

UNIVERSITY of  
STIRLING



# Lay Members of the University of Stirling Court

BE THE DIFFERENCE



# Introduction

**The University of Stirling is an international university with a global reputation for high-quality teaching and research.**

By striving for success, our teaching and research makes a real and demonstrable impact on the economy, environment and society, in Scotland and beyond.

The Strategic Plan 2016-2021 set ambitious targets, underpinning a vision to be recognised across the world as a university that addresses the needs of society through innovative interdisciplinary research, learning and teaching of the highest quality and by sharing our knowledge with the world.

The emergence and subsequent consequences of COVID-19 signalled a rethink of the timeline and development of the next Strategic Plan, initially intended to be a 2021-26 strategy. Reflecting on the challenges presented by the pandemic and our focus on recovery, University Court approved the development of an Addendum to the current Strategic Plan for the period 2021-23.

The Addendum continued the headline vision: to be one of the top 25 universities in the UK, to increase income by £50m, to enhance the research profile by 100 percent and to ensure internationalisation is at the heart of everything we do. It highlighted the key achievements from 2016-2021 and sets out the strategic priorities for 2021-23 to deliver further progress towards our overarching ambitions. Going forward into 2023 - 2024, grounded in achievements to date, the University looks to build a strong foundation from which to launch our next Strategic Plan towards 2030.

*To read about both the existing Strategic Plan 2016-2021, and the Addendum from 2021-2023 visit:*  
[stir.ac.uk/about/our-vision/our-strategy](https://stir.ac.uk/about/our-vision/our-strategy)

Stirling is renowned for research that makes a positive impact on people's health, education and wellbeing.

The University collaborates with international governments and policymakers, businesses, industry, and charitable organisations, to tackle and provide solutions to some of the toughest global societal challenges.

Success will see Stirling acknowledged as a pre-eminent force in Scottish education and research – recognised worldwide as a University with a flexible, interdisciplinary approach to teaching and where ability, not background, is valued.

Our governing body, the University Court, plays a crucial role in defining our strategic direction and ensuring we achieve our mission through strong leadership and governance. Its members are responsible for all aspects of the University's operations and planning.

Lay membership provides a rewarding opportunity for individuals with a commitment to higher education in Scotland, the University and its future development, to make an effective contribution to our continued success.

There are currently two vacancies for Lay Members of Court. We are looking for individuals with executive and/or non-executive board level experience gained in large and complex businesses.

# Education founded on innovation and excellence

**Founded by Royal Charter in 1967, being the difference is in our DNA – providing education with a purpose and carrying out research that helps to shape society.**

Located in the geographical heart of Scotland, the stunning campus location provides a unique learning and working environment, combined with excellent UK, European and truly global transport links, via Edinburgh and Glasgow. Our internationally renowned campus has been further enhanced through our £20 million Sports Centre and the recently completed £21 million Campus Central development.

Since our foundation, Stirling's approach has focused on innovation and excellence. We have embraced our role as an intellectual and cultural institution – and are proud our work is making a positive impact on people's health, education and wellbeing.

The University has a current enrolment of more than 17,000 students. We have five faculties, and our structure allows us to collaborate across disciplines, bringing fresh ideas and creativity to our research and thinking.

We attract a large number of international students, who comprise more than 20 per cent of the student population, with more than 140 nationalities represented on campus. As a global institution, we have also established a diverse portfolio of innovative and productive partnerships with organisations across the world. These partnerships are fundamental in helping the University meet its strategic objectives through enhancing our international links.

As one of the UK's leading research universities we have an ambitious research strategy, embodied within three major themes: Cultures, Communities and Society; Global Security and Resilience; and Living Well.

We have secured £39 million in investment through the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal for University-led projects, including a National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub, and the recently-launched Scotland's International Environment Centre.



# The University of Stirling Court

The University of Stirling Court met for the first time on 25 March 1968. Since then, Court has been responsible for the following key areas:

- Mission, vision and strategy of the University
- The welfare of University students and staff
- Corporate governance
- Governance of University finances, property and investments

Stirling has two lay Court vacancies, and expressions of interest are sought from individuals with executive and/or non-executive board level experience gained in large and complex businesses.

