



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

Appointment of

# Court Members

February 2025

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# Welcome from the Senior Lay Member

Thank you for your interest in joining the University Court, the University of Edinburgh's governing body.

This is an exceptional opportunity to be involved in the governance of one of the best universities in the world. At the University of Edinburgh, we've been influencing the world for more than 400 years. Every year, we take on tomorrow's greatest challenges. Each year is different – every person, teacher, project, and every thought more exciting than the last. Whatever excites you, whatever your ambition, whatever makes you 'you', we know one thing; nothing ordinary comes from this extraordinary place.

Thank you again for considering the University of Edinburgh, and to using your skills and experience to help us navigate the challenges and opportunities of the higher education landscape and secure our future for the next 400 years. It is an exciting time to join the governance of this brilliant institution.

**Janet Legrand OBE KC (Hon)**

Senior Lay Member of Court  
The University of Edinburgh







# About the University of Edinburgh

At the University of Edinburgh, we've been influencing the world for more than 400 years.

At Edinburgh, you'll be in good company, doing good things, for the good of the world. We believe this is possible because of a unique mix of three factors:

**Place:** The city of Edinburgh is famous for changing the way the world is understood. Its history and reputation rub off on us, every day. It inspires and lifts our expectations of what is possible.

**People:** Our staff, students, leaders and partners are talented, courageous, engaging and brilliant – and down-to-earth. They value wisdom, laughter, character – and each other.

**Practice:** We're an encouraging space to explore, but at the same time, our research, teaching, and even our daily processes, are ambitious.

We, and our global business partners, inspire you to aim high, push frontiers, deliver economic impact, drive sustainability. We're bold and our results change the world.

Where our place, people and practice meet, this is the University of Edinburgh. Somewhere in this blend of ingredients a magic is made. And it stays with you for life.

We're world famous for research, and although we're always looking for clever new solutions, we're not just about high-profile successes. Everyone who comes here is enabled and encouraged to live a great and rounded life.

What and who is next, we don't know, but we do know that after nearly half a millennium in this position, we're excited about what lies ahead. We've learned from mistakes. We're proud of what we've achieved. We're ready to celebrate our impact, and the independent spirits who share our values that we'll meet along the way.

Together, we're the new problem solvers. Let's make a positive, sustainable mark on the world.



# About the University of Edinburgh

## Key Facts

- Edinburgh is consistently ranked one of the top 50 universities in the world. It is 27th in the 2025 QS World University Rankings.
- Edinburgh is ranked the sixth best student city in Europe and 13th in the world.
- It is ranked fourth in the UK for research power, based on the 2021 Research Excellence Framework.
- The University awarded more than £10m in undergraduate financial support in 2022/23.
- Its graduates are ranked 24th in the world by employers.
- It is ranked 19th in the world's most international universities.
- It is ranked 7th in world in the 2025 QS World University Rankings for Sustainability. It is ranked 4th in the Europe and 2nd in the UK.

## Our vision

- Our graduates, and the knowledge we discover with our partners, make the world a better place.

## Our purpose

- As a world-leading research-intensive University, we are here to address tomorrow's greatest challenges. Between now and 2030 we will do that

