



TEF Silver

UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE

VICE-CHANCELLOR

Candidate Information Pack

INTRODUCTION FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The University of Bedfordshire is an institution deeply rooted within the communities and region it serves, providing access to education for a vibrant and diverse population of 24,000 students. It is a modern university that offers a wide range of degree courses that are tailored to meet the needs of its students, providing them with transformational opportunity. The University appears in the Times Higher Education World University rankings and was also ranked as one of the top 250 universities in the world under 50 years old in the Young University rankings.

Bedfordshire has a strong reputation for and is deeply committed to expanding educational opportunity. A very large proportion of our students are from families with no history of participation in higher education, and more than a third are mature returners to education. Our students come from over 100 countries to study with us, making for a truly diverse student community. The University works with a wide range of external partners to further develop the student journey beyond their degree, and we work together with schools and further education colleges across the region to ensure that there are opportunities for everyone to access higher education and reach their potential. Improving student experience is at the core of the University's mission, and the with the President of the Students' Union on the Vice-Chancellor's executive team, student voice is at the heart of everything we do.

The University is committed to its locality. The University itself contributes £300m to the local economy each year and is a major employer within the region. We pride ourselves on our strong civic and community relations and are committed to driving further prosperity within the region. We work with over 1,500 businesses delivering services and a range of knowledge exchange projects to drive innovation and impact locally. In addition to this, last year the £40m construction of our Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) expansion was completed, providing better facilities for; students, staff, teaching and research, and driving our ambitious strategy to help the region enhance its STEM capabilities.

There are firm foundations set in place on which the incoming Vice-Chancellor will enjoy a real opportunity to build on Bedfordshire's potential as an institution. Our current strategic plan is nearing its completion, and therefore the next Vice-Chancellor will play a crucial role in shaping and developing Bedfordshire's next strategic vision. The opportunity will be compelling to candidates with the potential to add significant value to an institution with an appetite for further change and achievement.

The University of Bedfordshire continues to operate in a deeply competitive market and ensuring its ambitions can be met will require grounded determination as well as a passion for its mission. Recent events in regard to Covid-19, notwithstanding Bedfordshire's positive response to the crisis and quick transition to online delivery, means that this will be a turbulent time for the sector, and firm leadership will be required. We are seeking a Vice-Chancellor who is able to get staff behind them, offering a clear strategic vision and the ability to motivate and inspire in a collaborative manner. In addition to this, our next Vice-Chancellor will need to be commercially aware and bring strong operational skills to guide the University through an ever-evolving external environment.

Tim Sawyer

Chair of Governors



WHO WE ARE

We value diversity. We respect the voice of every individual in our global network.

We work collaboratively. In partnership with our students, communities and business we innovate in tackling shared challenges.

We take personal responsibility. We work to realise the ambitions of our diverse students and staff.

We communicate what matters when it matters. We value free, open and inclusive debate.

We strive for excellence. We are committed to learning, research and continuous improvement of our practice.

We are inspired by the promise of higher education. We strive to create a more democratic, sustainable and equal society.

VISION

INSPIRING OUR STUDENTS; BROADENING UNDERSTANDING AND HORIZONS

We will be a leading university for expanding higher education opportunities: inspiring our diverse student body to achieve ambitious goals and broadening understanding and horizons across the communities we engage.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 -2020 OUR STRATEGIC PLAN HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON DELIVERING ACROSS FOUR KEY AREAS:

INSPIRING OUR DIVERSE STUDENT BODY TO ACHIEVE AMBITIOUS GOALS

Our students come to us with an ambition to change their lives. We make their aspirations possible through an active and inclusive approach to learning, rooted in real-world research, professional practice and community engagement. We are committed to supporting our students to engage in their own personal journey of learning and development, working in partnership with our student body to create the conditions for each student, whatever their background, to succeed.

