



ABSW sponsorship policy

Introduction

The Association of British Science Writers (ABSW) champions independence and excellence in the reporting of science, medicine, engineering and technology. We want to help build a society that encourages and values open, independent, objective and fair assessment of science and its role in society, and rewards diversity, originality and flair in reporting

We actively seek opportunities to work with other organisations to achieve shared objectives; however, it is vital that we maintain our independence through a broad base of different sources of funding, and do not allow external partnerships to bring the name of ABSW into disrepute.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure clarity and openness to all our stakeholders and to provide clear guidance on how ABSW should work with partners in the best interests of the Association and its wider membership. It sets out the principles on which decisions about funding opportunities should be based although ABSW will look at each relationship individually.

Principles

ABSW will not accept external funding from any organization where the partnership would compromise ABSW's financial, moral, or legal integrity, or harm its reputation in the wider community.

ABSW will not accept sponsorship for activities that are not consistent with its stated mission.

Sponsors may not influence the ABSW's decisions.

ABSW will be transparent with its members and the public about its sources and amounts of funding.

No board or other member may benefit personally from any sponsorship the ABSW accepts, except through the auspices of the programme being funded, which should be open to all eligible members.

All partnership agreements will be properly documented in a written agreement.

Risk assessment and decision-making processes

All partnerships will be considered on a case-by-case basis, according to the Principles set out in this policy.

Each new partnership will be approved by three ABSW Board Members; any partnerships over the value of £20,000 will be approved by the full ABSW Board.

Where the integrity of an existing partner has been called into question, the ABSW board will examine the evidence on a case-by-case basis.

Transparency

This policy will be published on the ABSW website; we will also publish a list of partners where the value of the partnership is >£5,000 per annum.

Date of approval

06 March 2020

Date of review

Annual