

Appointment of
Pro Vice Chancellor for Research,
Innovation, and Knowledge Exchange

February 2025



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Barbara
Hepworth
Building

University of
HUDDERSFIELD
Inspiring global professionals



Letter from the Vice-Chancellor

Dear Applicant

Huddersfield is an amazing institution, taking its students on life-changing journeys and providing a working environment where our colleagues can achieve career success and personal accomplishment. Originally from Huddersfield and having graduated in Engineering here, I am proud to lead this institution. With the help of a committed and ambitious senior team we are transforming the University academically, financially and physically having set our ambitions on becoming a global university. I am looking for a PVC that shares our ambition and drive. If you are looking for a challenging and stimulating strategic role in an enthusiastic and engaging environment then this could well be the opportunity you are seeking.

Here at the University of Huddersfield we have a lot to be proud of including collaborative research with some of the top universities in the world. We are the first University to receive the Global Teaching Excellence Award and achieved the TEF Gold Award. We have transformed our academic workforce and are now ranked in the top 5 for the percentage of academic staff with a higher degree and have set the expectation that all academic staff have doctorates and publish at least at an international level. We take leadership seriously and now are the first organisation in the world where all members of the Senior Leadership Team are Chartered Managers. This commitment to transformational leadership is underpinning our drive towards becoming a global University with the aim of creating partnerships with 140 of the top 300 world-leading Universities. We have won numerous awards including University of the Year, Entrepreneurial University of the Year, Best University Workplace, the Queen's Award for Enterprise and three national honours in the form of Queen's Anniversary Prizes.

The new postholder will take on a pivotal leadership role at a time of great change in the higher education sector. You will be the

driving force behind the University's research agenda, driving innovation, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge both within the academic community and externally to industrial partners and third sector organisations. You will provide visionary leadership with the intention of further enhancing the standing of the University both in the UK and internationally. Building on the existing reputation for excellence in research, your first-class leadership skills and capacity for fresh ideas will fuel new developments.

You will also be part of the senior leadership team and as such play a role in contributing to the long-term development of the University which is undergoing a significant transformation. Over the last 5 years the University has gone from strength to strength showing signs of performance improvement against key benchmarks.

We are a highly sustainable organisation and placed amongst the top 10 in the UK for financial sustainability, with no historic debt. As such we have been able to invest more than £150m over the last ten years in a top-class estate and facilities.

The University is a great place to work and our staff report they are proud to work here. We expect high performance from our colleagues and in return you can expect to work in a collaborative and engaging environment with an outstanding development support to all staff.

Yours sincerely



Professor Bob Cryan CBE DL
Vice-Chancellor



About the University of Huddersfield

Here are some key facts that make the University of Huddersfield a great place to be.

Great learning

- We're in the top 20 in the UK for placement years in industry (HESA Student Record 2022/23).
- 100% of our undergraduate students have the opportunity to undertake professional work-related experience during their studies. This includes placements, industry standard projects and real-world case studies.*
- The University of Huddersfield placed in the top quartile for assessment and feedback as well as learning and resources in the National Student Survey 2024.

** This applies to undergraduate courses of more than 12 months duration.*

Great teaching

- The University of Huddersfield achieved a Gold Teaching Excellence rating in all three aspects of the TEF in September 2023, the only university in Yorkshire and the Humber and the North West to achieve this.
- In November 2023 our Apprenticeship provision was rated Outstanding by Ofsted.
- In November 2023 the Huddersfield Business School won the Business School of the Year category at the Times Higher Education Awards.

- In 2017, the University won the first Global Teaching Excellence Award recognising the University's commitment to world-class teaching and its success in developing students as independent learners and critical thinkers (Higher Education Academy).
- 23 of our colleagues have received National Teaching Fellowship awards since 2008, making us first in the country for these awards.
- Huddersfield was the first and is the only University where 100% of the permanent teaching staff are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy**.
- Our staff rank in the top three in England for the proportion who hold doctorates, who have higher degrees, and hold teaching qualifications (HESA 2024).

*** Permanent staff, after probation: some recently appointed colleagues will only obtain recognition in the months after their arrival in Huddersfield once they have started teaching; research.*

Great future

- 95% of our undergraduate students go on to work and/or further study within fifteen months of graduating (HESA Graduate Outcomes 2021/22, UK domiciled, other activities excluded.)
- 97% of our postgraduate students go on to work and/or further study within fifteen months of graduating (HESA Graduate Outcomes 2021/22, UK domiciled, other activities excluded.)

