



ROTHSCHILD FOUNDATION

Candidate Pack

Appointment of CEO

Saxton Bampfylde

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Reference ECAA





Rothschild Foundation Appointment of CEO

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Message from the Chair

For generations, my family has supported culture, education, scholarship, environmental stewardship, and philanthropy through long-term commitment rather than short-term fashion. That belief continues to shape the Foundation today.

This is an especially exciting moment for the organisation.

We want to significantly increase our impact through grant giving and are looking ahead with ambition, expanding our activities across philanthropy, culture, education, sustainability, and intellectual exchange while remaining grounded in stewardship, quality, and public value.

The next CEO will help guide that future.

We are looking for an exceptional leader: someone with judgement, imagination, operational strength, and the ability to work collaboratively within a family-founded institution shaped by long-term relationships and responsibility across generations.

This is a rare opportunity to help shape an organisation of real significance – one that combines historic inheritance with contemporary relevance and public impact.

Hannah Rothschild
Chair, Rothschild Foundation

About the Rothschild Foundation

The Rothschild Foundation supports arts and heritage, the environment, education, and social welfare through grant-making, partnerships, convening, and the stewardship of Waddesdon Manor.

The Foundation has tripled its grant giving over the last two years and wants to increase both the scale and impact of its work over time.

One of its major annual grants is to Waddesdon Manor, managed in partnership with the National Trust, is both a historic Rothschild family house and a dynamic cultural institution, welcoming over 300,000 visitors each year. Alongside its collections, exhibitions, gardens, hospitality, retail, farming, and estate activities, Waddesdon increasingly serves as a platform for scholarship, public engagement, and cultural exchange.

The Foundation operates within a wider ecosystem of related organisations, partnerships, and stakeholders and works regularly with museums, universities, charities, public bodies, environmental organisations, and cultural institutions in the UK and internationally.



An Exceptional Opportunity

The Rothschild Foundation is seeking an outstanding Chief Executive to help lead one of Britain's most distinctive cultural and philanthropic institutions into its next chapter.

Rooted in the stewardship of Waddesdon Manor and shaped by generations of philanthropic commitment, the Foundation works across culture, education, the environment, scholarship, and community engagement. It combines public purpose with intellectual ambition, long-term stewardship with practical impact, and historic inheritance with contemporary relevance.

This is a rare leadership role.

The Foundation sits at the intersection of philanthropy, culture, environmental responsibility, convening power, and institutional partnership. Its activities range from grant-making and educational initiatives to regenerative farming, major cultural collaborations, scholarship, collections, public engagement, and the management of one of the country's most remarkable historic houses.

The next CEO will help guide and strengthen this evolving institution at a moment of significant opportunity.

The Board is seeking a leader with judgement, imagination, operational strength, and emotional intelligence, someone capable of translating ambitious ideas into lasting and disciplined delivery.

This role will suit a person energised by ideas, public impact, institution-building, and the challenge of stewarding a complex and visible organisation with care, sophistication, and ambition.



The Role

The CEO will work closely with the Chair and Board in stewarding the Foundation's long-term direction and translating shared ambition into practical and enduring impact.

The role combines strategic leadership with operational oversight across a broad and unusually diverse portfolio of activity, including:

- philanthropy and grant-making
- Waddesdon Manor, its cultural programme, and the crucial relationship with the National Trust
- environmental and regenerative farming initiatives
- partnerships and convening
- visitor operations and commercial activities
- scholarship and educational programmes
- institutional relationships in the UK and internationally

The successful candidate will be equally comfortable:

- engaging externally with leading cultural, philanthropic, academic, and public figures
- leading organisational strategy and operational delivery
- overseeing complex financial and commercial decisions
- developing high-performing teams
- balancing ambition with discipline
- operating thoughtfully within a family-founded institution built on long-term stewardship

The CEO will help ensure that the Foundation continues to evolve as a confident, relevant, and respected institution with meaningful public impact and long-term resilience.

Leadership Context

The Rothschild Foundation is a family-founded institution shaped by long-term relationships, continuity, and stewardship across generations.

The CEO will work in close partnership with the Chair and Board and should be comfortable operating within an environment where trust, judgement, diplomacy, and alignment matter deeply.

The successful candidate will understand how to balance innovation and evolution with respect for legacy, values, governance, and institutional continuity.



Candidate Profile

The Board is interested in candidates who have led, shaped, or transformed significant organisations or platforms of influence.

Candidates may come from the cultural, philanthropic, educational, commercial, public, or non-profit sectors. More important than sector background will be the ability to combine strategic judgement with practical leadership and collaborative temperament.

The successful candidate will bring:

- proven leadership experience.
- intellectual curiosity and breadth
- strong financial and operational judgement
- credibility with senior stakeholders and partners
- excellent communication and relationship-building skills
- the ability to lead through influence as well as authority
- resilience, discretion, and emotional intelligence
- a genuine commitment to stewardship, public value, and institutional excellence

An affinity with culture, heritage, philanthropy, education, land stewardship, or public engagement would be valuable, although curiosity, judgement, and leadership capability are considered more important than narrow sector expertise.

The role requires a leader who is ambitious for the institution but personally unshowy: someone motivated less by profile and more by the opportunity to help shape an organisation of long-term significance.



Terms of appointment

This is a full-time role.

The successful candidate may be based in London but will be expected to spend significant time at Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire.

A competitive salary and benefits package will be offered, commensurate with the scale and significance of the role. The salary is anticipated to start at approximately £150,000.





How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to the Rothschild Foundation on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at roles.saxbam.com using code **ECAAA**

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on 10th June 2026

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

- [Read our guide to writing cover letters](#)

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