

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

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Appointment of

Board Members

March 2025

Saxton Bampfylde

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Our purpose

To advance education, knowledge and wisdom for the good of society.

Our vision

We will be recognised globally for the excellence of our people, research, learning and innovation, and for the benefits we bring to society and the environment.

Letter from the Chair

University of Manchester Appointment of Board Members

I am delighted you are considering joining the Board at the University of Manchester. We have a rich and distinctive heritage on which to build, and much to achieve in the coming years as we seek to address the world's most challenging questions and to develop as a global force for positive change. These vacancies come at a hugely exciting time for Manchester following the arrival of our new President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Duncan Ivison, in August 2024, and the development of a refreshed strategy, Manchester 2035, currently the subject of institution-wide engagement and scheduled for approval by the Board later this year.

Manchester is home of the £1.5 billion innovation district, Sister, supporting the UK's ambition to be a world-leading science and technology innovation hub and providing opportunities for entrepreneurs, students and innovators alike. We have a long history of ground-breaking discoveries. It was here that Ernest Rutherford split the atom and this pioneering work laid the foundation for nuclear physics and had a profound impact on scientific research and technological advancements. More recently graphene, the world's first two-dimensional material, was discovered here by our Nobel Prize-winning researchers, Sir Andre Geim and Sir Kostya Novoselov.

The University is also home to world-class cultural attractions such as the Whitworth Art Gallery and the John Rylands University Library. The recently refurbished Manchester Museum has become a hub of cultural exploration, drawing record numbers of visitors since reopening in February 2024. With its extensive collections and engaging exhibitions, the museum provides valuable educational resources and cultural experiences for our students, staff, and the wider community. The Jodrell Bank Observatory, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

since 2019, stands as a symbol of our commitment to scientific discovery and astronomical research. The observatory's iconic Lovell Telescope has contributed to significant astronomical breakthroughs and continues to inspire future generations of scientists.

Our diverse and globally connected student population plays a vital role in shaping our academic community. We attract students from around the world, creating a truly international and multicultural learning environment. Moreover, our students embrace our third core goal of social responsibility. They are passionate about making a positive impact in their communities and beyond and actively participate in volunteering, fundraising, and advocacy initiatives.

We are looking to appoint two new members to our Board of Governors. Bringing constructive challenge, a willingness to support the development of strategy and to learn, Board members will possess an appetite to contribute to the Board across the range of its activity, including its three core goals: research and discovery: teaching and learning: and social responsibility.

We would be delighted to hear more from you or engage in further discussion, directly or through our retained search agents, Saxton Bampfylde.

Philippa Hird Chair of the Board





About the University of Manchester



The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester is recognised globally for its pioneering research, breadth of teaching and learning and for its commitment to social responsibility. The world's big challenges demand urgent action now and we are working across boundaries and disciplines to create healthier, more equal futures, to help eradicate poverty, ensuring energy supply for future generations and to protect our planet for the years to come.

The University of Manchester was the first and most eminent of England's civic universities. Our earliest roots can be traced back to 1824 with the formation of the Manchester Mechanics' Institution, founded as part of a national movement for the education of working men, and with the creation of the Manchester Royal School of Medicine.

To compete on a global stage, The University of Manchester, in its present form, was created in 2004 by the amalgamation of the Victoria University of Manchester and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST).

The rich heritage of discovery, social change and pioneering spirit remains at the heart of all we do.

Today we are ranked **22nd best university in the UK, 34th in the world** (QS World University

Rankings 2025) and **2nd in the world for Social Impact** (we are the only university consistently in the global top 10 since the ranking's inception 5 years ago).

We operate at some scale with an annual turnover of £1.2bn, 13,000 staff, around 46,000 students and over 500,000 alumni.

Inclusivity is a recurring feature of our history. The University was non-sectarian from the start. Christabel Pankhurst became our first female law graduate in 1906, and we appointed Britain's first Black professor, the economist Arthur Lewis (later a Nobel laureate,) in 1948.

Today, the University strives to be international, diverse and inclusive. That diversity is a core strength. It underpins the interdisciplinarity of our research, the quality and power of our teaching and our global impact. It is key to our success that we attract staff and students from all backgrounds who are all able to thrive and to achieve their full potential.

The University is home to unique Manchester cultural institutions – the Whitworth Art Gallery, the John Rylands Research Institute and Library, Manchester Museum and Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). All are engaging a wide variety of audiences through their diverse collections, events, exhibitions, partnerships, and inspirational spaces.

Trafford, specifically Old Trafford, is known internationally for sport: it is a venue for Test Match cricket and the home of Manchester United FC. The Commonwealth Games were held in Manchester in 2002 and were highly acclaimed with the Stadium becoming the home of Manchester City FC in 2003.

Manchester is well served by a major international airport, with direct scheduled flights to many destinations in Europe as well as North America and Asia. Some of the most beautiful countryside in Europe is just short of an hour's drive from the University in the Peak District National Park, while the Lake District and Snowdonia in Wales are also within easy reach.

Manchester was the home to the first NHS Hospital and more recently, was the only NHS region to be granted full devolution of its healthcare budget ("Devo Manc"), which has laid the foundations for the current structural evolution of the rest of the NHS.