About the University of Huddersfield

Research and innovation

- We've world-leading applied research groups in biomedical sciences, engineering and physical sciences, social sciences and arts and humanities. We have received prestigious Royal Anniversary Awards for our research in advanced manufacturing, railway engineering and music.

Customer service

- Our Library was the first to gain the UK National Customer Service Excellence Award.

Award-winning

- Business School of the Year (Times Higher Education 2023)
- Queen's Anniversary Prize (2021)
- Five-star University (QS awards 2020)
- Queen's Anniversary Prize (2019)
- Global Teaching Excellence Award (HEA 2017)
- Athena SWAN Bronze Award (2015, 2020)
- Queen's Anniversary Prize (2015)
- New University of the Year (Educate North 2015)
- University of the Year (Times Higher Education 2013)
- Queen's Award for Enterprise (International Trade 2013)
- Inspiring Leader (Guardian Education Awards 2013)
- Entrepreneurial University of the Year (Times Higher Education 2012)



Strategy 2025

Aims



Values

We will work as a **team** to
provide an **excellent** service to
all of the **communities** we support.



The role

Overview

The Pro Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Exchange (PVC-RIKE) is a pivotal leadership role within the University, responsible for advancing the institution's research agenda, driving innovation, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge both within the academic community and externally to industrial partners and third sector organisations both nationally and internationally. The PVC-RIKE will be part of the senior leadership team working with colleagues in the Schools and external partners to foster a vibrant research culture, secure funding, drive publications and translate research into impactful innovations.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

- Develop and implement a comprehensive research strategy that aligns with the University's vision and goals.
- Promote a culture of innovation and knowledge exchange across the University.
- Lead the development of interdisciplinary research initiatives and partnerships.
- Ensure the effective management and governance of research activities and resources.
- Lead on the submission to Research Excellence Frameworks to best advantage of the University as a whole.

Research Excellence

- Oversee the enhancement of research quality and output across all disciplines.
- Support the development of research capacity and capability within the University.
- Champion the University's research profile nationally and internationally.
- Foster an environment that encourages academic staff to pursue high-quality research and innovation.

Innovation and Knowledge Exchange

- Promote the commercialisation of research outputs and the development of

spin-off companies.

- Facilitate partnerships with industry, government and other external organisations.
- Encourage the dissemination of research findings to a wide audience, including non-academic stakeholders.
- Support initiatives that enhance the impact of research on society and the economy.

Funding and Resources

- Identify and secure external funding opportunities to support research and innovation activities.
- Ensure the efficient and effective use of research funds and resources.
- Develop and manage relationships with key funding bodies and sponsors.
- Support academic staff in developing competitive grant applications.

Leadership and Management

- Lead and line manage the Director of RIKE and a service of research and innovation professionals.
- Provide mentoring and support to academic staff in their research and innovation endeavours.
- Ensure compliance with relevant regulations and ethical standards in research.
- Represent the university in external forums related to research and innovation.

Digital Strategy

Working closely with the Director of Digital Information:

- Ensure effective delivery of information resources relevant the RIKE agenda.
- Design and champion the RIKE aspect of the University's Digital Strategy
- Act as senior sponsor of complex RIKE-related digital improvement projects
- Support business continuity planning to ensure critical functioning of the University in the event of a cyber security breach or other unforeseen event.



Person specification

Qualifications and Experience

- A PhD or equivalent qualification in a field related to the research strengths of the University.
- Proven track record of research excellence and innovation.
- Experience in leading and managing research teams and projects.
- Strong record of securing external research funding.
- Experience in fostering interdisciplinary research and collaboration.
- Demonstrated ability to engage with external stakeholders and partners.
- Ability to meet the University professorial criteria (attached).

Skills and Abilities

- Strong leadership and strategic planning skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to inspire and motivate academic staff and students.

- Strong analytical and problem-solving abilities.
- Proven ability to manage resources effectively.
- High level of integrity and commitment to ethical research practices.

Personal Attributes

- Passionate about research, innovation, and knowledge exchange.
- Collaborative and team-oriented approach.
- Committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in research.
- Adaptable and open to new ideas and approaches.
- Resilient and able to work under pressure.
- Proactive and results-driven.



How to apply

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

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

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 **Thursday 27th February**

* 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.

Remuneration

The salary is negotiable commensurate with experience.

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.

