



AMI PRESIDENT ROLE DESCRIPTION

Association Montessori Internationale

The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) is unique – the only international organisation set up by Maria Montessori herself to uphold, propagate and further her pedagogical principles and practice for the full development of the human being. Guided by this humanitarian mission AMI is also the only truly global Montessori teacher education provider serving a vast range of Montessori programmes in countries and communities throughout the world.

Established in 1929, its global headquarters are in Maria Montessori's former home in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. It has a network of 42 affiliated societies in 36 countries, and over 80 training centres worldwide. It provides the most authentic and high-quality Montessori teacher training, and with its access to Montessori's archives and frequent publications it is a reliable source of knowledge of Montessori pedagogy and practice.

AMI supports the Convention on the Rights of the Child and actively works for the rights of children. Under the umbrella of its Educateurs sans Frontières work, community-based initiatives reach some of the most disadvantaged children and families in both poor and rich countries.

AMI has developed a Montessori pedagogical approach to working in a variety of contexts, such as working with the elderly and those living with dementia, and with youth in sports coaching.

During the 150th anniversary of the birth of Maria Montessori in 2020 AMI highlighted what Montessori education is about – not just a focus on child-centred learning, but an approach which supports the rights of children and one which, when applied to other areas of society, can bring about significant positive change in society.

The last years have seen considerable expansion of our work, significant growth in the number of students, of affiliated societies, in outreach programmes to disadvantaged communities, and a growth in the number of international partnerships.

In 2021 and beyond AMI aspires to expand its influence to those who shape education and children's rights, to raise awareness of its universal relevance today, and how its approach is one based on science and pedagogy.

Our current President reaches the end of his term in 2022, and we are seeking a successor who is able to consolidate and expand our current achievements and international positioning.

Key Responsibilities of the President

The President will provide inspirational leadership of the AMI Board, and promote and develop the strategic direction of our association.

Responsibilities include:

- promoting global awareness of our aims, objectives, vision and mission;
- ensuring that the organisation develops and is guided by a strategic plan;
- providing oversight guidance and support to the Executive Director, in the execution of the specific duties delegated to the Executive Director by the Board;
- providing Board members and Board committees with support as appropriate;
- ensuring that the Board effectively carries out its responsibilities for good governance for the organisation;
- representing AMI at a wide variety of events, and speaking engagements*; and
- presiding over a minimum of three Board meetings a year, both in person and on-line, and over the Annual General Meeting of members.

The President works closely with the Executive Director in carrying out these responsibilities. The President is accountable to the Board.

*In any one year, the President may be speaking to governments, potential partners, humanitarian agencies, Montessori professionals and others interested in the work of the association in relation to children and elders. The President also travels at regular intervals to our head office, based in Amsterdam.

Key Qualities and Experience

The President must recognise the importance of children's rights and be committed to helping achieve a more just and equitable world. They must be convinced of the pivotal role Montessori education can play in enhancing the lives of children, youth and elders.

Promoting the overall mission of AMI, this position requires engagement in Child Advocacy and active support of AMI's fundraising initiatives. They will have had an internationally focused career, with experience in areas such as child rights, global education, human development, social justice or similar.

The President should:

- be an excellent communicator and enjoy meeting and engaging with people from many different backgrounds;
- demonstrate superior interpersonal, presentation and communications skills that are effective with a range of audiences;
- have a good knowledge and understanding of the international educational landscape and be sensitive to cultural differences;
- have a strong understanding of AMI's mission and goals;
- be able to demonstrate commitment to education as a means for social change;
- have worked with governance structures or served at board level in other organisations.

The working language of the organisation is English, but the ability to speak more than one language is desirable.

Requirements

The President, if not already a member, must become a member of AMI at the time of appointment, and therefore an active voting member of the association.

The President must have the time to devote to the role, which may approximate 25% of their professional time. The role will involve both regular travel to Amsterdam and other international travel as required by the organisation.

Terms of Appointment

The successful candidate must first be elected as a Board Member by the membership, following which the AMI Board will nominate from amongst their number the President. Board membership is limited to 2 consecutive four-year terms for ordinary members, but the President and Treasurer can be extended for a third term.

The President is initially appointed for a term of four years. The Board can nominate the President for additional terms up to the limit of 3 Board terms, i.e., a maximum of 12 years.

The position of President is a voluntary position, for which there will be no remuneration.

Frequency of Board Meetings

Under normal circumstances the board meets in person twice a year. Once, prior to the AGM, which is held each year in Amsterdam, and again in late November/early December and in addition there are usually at least two online board meetings each year.

The Association holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April, in Amsterdam. The AGM is preceded by a Board Meeting, and other pertinent meetings with the membership and its affiliates.

Expense Policy

It is the policy of the association to reimburse the President for all association-related travel required to fulfil the duties of the office of President, according to established travel guidelines.