

Andrew Richardson - Application for Returning Scholar Trustee (2025 Cohort)

Nuffield has been the most transformative experience of my professional life. It has broadened my horizons, challenged my assumptions, introduced me to an extraordinary global network, and fundamentally changed how I think about leadership, influence, and service. I would therefore welcome the opportunity to continue giving back to the Trust as a Returning Scholar Trustee and to help support the next generation of scholars as they begin their own journeys.

I believe I offer the Board a perspective that is both relevant and unusual. Whilst Nuffield is rooted in agriculture, my career has been spent in aquaculture - a young, globally connected sector that often faces different challenges around social licence, regulation, talent attraction, and public understanding. This admittedly unusual background could offer the Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust novel opportunities and ideas.

As a Returning Scholar Trustee, I would bring a strong interest in scholar engagement, next-generation leadership, and ensuring the organisation remains relevant to a changing food and farming sector. My report focussed on topics of youth engagement and leadership, and this trustee role would enable me to continue to have an impact.

Alongside my professional role in aquaculture, I founded the Young Aquaculture Society in 2023 to improve career transparency and leadership development for young people entering the sector. Since then, I have worked with industry leaders, trade bodies, politicians, educational institutions, and international partners to create opportunities for young professionals. I founded and currently manage a small Nuffield Study group focussed on aquaculture, and last year arranged a tour of a salmon farm and hatchery for NSchs – a really unique experience for those who attended (I hope!)

Most importantly, I would bring energy, curiosity, and a willingness to challenge constructively. Nuffield has always benefited from people who think differently. As an aquaculture farmer, I sit slightly outside the traditional agricultural mainstream while remaining deeply committed to food production, rural and coastal communities, and the future of primary industries. That different perspective has often allowed me to ask questions, identify connections, and bring fresh ideas from outside established norms.

I am incredibly proud to be part of the 2025 cohort and would be honoured to represent my year group on the Board. If considered for election, I would approach the role with enthusiasm, humility, and a genuine commitment to helping Nuffield Farming Scholarships continue to unlock potential, broaden horizons, and develop the leaders our sectors need for the future.