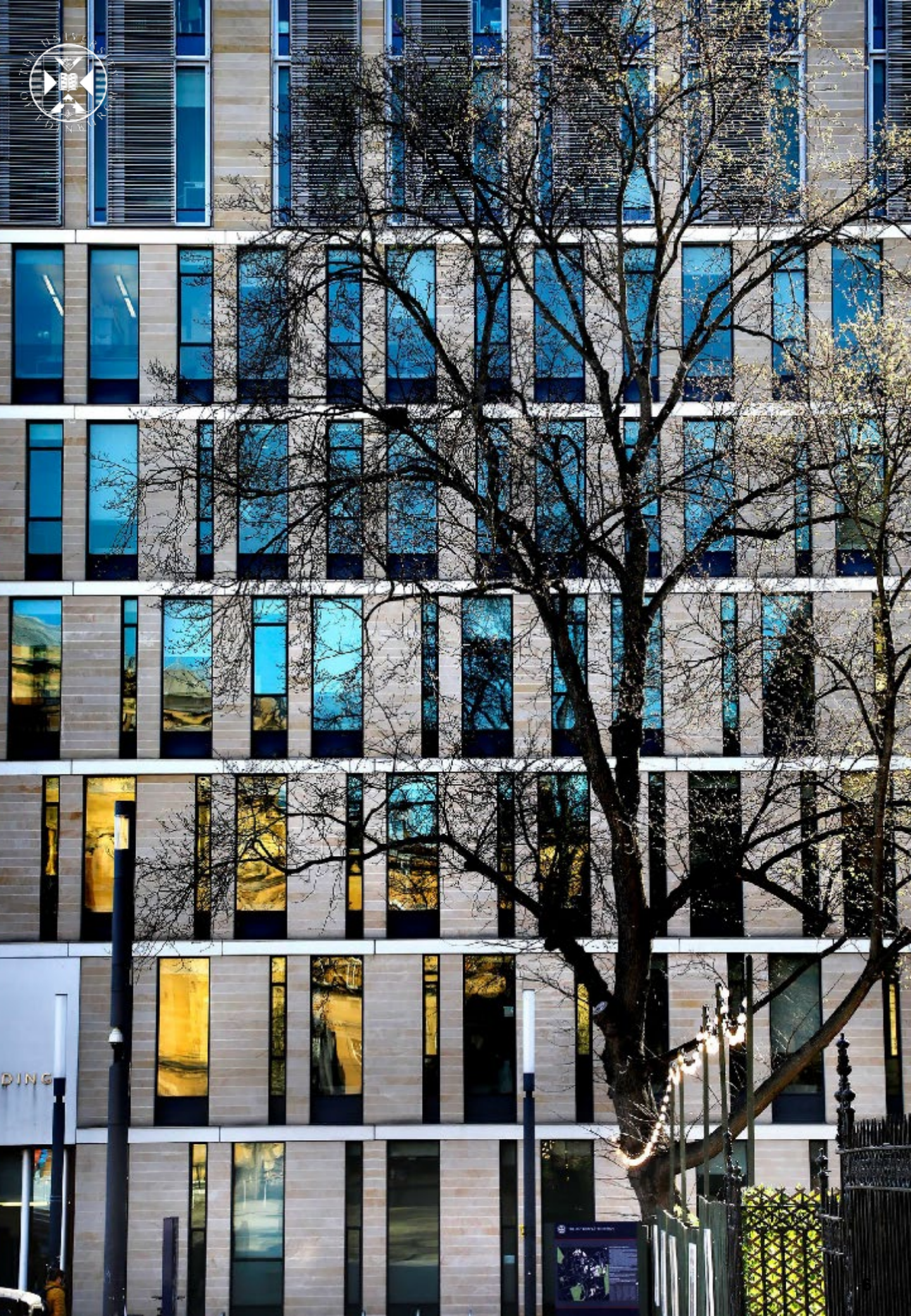
with a values-led approach to teaching, research and innovation, and through the strength of our relationships, both locally and globally.

## Our values

- We aim to achieve excellence in all that we do, always being principled, considerate and respectful.
- Our teaching and research is relevant to society and we are diverse, inclusive and accessible to all.
- We are ambitious, bold and act with integrity, always being willing to listen.
- We foster a welcoming community, where staff, students, alumni and friends feel proud to be part of our University.
- We celebrate and strengthen our deep-rooted and distinctive internationalism, attracting the world's best minds and building innovative global partnerships for research, teaching and impact.
- We are a place of transformation and of self-improvement, driven to achieve benefit for individuals, communities, societies and our world.
- We sustain a deep allegiance and commitment to the interests of the city and region in which we are based, alongside our national and international efforts, ensuring relevance to all.







