



WORLD WIDE WEB FOUNDATION

Policy Director (Interim)

Summary

The World Wide Web Foundation is recruiting for the interim senior role of Policy Director, reporting to the President & CEO. This post has overall responsibility for policy leadership at the Foundation.

Background

The Web Foundation is a non-profit organization founded by the inventor of the web, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, to promote and defend his vision of the World Wide Web as a basic right and public good, for everyone.

When Sir Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web in 1989, he changed the world, expanding our access to knowledge and freedom of expression more than any other development in modern times. Seeing an opportunity to create a true public good and a tool for empowerment that anyone, anywhere could use to learn, earn, create and dream, Tim made the selfless decision to give away his invention to humanity for free, sparking a global wave of creativity, collaboration, and innovation.

After decades of watching the web grow in unimagined ways – and recognizing that his vision of the free and open web needed to be protected – Tim founded the World Wide Web Foundation in 2009 to defend and advance the open web as a public good and a basic right. With a talented team of 30 experts in over 12 countries, the Web Foundation engages with decision makers in the public and private sectors to make the open web accessible and affordable for everyone. The Web Foundation defends Sir Tim's founding vision and advances three specific areas critical to this: women's rights online, affordable and meaningful access and personal data rights. Our philanthropic investment leverages the power of policy, advocacy and research to deliver change at scale, and our work has helped drive policy changes that have brought affordable internet access closer for 628 million people – but there is still much more we need to do to ensure that the web is accessible and beneficial for all.

The role

The Interim Policy Director takes overall charge of the Web Foundation's work to develop policy positions and secure policy changes in pursuit of our mission. Policy influence is our principal means of achieving change, so the role is at the heart of the Foundation's leadership.

Because of a period of maternity leave for our Policy Director, we are seeking an interim appointment for a period of 12-14 months. The interim Policy Director will have a very strong understanding of the policy and political challenges that need to be overcome to ensure an open web as a basic right for everyone, and will have had demonstrable success working in this field at a senior level. The Director will be comfortable networking at senior levels in the public, private and non-profit sectors, and will also be a highly effective manager of a small, globally-dispersed policy team. S/he will also play a key role in the overall leadership of the Foundation, as part of the leadership team working with the President & CEO and the founder, Tim Berners-Lee.

While the preference is for the post to be based in one of our hubs in London or Washington, DC, we will consider other locations where appropriate.

Contact: Adrian Lovett, President & CEO: jobs@webfoundation.org

Role profile

Job Title:	Policy Director (Interim)		
Department:	CEO	Contract:	Full time
Reports to:	President/CEO	Duration:	12 - 14 Months
Location:	London or Washington, DC (preferred)		
Direct reports:	x5 direct line reports		
Key relationships:	Board Chair and Board members, WF directors, communications and research teams		
Job Role			
Role Overview:	Lead the drive to secure policy outcomes in line with the mission of the World Wide Web Foundation. Working with the President & CEO and others, build and sustain a strong reputation for policy work that is applied to different political contexts, rooted in robust evidence, developed in partnership with others and successful in leading to impact in people’s experience of the web.		
Responsibilities			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead the development of policy goals and positions on a range of global issues related to the organisation’s mission• Development partnerships with relevant coalitions and other actors to advance policy objectives• Work closely with colleagues, especially the Communications Director, to ensure campaigns and communications are based on strong policy foundations and reactive positions are robust and credible• Serve as senior spokesperson on Web Foundation issues in the media and at events globally• Identify breaking issues and political opportunities relevant to the Foundation’s mission and develop credible policy initiatives to respond to these opportunities• Ensure strong policy support to the Web Foundation’s founders• Act as an inspiring, effective and collaborative leader within the Web Foundation• Work closely with the CEO and other directors to provide leadership to the Foundation as a whole• Feed into the development and implementation of the strategic plans of the Foundation		

Person Specification

Education & Certifications

- Education in a relevant field to at least Bachelors Degree level

Essential Knowledge and Experience

- Must embrace the mission of the Web Foundation
- Skills to work with and motivate staff, board members and other volunteers
- Demonstrated expertise, leadership and credibility in the tech policy community.
- At least five years' experience in global policy, advocacy and networking with progressive levels of responsibility.
- Vivid writer and speaker, able to present difficult concepts in clear, simple language and/or in compelling images.
- Globally minded, with experience working across different cultures.
- Able to juggle complex and fast-changing priorities with minimal supervision.
- Highly motivated and organised, thriving under pressure, pursuing targets aggressively and willing to work long hours when deadlines demand.
- Desire to get out of the office and build external relationships
- Display a positive attitude, show concern for people and community, demonstrate presence, self-confidence, common sense and good listening ability
- Ability to travel extensively (up to 30%), subject to Covid restrictions.
- Complete fluency in written and spoken English essential. Fluency in at least one major language desirable.