

Regional Studies Association



RSA Representatives Guidelines

Rationale

The Regional Studies Association is at the forefront of policy debates and the analysis of regional issues and stimulates the exchange of experience and ideas within an international and interdisciplinary forum by maintaining a strong and influential network of individuals and organisations. As a membership-based organisation, an important strength of the Association is the degree to which members participate in events and contribute to our work.

The Association is currently growing its international presence by establishing a network of Representatives, UK Sub-National Branches and International Sections, each promoting the aims of the Association in their national setting.

- RSA Representatives (CRs) are appointed for a period of up to three years by the Association's Board on the basis of recommendations made by the International Territorial Networks Committee.
- Each term runs in blocks of 3 years (01/01/2009-31/12/2011 etc) so RSA Representatives can join at any time during each block and be up for re-election at the end of each block (for example if a CR joins in 2010, he/she will be up for possible re-election at the end of 2011);
- Appointments will be made at the June Board meeting preceding the expiration of each 3 year block (for the 2009-2012 block, re-elections would be decided in June 2011).
- RSA Representatives are required to be members of the Association throughout the duration of their appointment and all types of membership are welcome;
- RSA Representatives' positions are not exclusive;
- New appointments are advertised to the membership;
- RSA Representatives are appointed by the Board and the Board may end the appointment short at its discretion.

Roles of the RSA Representatives

The key functions of RSA Representative are:

- To provide an updated mailing list to the Association. Those are to include names, postal addresses, emails for e-bulletins, material for website and material for Regions when requested;
- To provide an annual update of those lists;
- To promote Regional Studies Association events, membership, services and publications wherever and whenever possible;

- To function as a point of contact for enquiries;
- To provide regular reports to the Association's magazine *Regions* on issues of regional development and policy on a regular basis;
- To participate in meetings for RSA Representatives (usually once a year as part of the Association's Annual International Conference);
- To provide input to the information and promotion work of the RSA office (such as website pages and updates).

RSA Representatives have an organisational role and the position does not involve representing views on substantive regional issues on behalf of the Association in the national context. If several representatives have been appointed in the same country/territory/principality/region, their activities must be coordinated to ensure efficiency.

The RSA supports RSA Representatives in the following ways:

- By publicizing RSA Representatives as the national points of contact;
- By providing information materials for distribution from the head office;
- By creating a network of RSA Representatives for mutual support and exchange of ideas;
- The activities of the RSA Representatives are supported in kind rather than financially by the RSA. A cost price conference attendance fee will be available at the discretion of the organisers. Please note that discounts will only be available to RSA Representatives who are up to date on the delivery of their responsibilities;
- Replacement delegates will be accepted for annual meetings.
- It is a Board appointment and the Board may end the appointment short at its discretion.

The Association also offers:

- A promotional role fully supported by the RSA office;
- The opportunity for publicity and dissemination of information which fits with the aims and objectives of the Association;
- The opportunity for all RSA Representatives to have their voice via the annual CR meeting taking place during each RSA annual international conference;
- The opportunity to feed into consultations;
- Privileged access to the RSA Board via a summary of the Board meetings' minutes;

For further information please contact Auréliane Beauclair at aureliane.beauclair@rsa-ls.ac.uk or please visit our website on www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk or call 0044 (0) 1323 899698.