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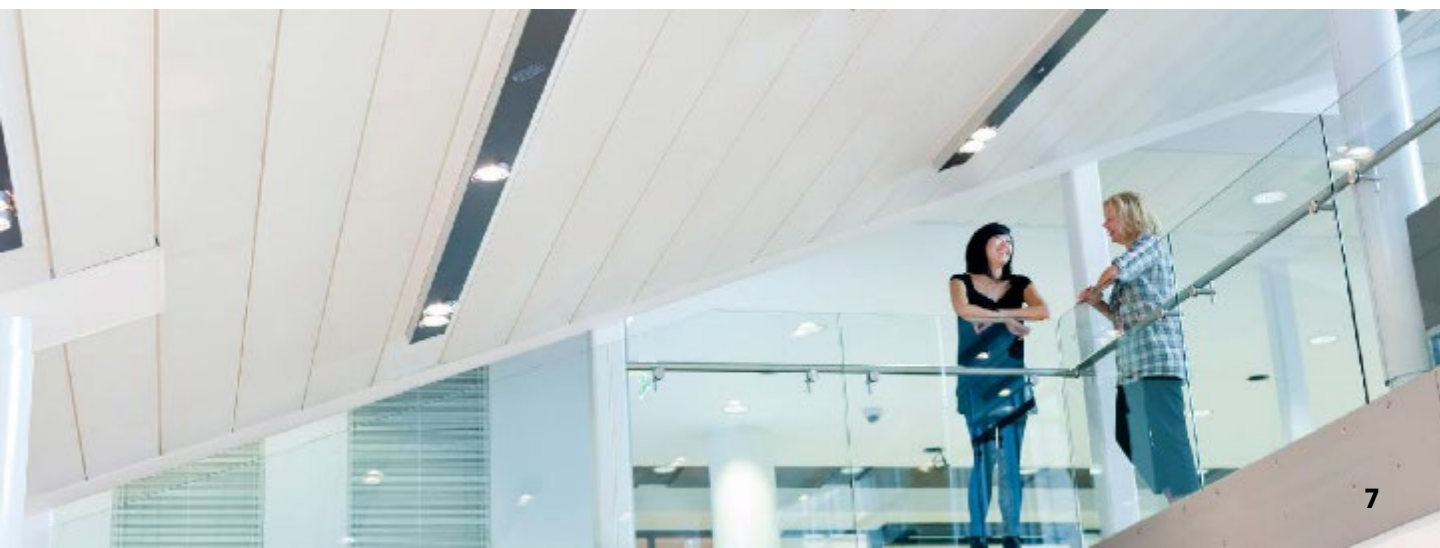




# Strategy 2030

**By 2030 we will be able to demonstrate the success of our strategy in the following ways:**

- The undergraduate curriculum will support breadth and choice, preparing students, graduates and alumni to make a difference in whatever they do, wherever they do it.
- Edinburgh will become the Data Capital of Europe. We will deliver inclusive growth, provide data skills to at least 100,000 individuals, and create new companies and solutions for global challenges.
- We will be leading Scotland's commitment to widening participation.
- We will have created opportunities for partners, friends, neighbours and supporters to co-create, engage with the world and amplify our impacts.
- We will be on track to be a Carbon-Zero University by 2040.
- Our estate will be fit for purpose, sustainable and accessible.
- We will see our research having a greater impact as a result of partnership, international reach and investment in emergent disciplines.
- Improved digital outreach will see us enabling global participation in education.
- We will be a global leader in artificial intelligence and the use of data with integrity.
- We will be a destination of choice, based on our clear "Edinburgh Offer". All of our staff and students will develop here, whether they are from Leith, Lisbon, Lahore or Lilongwe.
- We will support learning, research and collaboration with our neighbours, businesses and partners.
- We will have more user-friendly processes and efficient systems to support our work.
- We will see integrated reporting of our whole organisational impact against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Multidisciplinary postgraduate education pathways will support flexible whole-life learning.





## Equality, diversity and inclusion

The University of Edinburgh has a strong and long-standing commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and to promoting a positive culture and environment, which ensures fairness, challenges prejudice, and celebrates difference.

Our staff and students are our greatest strength and inspiration and all members of the University community should expect to be able to excel, to be respected and valued for their unique perspectives and contributions. We promote equity and social justice, seeking to remove structural barriers, eliminate discrimination and create an inclusive culture. We do this through visibly mainstreaming equality, diversity and inclusion in all that we do and encouraging all staff and students to engage in these efforts.

The University is a proud holder of an AdvanceHE Athena SWAN Institutional Silver award, which recognises our work to address gender equality in higher education. We also recognise the importance of clear impact beyond gender. We have a Race Equality and Anti-Racist Action Plan and are committed members of the AdvanceHE Race Equality Charter with an ambitious action plan to progress race equality and anti-racism throughout our institution. We are recognised as a Stonewall Diversity Champion actively promoting LGBT+ and as a Carer Positive Employer, and benefit from input and engagement with many active equality-related staff/student networks and committees.

For further details: [Equality, Diversity & Inclusion](#)









# University Court

**The University Court is the governing body of the University of Edinburgh. It is currently composed of twenty-three members both internal and external to the University.**

The Court is the employer of all University staff and the owner of all the University's assets (which are valued at £3 billion). It is responsible for the safeguarding of those assets, including the University's extensive estate, ensuring proper financial control arrangements and accounting for the University's turnover of approximately £1.4 billion per annum, which includes significant public funding. The Court is also responsible for ensuring effective audit and risk oversight arrangements and for the University's compliance with all relevant legislation and regulations, including the health and safety of staff and students. The University is an educational charity and the Court members are its trustees, with the responsibilities this entails.