ENGAGING OUR PEOPLE IN INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The transformative opportunities we provide for our students are only possible because of the commitment, ideas and professionalism of all our staff. Over the last three years we have focused on building our collective resilience and ability to innovate. Our aim is to build a culture based on listening, collaborating, and the sharing of good ideas, supported by the provision of appropriate professional and personal development opportunities and enhanced by effective communication at all levels.

EXPANDING HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Due to a competitive recruitment market, we have looked for new ways to achieve our mission to expand access to higher education. We have focused on increasing our academic partnerships to a sustainable 25 per cent of annual turnover and delivering new and different learning opportunities for new student markets. As we have increased our delivery outside the UK, we have seized the opportunity to embed an international perspective and global consciousness to all of our work, expanding opportunity for UK and international students alike.

BROADENING UNDERSTANDING AND HORIZONS ACROSS THE COMMUNITIES WE ENGAGE

Our research and knowledge exchange make a real difference to business, the public sector and policymakers. We are creative in developing solutions to the challenges our external partners bring us. Over the last three years we have focused on developing our research environment, embedding knowledge exchange and public engagement so that we can evidence the impact of our work with our partners. We take responsibility for our unique role in supporting our communities, improving public service delivery, quality of life and civic engagement



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Building on the successes of the current strategic plan, the next Vice-Chancellor will have the opportunity to consider the next steps the University should take strategically and operationally. There is scope for consolidation, innovation and transformation. The higher education sector is changing rapidly on an ongoing basis. Horizon scanning and staying on top of change in the UK and internationally is essential to the University and the incoming Vice-Chancellor will play a key role in this.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Our courses are designed to integrate the latest theoretical developments with current professional, industry or commercial practices to ensure that our students have the knowledge and skills sought by employers. We continuously review and revise our courses to ensure that they maintain their currency and relevance. We provide a modern learning environment by qualified staff whose expertise is a blend of research, scholarship and professional practice at the forefront of their subject. Many of our staff are recognised by the national Advance HE, for the quality and effectiveness of their teaching and in the most recent Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) (undertaken in 2017) the University was awarded a Silver which it is committed to maintaining.

RESEARCH

The University has seen a sharp improvement in the quality of its research. In 2013 the University won the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize for its pioneering research into child sexual exploitation, while REF 2014 saw almost half of its research classified as world leading or internationally excellent – the highest ratings possible. Today research at Bedfordshire continues to tackle the real-world challenges faced by its communities. Most recently a project to develop culturally aware health assistance robots and Home Office funding to undertake work on modern slavery and the policing of cyber-harassment.

NURTURING TALENT

24/7 online
Study Information Tools

FOR EVERY 1ST YEAR UK/EU STUDENT*
£450

*Applicable to full-time students who pay the maximum tuition fee for a BA/BSc course

STUDENT VOLUNTEERING (2016/17)

- 1086 REGISTERED VOLUNTEERS
- 37 ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED
- 327 VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

PROUD TO ACHIEVE
TEF Silver
TEACHING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (TEF)

ROOTED IN RESEARCH

10 RESEARCH INSTITUTES PRODUCING WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH

142% INCREASE IN HEFCE'S (HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND) RESEARCH FUNDING (2ND HIGHEST PROPORTIONAL INCREASE IN THE COUNTRY)

FOR PIONEERING RESEARCH (THE HIGHEST SUCH NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR UK UNIVERSITIES)
The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Research and Public Engagement 2013

RESEARCH HAS DIRECT SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL IMPACT

INFLUENCING UK AND EUROPEAN AGENDAS IN:

- MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE
- SERIOUS AND CHRONIC DISEASE
- SUBSTANCE MISUSE
- LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT
- ROBOTICS TECHNOLOGY... AND MORE

RESEARCH AND LEARNING THROUGH WORLD CLASS PROFESSORS

ALMOST HALF OF RESEARCH IS RATED AS 'WORLD-LEADING' OR 'INTERNATIONALLY EXCELLENT' (RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK 2014)

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Improving student experience is at the core of the University's mission and has been a key focus of our current strategic plan.

