



The University of Manchester

Vice-Dean for Teaching, Learning and Students Faculty of Humanities

December 2025

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Executive summary

The University of Manchester is one of the world's leading universities with an international reputation for excellence in research and teaching, and a genuine commitment to social responsibility. We are fully committed to boldly investing in our people and infrastructure to not only retain this position but to strive for continuous improvement in all we do.

As such, the University now seeks to appoint an experienced and inspirational Vice-Dean for Teaching, Learning and Students (TLS) who will be responsible for the delivery of the Faculty of Humanities Teaching and Learning strategy, aligned with the University's overarching [2035 strategy](#) (From Manchester for the world).

This includes responsibility for teaching provision, creating and enhancing learning environments, improving the student experience, and managing student intake. The role involves close collaboration with senior University and Faculty officers and membership of both the Faculty Executive and the University Teaching and Learning Leadership Team.

The post holder will support strategic Faculty developments across the four Schools that make up the Faculty of Humanities ([Alliance Manchester Business School](#); [School of Arts, Languages and Cultures](#); [School of Environment, Education and Development](#); and [School of Social Sciences](#)).

Reporting to the Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, the Vice-Dean for TLS holds a senior role within the University, with overall responsibility for the leadership and management of teaching and learning, and the student experience in the Faculty. The role holder will play an instrumental part in the development and implementation of the University's [Flexible, personalised and digitally enabled learning](#) 'leap' in the new strategic plan, leading initiatives to deliver a transformative student experience that is flexible, connected and personalised. This will involve integrating digital innovation with in-person support, embedding hands-on, partner-enabled learning, and leveraging local and global networks. The postholder will also drive widening participation by creating greater opportunities for study, thereby promoting social mobility within the region and internationally.

The successful candidate will possess a strong record of academic achievement with significant evidence of leadership or other influential roles with relevant external associations, networks and institutions. They will be able to articulate a clear and inspiring vision for the Faculty and will work towards building upon the Faculty's already outstanding international reputation. With a good understanding of the UK higher education sector, they will also bring a commitment to innovation and the ability to represent the Faculty internally across the institution and externally at the highest level.



Contents

Executive summary.....	2
The University of Manchester	4
Faculty of Humanities.....	5
Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).....	6
National Student Survey (NSS).....	6
The Role of Vice-Dean for Teaching, Learning and Students	8
Appointment process	11
How to apply	11





The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester has a distinguished history of academic achievement and an ambitious agenda for the future. In 2024, the University marked its bicentenary, celebrating two centuries of pioneering achievements in learning and research. We have a history of world firsts and brilliant discoveries, from splitting the atom to giving the world graphene. Today, the University enjoys a global reputation for its innovative approach to learning and its internationally renowned research.

Since 2005, The University of Manchester has steadily risen in global rankings, affirming its reputation as a world-class institution for teaching, research and social responsibility. In the 2025 QS World University Rankings, Manchester is placed 34th globally and 6th in the UK, while the 2025 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings position the University 2nd in the world, and 1st in both the UK and Europe, for its contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, Manchester was ranked 5th in the UK for 'research power', with 93% of its research rated as either 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'. These results confirm Manchester's place as one of only a handful of the UK's leading research universities across a wide range of subjects.

The University provides a stimulating learning environment and the highest standards of teaching with enthusiastic and engaging teachers. The quality of the higher education we provide is therefore characterised by an outstanding student experience and a rich and diverse learning environment with a strong commitment to social responsibility and the employability of its graduates.

The University of Manchester boasts a rich academic heritage and can now count 26 Nobel Prize winners among its current and former staff and students. Notable current staff include novelist Jeanette Winterson, historian and broadcaster Michael Wood, and Nobel Laureate John Sulston, a pioneer in life sciences. Professors Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov were awarded the 2010 Nobel Prize in Physics for their groundbreaking discovery of graphene, the world's strongest and thinnest material. This legacy of excellence continues to reinforce Manchester's global reputation for research and innovation.

