Fellowship Charter

Our vision is a world where everyone is able to participate in creating a better future. Our purpose is to unite people and ideas to resolve the challenges of our time. We are a global community of active problem solvers.

How we achieve impact

By convening reasoned debate
By enabling people to realise change
By influencing key organisations
By demonstrating practical solutions

Our values

Open
Always transparent and honest, we welcome new thinking and different perspectives

Optimistic
We are confident that together, we can resolve the challenges of our time

Pioneering
We champion curiosity, creativity and courage to inspire better ways of thinking and doing

Rigorous
Rooted in evidence-led thinking, we act with integrity and purpose

Enabling
Through generosity and collaboration, we help others succeed
Our approach

Think like a system, act like an entrepreneur

Our biggest challenges – from tackling climate change to renewing democracy – are complex. Failing systems are held together by rules, traditions, assumptions, incentives and institutions. Making change that lasts means reforming the whole system not just one part of it. To fully understand what’s going wrong and to develop solutions that last, we need to ‘think like a system’.

But the world is also complex, fast changing, unpredictable. Good plans founder on contact with the reality. Even ideas that work often don’t last, scale up or change the system as was intended. Our approach to change must allow us to experiment and learn, to change course when things don’t work, to accelerate and spread when they do. That’s why we need to ‘act like an entrepreneur’.

The RSA’s unique set of assets as a trusted brand, convener, thought leader, solutions designer and social movement uniquely enables us to ‘think like a system and act like an entrepreneur’.

Everything we do is about making a difference. ‘Thinking like a system and acting like an entrepreneur’ is the best way to make change so it is the way we must work.

Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive

Our Fellows

Are committed to supporting the ethos, values and interests of the RSA
Demonstrate the values of the Fellowship Charter in their professional and civic life
Have the potential to contribute to the development of the Society in some way, either through actions, thought leadership, or simply through supporting the Society through their charitable subscription

As a Fellow I agree

1. To further the charitable purposes and uphold the reputation of the RSA
2. To use the name and assets of the RSA exclusively for the RSA’s charitable purposes and not to misrepresent the RSA, its activities, its endorsements, or the ‘FRSA’ appellation
3. To observe the provisions of the RSA’s Royal Charter and Bye-laws and any regulations made under them
4. To maintain the dignity of the RSA by conducting myself with honesty and integrity, respecting confidentiality and treating those with whom I interact with courtesy, dignity and respect
5. Not to engage in or support any form of harassment, bullying or unfair discrimination on any grounds

In the event that a complaint or grievance is raised about my conduct or a potential breach of the Fellows’ Charter, I agree to follow the reasonable directions of the Nominations and Governance Panel. I understand that if I breach this Fellows’ Charter, the RSA’s Charter or Bye-Laws, I could be prevented from holding office within the RSA or be expelled from the Fellowship, at the discretion of the Nominations Panel under Bye-laws 13.8, 13.9 and 13.10.