Our students come to us with an ambition to change their lives. We make their aspirations possible through an active and inclusive approach to learning, rooted in real-world research, professional practice and community engagement. Over the last three years the University has had a strong focus on supporting our students to engage in their own personal journey of learning and development, working in partnership with our student body to create the conditions for each student, whatever their background, to succeed.

Satisfaction with the University, amongst final year students, as measured by the National Student Survey (NSS) was 80%. There were 22 course which achieved in excess of 90% overall satisfaction, including 10 courses with 100% overall satisfaction.

DIVERSITY OF STUDENTS

The University of Bedfordshire is a truly diverse and multicultural community to live and study in. Our diversity spreads throughout our student population of more than 24,000 students from over 100 countries. We have both full-time and part-time students, mature students and a growing postgraduate and research community. We are a leading university for personal development, being fully committed to offering opportunities and support to all students and providing an environment to thrive.

STUDENTS UNION

Beds SU is led by a President and three executive officers – who are elected annually by Uni of Beds students to lead the Students' Union. The Beds SU are here to help every student at the University of Bedfordshire get the most out of their university experience. They campaign on issues that students care about, as well as providing lots of opportunities for students to meet new people, develop skills, campaign for change and try something new. The President of the Students Union sits on the Vice-Chancellor's executive team and is a key member of the senior leadership team.

"The University of Bedfordshire is a place bursting with diversity, excitement, and endless opportunities. One of these opportunities is the President being a full member of the Vice-chancellor's executive group, which puts the student voice at the heart of everything we do. The University of Bedfordshire is truly a life-changing place. We welcome all students into our community, celebrate our multicultural differences and support students to achieve their dreams and aspirations."

Liam Bloomfield (President, Beds SU) 2020



LINKS WITH EMPLOYERS, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

We provide high quality training, CPD, consultancy and applicable research that helps to stimulate and sustain economic growth and tackle social disparities and disadvantages; that assists and fosters regeneration and community cohesion; and informs public policy and the professions.

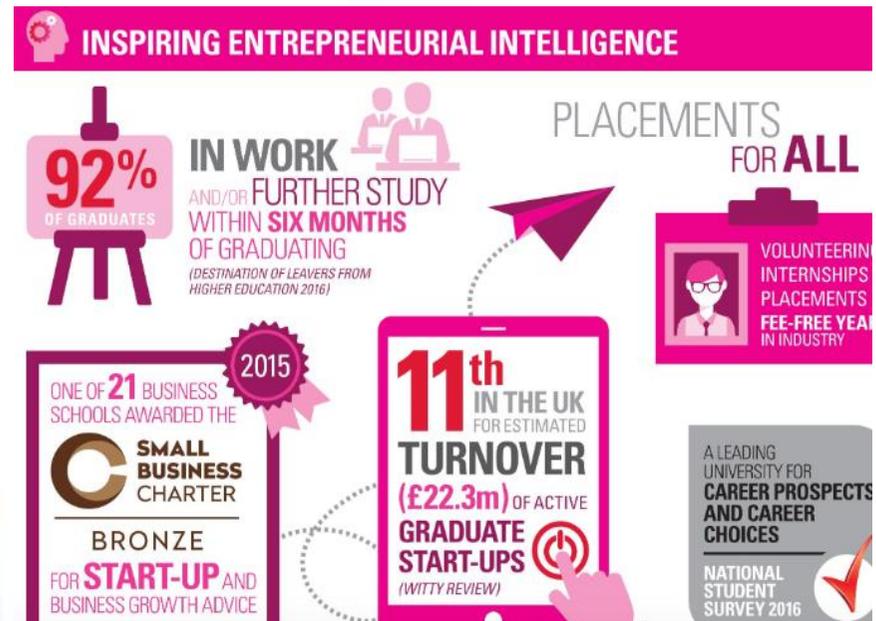
Many of our courses are accredited by professional bodies and we offer an employability focused curriculum that is specifically designed in conjunction with employers to meet the needs of industry and maximise the employability skills of our students.

