

About the roles

The University of Derby is working towards its 2018-2030 Strategic Framework ([link here](#)) and we are seeking candidates with: a passion for contributing to the development of educational opportunities, the senior leadership experience and insight to steer the University through to its future goals and the commitment to contribute to the success and future potential of our students.

In anticipation of vacancies that will arise in July 2021, including the Vice Chair of the Council, we are seeking to recruit independent governors to our main Governing Council (board), who may also be invited to join one of its sub-committees.

Appointments to Governing Council (the Board) and Committees

The University's Governing Council is the governing body of the University and the board of directors of the company. Membership comprises a majority of independent governors (lay members) alongside representatives from the University's staff and student body. Governing Council undertakes its duties through the work of its sub-committees, which are:

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Strategy, Finance and Planning Committee
- Skills Governance Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Remuneration Committee

We are looking to recruit individuals with the relevant experience, credentials and interests required to support the University's direction of travel and to help it realise its institutional ambitions. Specifically, we are seeking candidates with experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Executive leadership in a field relevant to one of the University's key delivery themes:
 1. Excellence in Public Sector
 2. Business, Economic and Social Policy
 3. Data Science
 4. Biomedical Sciences
 5. Creative Industries
 6. Zero carbon pathways
- Knowledge of the Government's Skills agenda, especially from within a key industrial player/hub
- Health Sector
- Higher Education policy/insight
- Legal or Finance professional, with audit experience

Broadening our Talent Pool

Whilst it would be desirable for candidates with experience of operating at executive or board level, we are an institution that encourages ambition in its students and staff. Therefore, we would welcome applications from those in senior level positions, wishing to gain experience of a non-executive board role. We have previously demonstrated co-option to a sub-committee as a mutually beneficial route for individuals and the University to broaden the Governing Council's talent pool.

As part of our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion we are particularly interested to hear from applicants from under-represented groups.

Commitment required

If successful you could expect to:

- be appointed for an initial term of up to three years.
- commit 12 to 20 days per year for meetings (if appointed to a sub-committee).
- devote the necessary time and effort to the role.
- complete mandatory governor training modules and induction activity.
- be invited to attend networking events and University graduation ceremonies.

Preparation time will be required before meetings to read through board papers to organise thoughts and contributions to debate. All members are expected to engage fully with the debate and consideration to enable the work of the Governing Council and its committees. We like to see as many of our governors as possible at University events and celebrations.

In return you will benefit from being part of a successful and ambitious University seeking to maximise opportunities for its graduates. You will also have the opportunity to build professional networks, collaborate with other governors and further build your non-executive profile and impact.

Remuneration

All members of Governing Council are able to claim reasonable travel and other expenses incurred whilst undertaking governor duties. An iPad will be provided where required to access meeting papers via the University's Board Management Software. The University only remunerates its Chair of Governing Council, Vice Chair of the Council and committee Chairs.

General Character and personal qualities

Individuals who demonstrate the standards expected of appointments to public office. With a proven professional track record, excellent communication skills and the personality to be a strong ambassador and advocate for the University. The ability to absorb information, distil detail and frame into constructive lines of inquiry will be required.

Person Specification:

1. A personal interest and commitment to higher and further education, and the aims and objectives of the University of Derby
2. Professional experience and expertise in one or more of the relevant sectors or industries as indicated for this recruitment
3. A proven professional track record in executive and/or senior leadership
4. Experienced in developing and leading strategy and large-scale projects
5. Excellent communication skills with the ability to interpret complex information
6. Ability and commitment to fully participate in the Committee and individual duties set out above
7. A commitment to quality and raising standards

8. A commitment to the University's ethos, mission and values, and be committed to equality, diversity and inclusivity