The time commitment is normally around 4 meetings per year, a strategy day and other events and functions. Appointments are for a three-year term initially.

Although voluntary and unpaid, membership provides an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the future success and direction of the University, its community and the wider society.

Members of Court are also charity trustees and as such are expected to act in the interests of the University as a charity and ensure that the University complies with charities legislation. Under legislation the following are disqualified from acting as a charity trustee: someone with unspent convictions for dishonesty; an undischarged bankrupt; someone who has been removed under either Scottish or English law or the courts from being a charity trustee, or a person disqualified from being a company director.

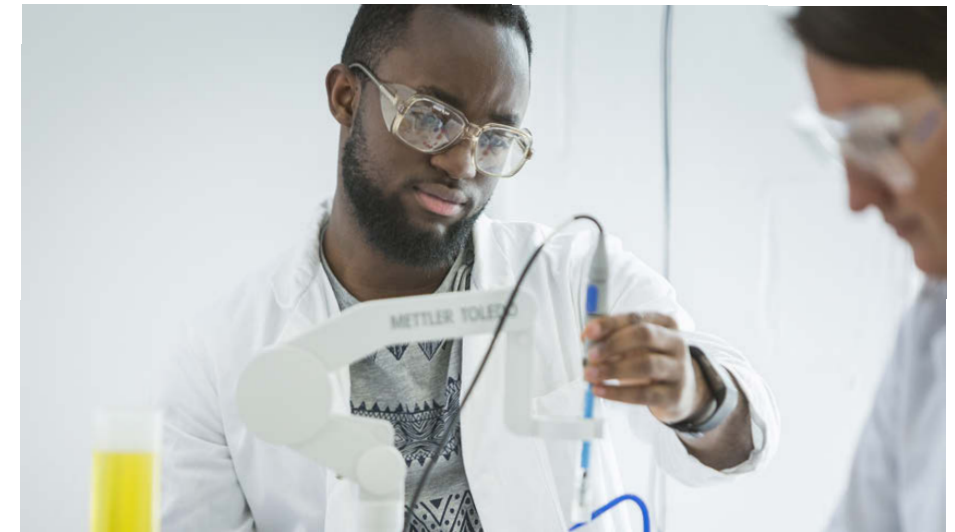
We are committed to equality and welcome applications that reflect the breadth and diversity of the communities we serve. Expressions of interest from people with disabilities, members of minority groups and women are particularly welcome.



## Role Outline

Court members are expected to be able:

- To act as informed and objective friends of the University
- To recognise and understand the distinction between the executive management of the University (which is the responsibility of the Principal and senior officers) and the oversight of the University's activities (which is the responsibility of Court as the governing body)
- To conduct themselves, individually and collectively, in accordance with the principles of accepted behavior in public life, which embrace selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership
- To develop an understanding of the University, including its vision and mission; its teaching and research activities, and its internal structure and culture
- To use their expertise to participate in, and contribute to, Court's decision-making in general and in those areas where they have special skills and experience in particular
- To question intelligently, debate constructively, challenge rigorously and decide dispassionately, and to listen sensitively to the views of others, inside and outside meetings of the Court
- To exercise their responsibilities in the interests of the University as a whole rather than as a representative of any constituency or other interest group
- To develop an understanding of the Scottish (and, where appropriate, UK) higher education system and of the University's relationships with relevant external agencies, including the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Executive and Scottish Enterprise
- To be willing to serve on Court committees and other working groups as and when necessary
- To respect the confidentiality of Court business on those occasions as and when this is necessary



# How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd are acting as an employment agency advisor to the University of Stirling on this appointment process.

Candidates should apply for this role through their website at [www.saxbam.com/appointments](http://www.saxbam.com/appointments) using code **WAMXE**.

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

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Noon on Monday 31st July 2023**.

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

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