



Lay Members of Council | Newcastle University

Role Description

About Newcastle University

Newcastle University exists for the public benefit to advance education, learning and research. It is a world-class university, advancing knowledge, providing creative solutions and solving global problems. Newcastle University is proud to be a values-led, research-intensive university that makes a significant contribution to our city, region and globally.

The University's core values of equality, diversity, inclusion, social and environmental justice, and academic freedom are at the heart of everything we do.

About the role

Council is the supreme governing body of the University, responsible for the finance, property, investments and general business of the University, and for setting the general strategic direction of the institution. It is also responsible for the University's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness, including its arrangements for risk management and value for money. It keeps under regular review the performance of the University and the effectiveness of the governing body itself and safeguards the good name and values of the institution.

Council has a majority of members from outside the University (lay members), 16 in total, including three lay officers: Chair, a Vice Chair and Honorary Treasurer. Members also include 6 University colleagues and 2 students who are representative of the student body.

Council meets six times per year and has a joint-away day with the Executive Board.

Much of the detailed work of Council is routed through committees of Council. These committees are:

- Audit, Risk and Assurance
- Finance
- Nominations
- Remuneration
- University/Students' Union Partnership

The **Lay Members of Council**, who by statute form the majority of the membership, have a vital part to play in the governance of the University and bring a knowledge and experience of particular value, given the nature of the environment in which universities work.

Lay Members are expected to play an appropriate part in ensuring that the necessary business of Council is carried on efficiently, effectively, and in a manner appropriate for the proper conduct of public business. You will be expected to make rational and constructive contributions to debate and to make your knowledge and expertise available to Council as opportunities arise.

Members have a responsibility for ensuring that the governing body acts in accordance with the instruments of governance of the University and exercises efficient and effective use of the resources of the University to meet its charitable objectives, maintain long-term financial viability, and safeguard its assets.

Members of Council are appointed for three years, and membership may be renewed for up to two more terms of three years. Lay Members will be asked to serve on one or more of the Council's sub-committees.

The role will require a time commitment of one to two days per month and is not remunerated (except for reasonable travel expenses).

Who we are seeking

Newcastle University now seeks up to three exceptional individuals to join its Council as Lay Members.

We are particularly interested in those who bring the following:

- Expertise or background in the legal profession.
- Senior strategic leadership and/or policy experience in Public Relations or Information Technology.
- Prior governance experience, although not essential is advantageous.
- Collaborative, inclusive, and enabling approach.
- Commitment to being strong external and internal ambassadors for Newcastle University.
- Ability and willingness to contribute to a broad range of University matters.
- Committed to offering their time and expertise to meet the duties of the role.
- Commitment to the University's values, mission and EDI ethos.

EDI Commitment

Newcastle University is committed to being a fully inclusive global University, which actively recruits, supports and retains staff from all sectors of society. We value diversity as well as celebrate, support and thrive on the contributions of all our employees and the communities they represent. We are proud to be an equal opportunities employer and encourage applications from everybody, regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, age, disability, gender identity, marital status/civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, as well as being open to flexible working practices.