We support small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-up companies and are committed to assisting fledging businesses by providing free lectures such as the Basics of Building a Business series – offering entrepreneurs the chance to learn essential business skills.

EMPLOYABILITY

The employability of students is a key focus of University activity.

The University aims to ensure that all its students maximise their ability to secure satisfying, meaningful and rewarding careers and to make an effective contribution to the economic and social wealth of society.



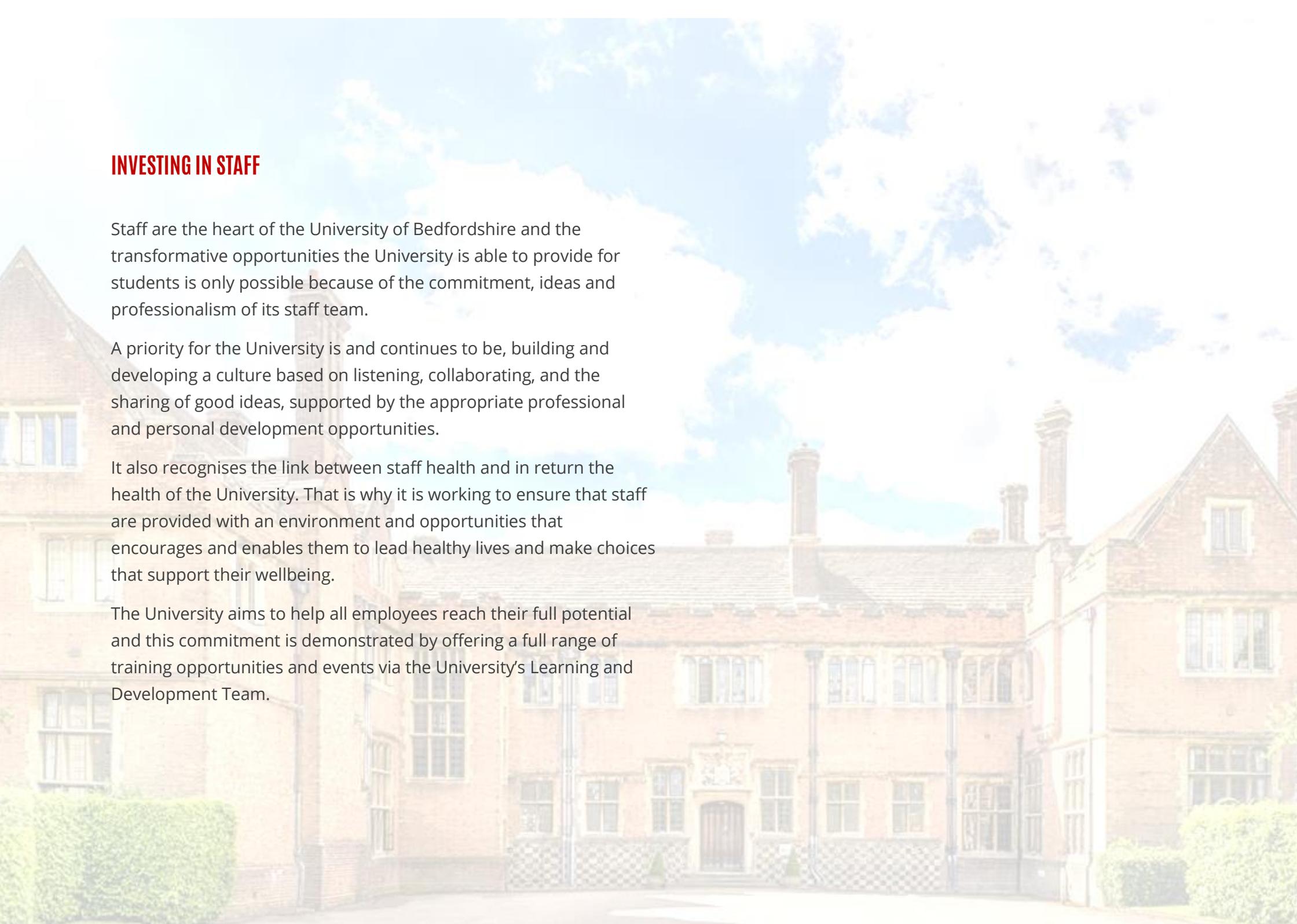
INVESTING IN STAFF

Staff are the heart of the University of Bedfordshire and the transformative opportunities the University is able to provide for students is only possible because of the commitment, ideas and professionalism of its staff team.

