New editorial team for Political Studies Review
Call for Applications

Political Studies Review provides a unique intellectual space for rigorous high-quality peer reviewed original research across political science and the study of politics in related fields that aims at stimulating wide-ranging debate and cutting edge discussion of current disputes and issues in the discipline within the UK and internationally.

The journal seeks to bridge the intellectual boundaries between the political science profession, across other disciplinary subfields and beyond the scholarly community. It is broad in terms of content, style and subject matter to maximise public reach. As such, Political Studies Review publishes four types of contributions: original research articles, review articles and professional sections as well as commissioned book reviews which are published online only.

The current editorial team will step down at the end of December 2018 and applications are now invited for the next editorial team contract. The next editorial team will be appointed for three years in the first instance, but this could be extended to six years subject to an interim review.

In recent years the PSA has undertaken a far-reaching period of reform, including the publication of a new ten-year strategic plan. The PSA is one of the leading British learned societies within the social sciences with an international reputation for supporting its members and developing the discipline. The strategic plan was built around the foundations of ambition, visibility and professionalism - these priorities reflect the current climate of a rapidly changing publishing context and the challenges and opportunities this presents. This is a rare opportunity to lead one of the discipline’s foremost journals at an exciting and challenging time for academic publishing. Applications must therefore not only demonstrate a clear grasp of this changing publishing context but must be able to chart a clear and coherent strategy for Political Studies Review that identifies a significant and distinctive intellectual space and aims to strengthen its impact factor and overall position in the publishing field.

Applicants are encouraged to present a distinctive strategic statement for the journal and a set of deliverable ambitions that will fully realise the current identity of the journal reflecting the broad parameters of its current aims and scope. Applications should be up
to a maximum of four pages. This statement should contain some consideration of the issues listed. The final hard copy of the printed journal is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the journal’s work and activities. Indeed, receiving world-class manuscripts that represent the state-of-the-art in terms of sub-disciplinary profiles rarely happens by accident but is the result of innovative marketing and several years of nurturing author-editor relationships. Editorial teams must take the lead in journal promotion, particularly in social media and impact related activities. The statement should contain a proposed budget including any resource needs for administrative assistance, social media officers, travel, etc as well as any resources which may be provided by the host institution.

Applicants are invited to consider the following issues in their applications:

- Actively commissioning high quality content that aligns with the identity of the journal;
- Improving the journal’s impact factor;
- Further internationalising the journal and its global profile in terms of author and readership base;
- Increasing the number of article submissions and publications from around the world, particularly outside of the Euro-Atlantic corridor;
- Increasing downloads of journal articles in all geographic territories;
- Raising the profile of the journal through social media and other marketing tools and measures, including a dedicated social media manager on the editorial team;
- Identifying and exploiting the synergies between the PSA’s journals and the wider activities of the PSA;
- Applications should detail plans for managing the day-to-day business of the journal, including the associated online and social media channels (e.g. PSA web pages and @PolStudiesRev);
- How a new editorial team will play an active role in implementing the PSA’s commitment to Equality and Diversity - both within the composition of the editorial team and the contents of the journal itself. Applicants are encouraged to set ambitious targets for diversity and implement a plan to achieve these targets without compromising quality.
- How the proposed members of the team will complement each other’s experience and skillsets and, particularly if they are based at different institutions, how they will work together effectively as a group

Applicants may find it useful to include a SWOT analysis showing what they consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the journal, potential threats to its international reputation and standing and any opportunities they identify to further improve the quality and standing of the journal.

Applicants should bear in mind that going forward the PSA is keen to take greater advantage of the potential for synergies between its journals and its wider activities, while at all times observing the editorial independence of its journals.

The journal will receive appropriate financial support which reflects the international standing of the journal and the ambitions that the PSA has for it. Some editorial administrative support will be provided by SAGE but the editorial team may also opt to employ some form of additional assistance. In addition, the journal will be allocated an
annual budget to cover editorial expenses and marketing costs. It would be helpful to know what support the editorial team's host department(s) might offer in terms of additional resources, especially considering the importance of social media and other marketing activities. The PSA recognises the effort of editorial teams and has made a commitment to paying a small stipend for editors. This will be negotiated with the host institution but could be in the form of a direct payment or a payment into a university hosted research account.

The editorial team will be contracted to attend PSA publications subcommittee meetings and to attend the PSA Annual Conference and to organize one panel session.

Applications should initially be sent to Rosie Inman, PSA Development Officer (Rosie.Inman@psa.ac.uk), and should include a proposal (max. four pages) and CVs for members of the team. The closing date for applications is 22 October. We anticipate conducting interviews the week of October 29th. The successful applicants will take over from the current editorial team on 1 January 2019.

The PSA Chair, Professor Angelia Wilson, will be chairing the selection panel and welcomes any questions by email.

Notes.

1. The Association requires a quarterly financial report and a biannual journal report from the editorial team. A journal editor is required to attend and report to two meetings of the PSA’s Publications sub-committee each year and to attend the PSA Annual Conference. Occasionally, editors may be asked to attend PSA Executive Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

2. The PSA encourages bids from teams that include academics based in more than one country, providing the team has the support of one relevant university department based in the UK. Every member of the team should have the full support of their department and the host department should have the full support of the university.

3. A panel will evaluate applications, conduct interviews and make a recommendation to the PSA Executive Committee. This selection panel will comprise of Angie Wilson (PSA Chair), Phil Sooben (PSA CEO) and Claire Dunlop (PSA Trustee and Publications sub-committee member). Rosie Cann from SAGE will participate in the interview and assessment process in an advisory capacity.