

# PESGB Writing and Reading Retreat

July 2025

## Notes for Applicants

***Who is invited?*** All PESGB members. We welcome particularly early career academics, independent researchers and PhD students.

***Practicalities:*** The Retreat will be held at [Charney Manor](#), Oxfordshire from Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025, starting after lunch from 2 pm, until Friday July 4<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be provided and delegates are welcome to stay on site until around 5pm on Friday but will need to check out of their bedrooms by around 10am.

***What's included:*** Travel costs within the UK and all meals and refreshments; en-suite accommodation with a desk and space for working; a conference room at our disposal the whole time, to be used as best suits participants; a lounge/library area should be available to us, as well as further tables and chairs in other common spaces.

If the weather is kind, we could also make use of the outside spaces in the grounds.

***What's not included:*** Charney Manor is a Quaker centre and does not serve alcohol on site, but there's a pub a few minutes' walk away.

Unfortunately, we can't pay cover to replace you at work.

***Who should apply?*** All PESGB members who are seeking writing and reading time for a particular project are invited to apply. We particularly encourage early career academics, PhD students and independent researchers without institutional affiliation/support. If you have very little or no research time on your timetable, family commitments, too much teaching, marking and managing - this retreat is for you, and it is open to all members of PESGB.

***What's expected of you:*** The idea is to try and progress some work that has been sitting on your desk or in your mind for some time and needs some dedicated time that you can't easily find. In terms of the retreat, we ask that all delegates are together for lunch and dinner, but beyond that your time is your own. We'd like you to commit to the whole retreat (Wednesday to Friday) since it has been fully paid for.

As a group, we can choose to meet at various points through the day, or just in the evenings for example, or people are welcome to find a bolthole and just do their own thing. There is no requirement to produce any specific outputs, except a short email

summary of what people felt were the benefits or problems with the retreat. While concrete progress/outcomes can't be guaranteed and are neither required nor expected, we have found that the previous retreats have helped delegates to develop and move work forward. We hope this trend continues.

We would like people to have undertaken preparation for the retreat so that they are ready to work on arrival, or after tea at least. It is usually better to have clear ideas about how the time could be used and, even if this evolves, having some sense of what could be achieved will help you make the most of the time. We would also expect people to acknowledge the support of the society in any publications or other items that might arise from the experience.

***How will people be selected?*** All we need to see is how you hope to use the time and what you feel you would gain from the experience. There are seven spaces on the retreat as well as one for the student organiser who will coordinate on site and receive the email reports afterwards. She will write a report to the Development Committee on how the retreat went, which will be shared with the Executive Committee.

The selection panel will be made up of three members of the PESGB Development Committee. The criteria for selection are noted below and the panel's decisions are final.

## Criteria for Selection

- Does the participant demonstrate a high level of commitment to making the best use of the time?
- Are they willing to engage in preparatory work to make the most of the experience?
- Does the participant have realistic aims for what could be accomplished over two-three days?
- Does the area of research fall within the remit of the PESGB?

***How do I apply*** Use the link from the main page to access the application form, and in no more than 350 words say what you hope to gain from the experience.

You also need some proof of where you work and a short reference (a paragraph will suffice) from a manager, Head of Department, or Research Mentor, who should support your contention that you will benefit from participation. You need to have been a PESGB member for at least 12 months prior to application. Any member can apply but preference will be given to those who are based in the UK.

Send your application, together with the reference to: [pesgb@sasevents.co.uk](mailto:pesgb@sasevents.co.uk).

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March (6.00 p.m).

Applicants will be informed of the outcome by Friday 25th April