In 2019 we launched [Our future](#), which affirmed our core goals as research, education and social responsibility and set out ambitious targets for the next 5 years. In October 2024, our new President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Duncan Ivison, launched the process to create Manchester 2035, the bold new strategy that will shape the direction of the University for the next decade. Through collaboration with staff, students, alumni and partners, we're considering who we want to be and how we get there, creating a joint plan that reflects our aspirations and benefits the communities we serve.



The Roles

The University is seeking two additional lay members with effect from 1 August 2025. The balance of skills, attributes and experience amongst existing members of the Board has been evaluated. For the lay member appointments to be made in 2025, the University is seeking individuals with the following skills and experience across the two vacancies:

- Broad public policy skills and experience (including but not confined to the higher education sector); or
- A senior leadership role in industry, with strong links to and understanding of the Northwest regional economy.

Board Members should seek to:

- Constructively challenge and help develop proposals on University strategy;
- Scrutinise the performance of management in meeting agreed goals and objectives and monitor the reporting of performance;
- Investigate the integrity of financial information and determine whether financial controls and systems of risk management are robust and defensible;
- Devote time to developing and refreshing their knowledge and skills;
- Uphold high standards of integrity and probity and support the Chair and the other Board members in instilling the appropriate culture, values and behaviours in the boardroom and beyond; and
- Take into account the views of stakeholders where appropriate.
- Lay members will also, from time to time, be asked to chair staff appeals and grievance procedures as part of their responsibilities under the University's constitution.



The Person

Lay members will have the proven ability to contribute to the governing body and support the governance model that the Board of Governors has fostered. Curiosity and willingness to learn about the University and its ambitions, and the broader higher education sector, are essential. They must have a good understanding of, enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the University's strategic plan, the wider Higher Education sector, and the role and ambitious aspirations of The University of Manchester.

Candidates from both categories will be able to demonstrate:

- A strong track record of achievement;
- Experience of contributing to, supporting and/or leading major private, public sector and/or third sector organisations;
- Unquestioned integrity, effective communication skills and experience in the management of change;
- Breadth of vision and a strong grasp of governance issues; and
- The judgement to digest and act upon large amounts of written material, and the ability to consider and constructively challenge the performance, strategy and objectives of an academic institution.

Standards

Board members are expected to perform their duties efficiently and diligently to a standard commensurate with their personal capabilities and should have particular regard to: the Nolan Principles; the values outlined in the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Higher Education Code of Governance (2020); and the University's values of knowledge, wisdom, humanity, academic freedom, courage and pioneering spirit as set out in the University's vision and strategic plan, "Our Future." (NB a refreshed strategy, Manchester 2035, is in development and is expected to be approved by the Board of Governors in October 2025.)

Members of the Governing Body are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with accepted standards of behaviour in public life (see references to the Nolan Principles and CUC Code as outlined above).

As the University is an educational charity, candidates should have not been disqualified from acting as trustees and will be asked to confirm in writing that this is the case. Candidates will also be asked to consider and declare any existing or potential conflicts of interest.

Since the University is both a charity and a chartered body, members will be collectively responsible for ensuring that the Board of Governors exercises efficient and effective use of the resources of the University for the furtherance of its charitable purposes. Members will also ensure the Board maintains the University's long-term financial viability, safeguards its assets, and that proper mechanisms exist to ensure financial control and for the prevention of fraud.

Further information about the Board can be found [here](#)

Further information

Time commitment

Board members will be expected to devote such time as is necessary for the proper performance of their role. For these roles, the appointed candidates should expect to spend between 15 and 20 days per year on University work after the induction phase. This is based on preparation for and attendance at:

- Scheduled formal Board meetings (six in each year); typically, these take place over a full afternoon. Dedicated Board time is also devoted to annual sessions (involving the University Executive) reviewing performance and considering strategy
- Board Committee meetings: Board members will be expected to serve on at least one Board committee (frequency of meetings varies depending on the Committee, but typically four to five meetings per year)
- Training and updating sessions (internal and external) as required.

New Board members will:

- Receive an appropriate induction;
- Receive the information they need to carry out their role in an appropriate form and with appropriate time to consider and reflect upon this before decisions are taken;
- Be provided with appropriate support and advice in respect of their legal and fiduciary responsibilities;
- Be provided with adequate cover for personal liabilities through the University's Directors and Officers Insurance in respect of any claims made against them as members of the Board of Governors;
- Discuss their contribution to the Board with the Chair regularly (and through a formal process annually); and
- Have access to the Secretary / Deputy Secretary, who will provide or make arrangements for their ongoing support as Board members.

Remuneration and expenses

In common with most higher education institutions and other registered charities, there is no remuneration directly associated with membership of the Board, although the University will reimburse members fully for all reasonable and properly documented expenses incurred in performing their duties.



How to Apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to the University of Manchester for these appointments.

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

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 4th April 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.*

We are very keen further to enhance the diversity of the Board and so particularly welcome applications from women, Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority candidates, candidates with disabilities and candidates with other protected characteristics.

GDPRpersonal 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.

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