

**Nomination form UNICollaboration Executive Board Elections 2018**

The candidate should submit this completed form to: **exec@unicollaboration.org** before Monday 2 April.

All the candidates’ biodata and election statements will be published on the organisation website before the 2018 conference.

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| Candidate’s Name | Francesca Helm |
| Candidate’s institution & country of employment | University of Padova, Italy |
| Candidate’s Email | Francesca.helm@unipd.it |
| Please state the position you are a candidate for (simply delete the other positions from this list) | President [Only current board members can apply]  Vice-president [Only current board members can apply]  **Second research officer**  Second publications officer  Second training officer  Second communications officer  Organisation Secretary  Organisation Treasurer |
| Candidate’s bio data (200 words maximum)  I am a researcher and English language teacher at the Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies, University of Padova in Italy. I am also currently vice-chair of the Education Innovation working group of the Coimbra Group university network and have been on the executive board of Eurocall. My research has focused on telecollaboration and virtual exchange, internationalization of higher education, identity and intercultural dialogue. I have published articles in international journals and books on these subjects and am on the editorial board of the journals ReCALL and System. I am currently involved in several European projects regarding the implementation and mainstreaming of virtual exchange, and I am leading the Monitoring and ​Evaluation of the European Commission's recently launched Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange initiative. | |
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| Candidate’s election statement (300 words maximum) - Please explain why you want to join the board and what you feel you would bring to the position.  I would like to join the board as I have been closely involved with the organization from its inception and am currently working with the board on the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange initiative. I strongly believe in the importance of an organization that supports practitioners and researchers of virtual exchange and our growth in this field by working together as an organization and also with other organizations with similar interests.  I would like to see the organization support and engage with young researchers through, for example, by encouraging mobility programmes between UNICollaboration member universities, hosting young researchers at members’ institutions; (even the development of a joint doctoral programme), the sharing of information regarding scholarships for PhDs at member institutions, joint supervision of PhD theses and research workshops that would offer opportunities for both younger and more experienced researchers to engage with new research approaches and paradigms.  I would also support the promotion of more interdisciplinary research, and virtual exchange research with colleagues from a range of disciplines, and collaborative efforts to further the field of virtual exchange.  I feel I could bring to the position experience of working on large-scale research projects (INTENT, EVALUATE, Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange) where researchers work together bringing together different approaches (both qualitative, quantitative and mixed research designs) in order to provide decision makers with evidence for policy-making in the field of virtual exchange.  We are currently at a very important phase where virtual exchange is gaining more recognition as a pedagogic approach, and there is a need to support the developing interest with evidence of what contributes to quality virtual exchange.  I would work with the first research officer and others interested in joining the team on organizing webinars and workshops where novice and more experienced researchers could further explore theoretical and methodological approaches to researching virtual exchange. | |

**Supporters of your Nomination**

(Two members of the organisation should support each nomination for positions of second officer. Please be sure to consult these colleagues before submitting this form with their names and emails.)

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| Name of first UNICollboration member who is supporting your nomination | Elke Niessen |
| Email of first UNICollboration member who is supporting your nomination | elke.nissen@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr |
| Name of second UNICollboration member who is supporting your nomination | Breffni O’Rourke |
| Email of second UNICollboration member who is supporting your nomination | OROURKEB@tcd.ie |