The academic structure of The University of Manchester is made up of Faculties and Schools. There are three Faculties (listed below) with nine academic schools:

- [Faculty of Science and Engineering](#)
- [Faculty of Humanities](#)
- [Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health](#)

The Professional Services teams provides support for the academic mission of the University through the provision of a number of services including technical, administrative, IT, Finance, Estates, People Directorate, Student Marketing and Communications, and Research support.

Faculty of Humanities

The [Faculty of Humanities](#) is becoming one of the most successful faculties of its kind. The largest Faculty in the University, it consists of more than 21,000 students and approximately 2,450 staff and has an annual income of more than £440 million. It is made up of four Schools: Arts, Languages and Cultures; Environment, Education and Development; Alliance Manchester Business School; and Social Sciences. The Faculty is led by the Dean and Vice-President, Professor Fiona Devine. Its research contributes to the world around us and impacts all areas of society. The Faculty's world-leading academics tackle global issues such as environmental sustainability, climate change, poverty, and conflict response, and help bring solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing the world, today and in the future.

With one of the largest and most diverse groupings of humanities researchers and teachers within a single faculty in Europe, the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Manchester has an outstanding national and international reputation. While the University is ranked 28th overall in the Complete University Guide 2026, the Faculty of Humanities continues to feature strongly in both national and international rankings, demonstrating excellence across a wide range of disciplines:

- In the Complete University Guide 2026, the University is ranked 6th for Accounting & Finance and maintains strong performance across other subject areas. Several subjects are ranked in the top 10 nationally, including Accounting and Finance, American Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Drama, Planning, and Russian.
- In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2025, the Faculty achieved top 100 global placements in all assessed areas, including 32nd for Business and Economics, 37th for Social Sciences, 43rd for Arts and Humanities, 78th for Law, and 84th for Education Studies.
- The Alliance Manchester Business School's MBA is ranked 5th in the UK according to the Financial Times.
- In the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025, the University is ranked in the top 25 globally for subject areas spanning all four Schools, including Accounting and Finance, Development Studies, English Language and Literature, and Sociology.
- The Faculty is also highly ranked for History, Philosophy, Linguistics, and English Language & Literature, consistently appearing in the top 10 or top 20 in major UK and international league tables.

The Faculty's structure, scale and academic range enables it to promote interdisciplinary research and teaching collaboration between the Arts and Social Sciences, as well as between Humanities and Sciences. The Faculty attracts research funding from a broad base of sources to support its long-term research ambitions, securing more than £16 million in new external contributions in 2022/3 while continuing to manage major investments such as the [African Cities Research Consortium](#) (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office) and The [Productivity Institute](#), (UKRI/Economic and Social Research Council), both £32 million in value.

Further information about the Faculty of Humanities can be found at: humanities.manchester.ac.uk.



Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

In the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2023, The University of Manchester was awarded an overall Silver rating, with Gold for Student Outcomes and Silver for Student Experience. The Gold rating reflects the University's outstanding graduate outcomes, including high levels of continuation, completion and progression into employment or further study. The Silver rating for student experience acknowledges the University's strong performance in areas such as teaching quality, academic support, learning resources and student voice. These results highlight Manchester's commitment to delivering high-quality education and supporting students to succeed in a competitive global landscape.

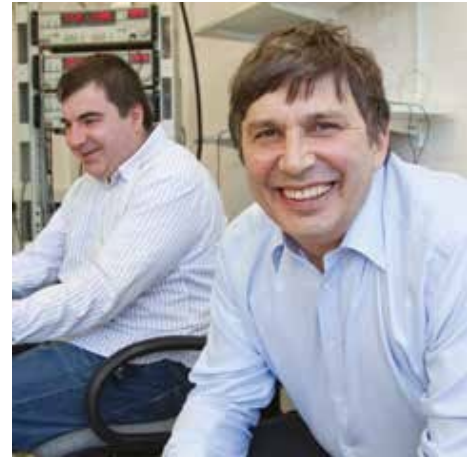
National Student Survey (NSS)

The University of Manchester saw a significant uplift in its 2025 NSS results, with a 5% increase in overall positivity, the largest rise among Russell Group institutions. Final-year students rated the University highly across all core themes, with particularly strong scores for intellectually stimulating courses and opportunities to provide feedback - both now above the sector average. These improvements reflect the University's strategic focus on enhancing the student experience, supported by a unified NSS action plan and close collaboration with the Students' Union. The results also informed the development of the new Manchester 2035 strategy, which places student experience at its heart.