A priority for the University is and continues to be, building and developing a culture based on listening, collaborating, and the sharing of good ideas, supported by the appropriate professional and personal development opportunities.

It also recognises the link between staff health and in return the health of the University. That is why it is working to ensure that staff are provided with an environment and opportunities that encourages and enables them to lead healthy lives and make choices that support their wellbeing.

The University aims to help all employees reach their full potential and this commitment is demonstrated by offering a full range of training opportunities and events via the University's Learning and Development Team.



PARTNERSHIPS

The University of Bedfordshire works with a wide range of partners to develop our students and to take an active part within our local communities.

Access/ Widening Participation

We encourage social mobility by raising aspirations to enter higher education and we tackle issues of social exclusion by providing an extensive outreach programme to widen participation in higher education and to stimulate interest in further study. This includes visits to schools and community centres and strong links with our partner colleges. In 2018/19: 11.4% of our full-time undergraduates were from Low Participation Neighbourhoods as based on the Participation of Local Areas (POLAR3) classification and 98.4% of our full-time undergraduates had attended state schools.

We strongly believe in the transformative nature of education and through our outreach activities, we seek to ensure that those from under-represented groups are equipped to progress into Higher Education

Arts and Culture

The University partners many organisations within the arts and cultural scene as well as running its own events

Sponsorship

We know how important it is to keep giving back to the local community and therefore believe that sponsorship is a key part of our role as a university. We partner with individuals and organisations to develop our student experience and strengthen all community relationships.

Sport

We have strong partnerships with many national and international organisations across a wide range of sports.

ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

University of Bedfordshire works with academic partners within the UK & overseas. The Centre for Academic Partnerships was established in 2015 and oversaw a rapid growth in home and overseas partner activity. This year, to date, we have 4839 students in home partnerships and 7555 students in our overseas partnerships representing a significant contribution to the University's income stream.

LUTON CAMPUS

The Luton campus is located in the town centre and has seen a dramatic transformation in recent years. A new building devoted to the teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics opened in September 2019. Its cutting-edge facilities provides four computer laboratories and workshops for subjects such as automotive engineering, cyber-security and robotics, along with three large teaching labs, and four specialist containment labs. The building also hosts a Science and Engineering Outreach Centre to promote the value of science and engineering to local schools and the wider Bedfordshire community.

The STEM building forms part of a five-year investment to regenerate the University's estates totalling £180m. This included its Postgraduate and CPD centre on the Luton campus, and a stunning seven-floor library in Luton, which opened in 2016.

BEDFORD CAMPUS

The Bedford campus has academic roots that go back to the founding of Bedford Training College for Teachers in 1882 and Bedford Physical Training College in 1903.

The campus is now home to around 2,900 students and has excellent facilities, a friendly atmosphere and a proven track record of exceptional teaching and graduate employment.

The campus is located 20 minutes on foot from the town centre in a self-contained leafy setting and has undergone a major redevelopment programme which includes The Gateway, a new teaching and learning building which opened in 2014.

The Campus facilities includes two, fully equipped gymnasiums and state-of-the-art sports science labs.

£ INVESTING IN OUR FACILITIES

LUTON CAMPUS LIBRARY

- 530 PCsi
- 916 STUDY SPACES
- 50 LAPTOPS FOR LOAN
- STUDY HUB @LIBRARY
- 154,000 BOOKS ON 6km OF SHELVES
- OPEN 24/7 TERM TIME

£180m INVESTED IN CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

£40m INVESTMENT IN NEW STEM BUILDING

- SCIENCE
- TECHNOLOGY
- ENGINEERING
- MATHS

STEM

MILTON KEYNES CAMPUS

Milton Keynes campus is the newest addition to the University of Bedfordshire. Launched officially in March 2013, Milton Keynes campus is backed by the University of Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Council.

