



The SRA was founded in 1978 by social researchers to advance the conduct, development and application of social research. Our main aims are to:

- provide a forum for discussion and communication about all types of social research
- encourage the development of social research methodology, promote standards of work and develop codes of practice
- review and monitor the organisation and funding of social research
- promote the development of training and career structures for social researchers
- encourage the use of social research for informing, developing and monitoring social policy.

What can the SRA do for you? Joining the SRA brings a number of benefits. We represent the views of our members in various forums and play an active role in promoting the place of social research in shaping public policy. Through our links with other organisations, such as ARCISS, The Academy of Social Sciences, ESRC, MRS and the NCVO, members have access to a wide range of services and information. For example, we are actively working to raise the standards of the commissioning of research. Advice can be provided on ethical issues facing researchers through the ethics forum.

Training and career development: Effective training is vitally important to the future of social research. We organise a number of reasonably priced, high quality training events every year at both introductory and advanced levels. These cover a wide range of issues relating to the practice of social research. We have recently developed a competency framework to advance the standards of social research practice and training. We can also provide bespoke in house training for organisations and others. <http://www.the-sra.org.uk/training.htm>

Annual Conference: The Annual Conference (held on the same day as the Annual General Meeting) is a major and prestigious event with speakers from many different fields and traditions.

Seminars and workshops: We run about twenty seminars in a variety of formats and times each year, including evening talks, day-long events including workshops and a summer social event. All these cover topical issues of interest to social researchers. These events provide an excellent forum for researchers from universities and colleges and the private, public and voluntary sectors to meet and discuss issues of mutual concern and to share good practice. We also hold joint events with other organisations, such as the Cathie Marsh Memorial Lecture shared with the Royal Statistical Society. These are either provided free of charge or at reduced rate for SRA members.

[The SRA Website:](http://www.the-sra.org.uk) Our website www.the-sra.org.uk carries the latest information about SRA activities, training days, social events, courses offered by other organisations and the latest job vacancies. Members also receive a monthly E-Bulletin with details of the above, research tenders and other matters.

[Publications :](#) The SRA is known for publishing high quality, high profile publications. Recent examples include the Guide to Commissioning Social Research, Ethical Guidelines in Social Research and Data Protection Act 1998: Guidelines for Social Research. These are available on our website to members and non-members. We keep members informed of new developments in social research, via a quarterly newsletter and monthly e-mail bulletin that contains articles of topical interest, reviews of new social research books and news of forthcoming events. All members are welcome to contribute to these. SRA members also receive a wide range of discounts from publishers. Details are available at <http://www.the-sra.org.uk/membership.htm>

[Professional Indemnity Insurance.](#) This is available to members at discounted rates.

[SRA Scotland, SRA Ireland and SRA Cymru:](#) The SRA has branches in all these nations. These have their own committee and organise training courses and other events for members. Contact details can be found of the SRA website.

[How is the SRA run?](#) The SRA is a charity (1123940) and limited liability company (6407985), run by and for its members. Any member can stand for election to the Board, which is elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The Board is responsible for developing SRA policy and for managing the work of several sub-committees that advise on the development of services for members. We also employ a part time Chief Executive Officer, an Office Manager and two part time staff who coordinate the day to day running of the SRA.

[How is the SRA funded?](#) The income comes from the membership fees and the surplus generated from events, training courses, and advertising on the website. All monies are used for the purpose of providing benefits and services to members.

[Who joins the SRA?](#) The SRA currently has over 1000 members. Membership is open to any person who is involved in social research. Our members work in universities and colleges, central government and across the local public sector, and in the private and voluntary sector. Our membership also reflects the diversity of activity in social research and contains those who are new to the profession, as well as some of the most eminent researchers in the field. We have an increasing number of UK social research organisations taking out group membership with others from outside the UK taking out corporate membership.

[How do you join the SRA?](#) Details of costs, an application form and additional information are available on our website at www.the-sra.org.uk or by e-mail from our administrator at: admin@the-sra.org.uk

[SRA admin offices 24-32 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HX tel 020 7388 2401](#)