

2024 International Election



Candidate for

Director – Administration

Monika Orski

Mensa Sweden

Campaign statement

When volunteering to serve, I offer to put in the effort required to handle the needs of our global membership. This takes collaboration, and I volunteer to be an active part of the team. When I say “someone should do it”, I tend to add “I am someone”.

Important areas:

- To help spread an understanding of what Mensa is and what the organisation can do, among members as well as the general public.
- To facilitate support of various efforts to further education for the gifted, everywhere.
- To facilitate the support of research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence.
- To provide good working conditions for the International Office staff as well as international volunteers.
- To support a unified way to protect the Mensa name and trademark, in the globalized market of today and tomorrow.
- To encourage regional as well as global cooperation between national Mensas.

It is my intention to work on continuous improvements, while also being ready for any upcoming events that might demand attention. And last but not least, I do believe that the mark of successful leadership is to encourage the next generation of leaders.

Biography

For most of my 30+ years of Mensa membership, I have had volunteer positions. I have met many wonderful Mensans at different events.

Among recent volunteer positions, I chaired Mensa Sweden 2015-2019 and represented it on IBD 2015-2021. Current volunteer positions include being chair of the Governance Papers Advisory Committee (GPAC), a trustee of the Nordic Mensa Fund, and part of the EMAG panel, but I also host book club meetings in my hometown of Stockholm every month.

Professionally, I run an IT consulting company, working mostly as an interim leader but also doing solutions architecture and technology audits. Other professional pursuits include keynotes on leading intelligent people, and published works of fiction as well as non-fiction.

I have an MSc in computer engineering and a BA in literature. In addition to my native Swedish, I speak English, Polish and French, and know some basics of German.

Answers to IBD questions

1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?

Short version: Leadership and teamwork.

As part of the ExComm, the International Director – Administration needs to be able to work not only in that team, but also with the full IBD and in various cooperation with many national Mensas. Being one of the ExComm positions directly elected by the membership, there is clear obligation to understand and consider the Mensa needs of the diverse, global membership.

Apart from the common ExComm tasks, the International Director – Administration has a significant role to ensure good working conditions for the International Office staff as well as all the international volunteers. It is especially

important to be able to cooperate with Mensa International employees, and also to minimize the risks always inherent in any organisation relying on a small number of people.

2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?

Short version: Getting things done.

I bring the experience gained from many years of volunteering for Mensa, in many different roles. Among those, I have chaired Mensa Sweden for four years, been part of IBD for six years, chaired two International Volunteer Network (IVN) meetings, organised an EMAG, co-organised two Floating Mensans events, participated in establishing the Nordic Mensa Fund, and chaired the Governance Papers Advisory Committee (GPAC) since 2019.

In my GPAC role, I have also already worked with the International Office. And in addition to my Mensa experience, I bring my professional experience.

Serving in various positions within Mensa Sweden, I have seen it grow from 300 members to nearly 8000 members. This provides insights to the challenges that national Mensas face at different stages of growth.

But most important, I bring the proven ability and willingness to roll up my sleeves and get things done.

3. What do you see as the most important issues facing international Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?

Short version: Relevance and growth.

Mensa International needs to be relevant to the members, all over the world. An important part of this mission is to facilitate access to international resources. This will take continued efforts in terms of IT tools and organisational routines, as well as communications between Mensa International and national Mensas, and directly with the members. It will also be part of this effort to further modernise communications channels, for members to participate at all levels of the organisation.

While facilitating the social interactions between members is important, and indeed part of the purpose of Mensa, we also need to further our work supporting the education of the gifted and research in various intelligence-related areas.

All this needs to be managed in sync with a continuing growth in membership within existing national Mensas as well as in number of national Mensas. It is a positive challenge.

4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?

Short version: Incremental improvements.

I want the next ExComm to pick up where the outgoing one leaves off, and to keep making the great society that Mensa is even better. As the International Director – Administration, my tasks in particular will be to provide the best possible support and management for staff and volunteers. I also want to continue the ongoing development of rules and policies of Mensa for better readability.

I firmly believe in the continuous development and improvement of every organisation. It is my intention to ensure that at the end of the coming ExComm term, we will have seen a number of such improvements. They will make Mensa International even more accessible to members worldwide, encourage contacts and information exchange between members as well as between national Mensas, and ensure continuity in the workings of the International Office. All done step by step.