of stakeholders.

Specific requirements:

- Given the importance of its Journal portfolio, FEMS is looking for one of the three Board member positions to have demonstrable Publications experience, with a track record of engaging with Editors and authors.
- FEMS also encourages those with event programme committee experience and/or developing education projects to apply.

Deadline and how to apply

Applications are open until 17:00 Central European Time (CET) on Friday 14 June 2024.

To apply applicants should email the FEMS Election Committee electioncommittee@fems-microbiology.org the following items:

- **a supporting letter** from two [FEMS Member Societies](#)
- **CV**
- **a brief covering letter** highlighting why you are applying for the role and how you feel your skills and experience can contribute to FEMS.

Shortlisted applicants will be reviewed and invited mid-July to present their nomination to the [Council](#) on 12 and 13 September 2024.