The Court is collectively responsible for overseeing the University's activities, determining its future direction and fostering an environment in which the institutional mission can be achieved and the potential of all learners maximised. This responsibility includes considering

and approving the University's strategic plan, which sets out the University's goals, aims and objectives and identifies the financial, physical, staffing and other strategies necessary to achieve them. The Court takes all final decisions on matters of fundamental concern to the institution and is required to regularly monitor its own effectiveness and the performance of the University.

## Court Committee responsibilities

Members will also be expected to serve on Court Committees. Members' particular expertise and experience are taken into account by the University in deciding which committees they are asked to join. Members may also be asked from time to time to serve on short-term ad hoc groups set up for specific purposes.

Please see the following webpage for details of the various Court Committees as well as further information on the University Court:

<https://governance-strategic-planning.ed.ac.uk/governance/university-committees/court-committees>







# The roles

Court members collectively provide high-level strategic oversight and ensure that adequate control and monitoring arrangements exist to support management in exercising proper stewardship and working towards agreed strategic objectives. This work is distinct from the executive management of the University, responsibility for which rests with the University's senior managers.

External members are asked to bring their expertise and experience to bear on this work. The University greatly values the wide range of experience brought by all members to Court business. It is hoped that all members will question intelligently, debate constructively, challenge rigorously and decide dispassionately, having listened sensitively to the views of others, inside and outside meetings of the governing body.

The Court is entrusted with funds, both public and private, and has a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance. This includes ensuring and demonstrating integrity and

objectivity in the transaction of business, and wherever possible following a policy of openness and transparency in the dissemination of its decisions.

Court members are expected to develop an understanding of the University, its teaching, research and innovation missions and internal structure and culture. In addition, members are expected to be willing to develop some understanding of the University's relationships with relevant external agencies and of the Scottish and UK higher education systems. The University endeavours to provide members with opportunities to develop this understanding.

We are looking to appoint at least two individuals to the University Court. We particularly welcome applications from women, members of ethnic minorities and traditionally under-represented groups.

We would also particularly welcome candidates with skills suitable for appointment to the University's **Audit & Risk Committee** or **Estates Committee**.









# Person specification

The University is committed to promoting all aspects of equality and diversity and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.

## Experience

Essential:

- Professional experience and knowledge in matters relevant to the successful operation of a large complex organisation.

Desirable:

- Experience of partnership working for or with relevant charities or community-based or public or government organisations;
- Experience of dealing with strategic issues of a large business, commercial or public-financed organisation at senior management or board level.

## Knowledge, Skills and Competencies

Essential:

- Understanding of financial processes, including an understanding of budgetary processes;

- Ability to interpret information, debate constructively and rigorously challenge;
- Awareness of probity issues and commitment to high standards of integrity, transparency and impartiality;
- Ability to communicate effectively at senior level and explain issues and decisions both orally and in writing;
- Skills of networking, influencing and advocacy;
- Understanding of strategic planning processes;
- Empathy with the values and vision of the University of Edinburgh.

Members of Court will have a strong personal commitment to higher education and have empathy with the values, aims and objectives of the University of Edinburgh.

Individual members and the Court collectively should at all times conduct themselves in accordance with accepted high standards of behaviour in public life, which embrace selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.









# Terms of appointment

Appointment will be made for a period of up to 4 years from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2029, subject to satisfactory appraisal. Appointees will be eligible for consideration for reappointment for a further term of up to 4 years, subject to satisfactory appraisal.

## **Remuneration**

In common with most higher education institutions, there is no remuneration directly associated with membership of Court but the University will meet reasonable expenses incurred in connection with membership of the Court or activities on behalf of the University including meeting child and other dependent care costs.

## **Time commitment**

The Court currently meets five times a year, usually on Monday afternoons, with two additional seminars held at the beginning and the middle of each academic year. It is expected that all members will endeavour to attend all Court meetings in person. Court's Committees normally meet between three and five times a year on various days of the week. The University expects all members to be committed and willing to engage with the work of Court and the University. Court members are invited to attend a number of University ceremonial events and some social events throughout the year.

# How to apply

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

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

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

The closing date for applications is noon on **Friday 14 March 2025**.

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

## **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.

## **Due diligence**

Due diligence will be carried out as part of the application process, which may include searches carried out via internet search engines and any public social media accounts.







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