It is located in the centre of Milton Keynes close to shops, businesses and local amenities, and has excellent transport links. The campus is well equipped with the latest facilities such as high specification teaching rooms, special purpose electronics and telecommunications laboratories, a large general-purpose computer lab, an extensive Learning Resources Centre plus extensive learning and social spaces.

PUTTERIDGE BURY

Putteridge Bury is a magnificent neo-Elizabethan country mansion set in thirty acres of landscaped gardens. The history of Putteridge Bury can be traced back to Edward the Confessor's time and has links to the Domesday Book.

It was built in the style of Chequers by architects Sir Ernest George and Alfred Yeats and completed in 1911, having undergone renovation and reconstruction over the centuries.

It is home to the postgraduate Business School and the University's Conference Centre. Putteridge Bury Campus is located a few miles outside Luton town centre on the Hertfordshire-Bedfordshire border.

JOB DESCRIPTION VICE-CHANCELLOR

THE ROLE

- Create, deliver and implement a clear vision, purpose and identity for the University of Bedfordshire and to enable the delivery of transformational educational and life experience for students
- Lead and manage a change agenda across the University
- Provide clear leadership to the executive team and encourage performance and delivery of the highest level
- Define areas of operational priority for the University's future development and ensure their achievement
- Through collaboration, define and shape the strategic direction, priorities and focus for the University
- Ignite the passion and commitment of our staff; fostering a culture of trust, respect, openness, support, development and cooperation.
- Ensure the systems, culture, policies, and practices are in place to enable effective, joined-up execution of organisational strategy
- Ensure effective governance system are in place to monitor and adjust performance, ensure regulatory compliance
- Continue to strengthen the University's market position, profile and reputation in employability
- Ensure strong academic leadership across teaching and learning, and extend and strengthen the University's research and innovation portfolios
- As an ambassador for the University of Bedfordshire foster sustainable partnerships locally, nationally and internationally that enable the delivery of life changing education
- Develop a cohesive local strategy to promote education and prosperity amongst residents and contribute to the local economy by reinforcing and growing local partnerships
- Lead engagement with the Student's Union and ensure student voice is at the heart of everything the University does
- Review and oversee body of programmes delivered through academic partnerships. The next Vice-Chancellor will need to assess these programmes to ensure strong customer service, and address concerns around increased workloads and student quality.
- Champion equality and diversity in all aspects of the University's work

THE PERSON

Expertise

- Evidence of having led transformational change focused on improving outcomes in a complex and challenging environment
- Track record of empowering teams to deliver excellence
- Experience of delivering through partnership/ franchise model
- A track record of visible and transparent leadership
- A demonstrable commitment to widening participation

Values and behaviours

- Passion for and understanding of Higher Education
- Deep understanding of the power of engaging the motivation and collective intellect of people to drive and deliver top performance
- A passion for equality, diversity and inclusion and evidence of furthering its cause

Attributes

- Ability to quickly build credibility, trust and respect with academic and professional colleagues
- Ability to design and deliver strategies that create unique educational and organisational opportunities to build the brand and reputation of the University
- Ability to grow parts of the organisation through diversification of income streams
- Highly developed business acumen and an ability to calculate risks, make difficult decisions and be accountable for outcomes
- A strong belief in the mission of the University and the conviction to promote this with energy and assurance
- Clearly decisive with strong management skills
- Personal resilience and the capacity to respond flexibly and creatively to new opportunities and challenges
- Ability to build relationships with external agencies, government departments, professional and regulatory bodies, and other key decision-makers within the sector

HOW TO APPLY

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to the University of Bedfordshire on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **KAYTH**.

Click on the '**apply**' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter.

The closing date for applications is **9.00 am 22 Monday June**

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.