Within the Faculty of Humanities, the 2025 NSS results were equally encouraging, with an overall positivity score of 80.8%, up 4.4% from the previous year. All seven core themes showed improvement, including notable gains in student voice (+7.5%), assessment and feedback (+5.4%), and organisation and management (+6.2%). Students praised the impact of individual staff members in open comments, highlighting the personal contributions of academic, professional services, and technical colleagues.

The rollout of the Canvas central learning environment in September 2025 marked a significant step in the University's commitment to continuous improvement and student-centred learning. Replacing Blackboard, Canvas offers a more intuitive and accessible platform, enhancing the student experience through clearer navigation, improved feedback tools and mobile-friendly design. Its integration with learning analytics enables more personalised support, while staff development around the new system encourages innovative teaching practices. This transition directly responds to student feedback and supports the University's strategic focus on inclusive, high-quality digital education.





The Role of Vice-Dean for Teaching, Learning and Students

The Vice Dean for Teaching, Learning and Students is a senior academic leader responsible for shaping, delivering and enhancing the Faculty of Humanities' priorities for teaching, learning and the student experience. The post-holder will ensure the highest standards of educational provision, student support and academic innovation, working collaboratively across the Faculty and University to enable all students to reach their full potential.

The role is pivotal in delivering the University's Manchester 2035 strategy and advancing the Faculty's commitment to interdisciplinarity, inclusion and global impact. The Vice Dean will champion the Faculty's contribution to the University's five strategic 'leaps', with a particular focus on flexible, personalised and digitally enabled learning. This includes driving innovation in curriculum design, assessment and digital pedagogy to develop a 21st century curriculum and introduce new ways of learning for every student. The post-holder will lead efforts to reinvent our student experience by ensuring tailored learning pathways, integrated digital tools and opportunities for real-world application, making partner-enabled learning a signature of every Manchester degree. Through these initiatives, the role will support the University's ambition to deliver a transformative, values-led education that meets the needs of a diverse and global student body.

The person appointed will work in close collaboration with colleagues within the Faculty, including the Vice President and Dean, and across the University, including the Vice-President for Teaching, Learning and Students and the Vice-Deans in the other Faculties. They will be a member of the Faculty Executive and the University's Teaching and Learning Subcommittee of the University Executive.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

- Lead the development and implementation of the Faculty's teaching, learning and student experience priorities, ensuring alignment with Manchester 2035 priorities and sector best practice.
- Champion innovation in curriculum design, assessment, digital education and inclusive teaching, reflecting the Faculty's breadth of disciplines.
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement, drawing on data, student feedback and external benchmarks (e.g., TEF, NSS etc).
- Strategic leadership of admissions and recruitment for the Faculty.

Advancing Manchester 2035

- Embed the University's vision for flexible, personalised and digitally enabled learning—ensuring students can co-create their learning, study on their own terms and benefit from a smart, digital environment.
- Promote interdisciplinary and applied learning, preparing students to address global challenges and thrive as future leaders.
- Support the integration of research excellence into teaching, ensuring students engage with cutting-edge knowledge and innovation.
- Embed a values-led culture around teaching, learning and scholarship.

Enhancing Student Experience

- Oversee the quality and consistency of the student journey, from recruitment and induction through to graduation and employment.
- Promote student engagement, co-creation and the effective integration of the student voice in decision-making.
- Ensure robust support for student wellbeing, academic advising and personal development, with a focus on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

Quality Assurance and Enhancement

- Oversee quality assurance processes, including programme approval, review and accreditation.
- Monitor and respond to key performance indicators (e.g., student satisfaction, continuation, progression, awarding gaps, graduate outcomes).
- Prepare and contribute to external reviews.

Collaboration and Representation

- Work closely with Heads of School, Vice-Deans, Directors of Teaching and Learning and professional services to deliver Faculty and University objectives.
- Represent the Faculty on University committees and external bodies as required.
- Build effective partnerships with students, staff, employers and external stakeholders.

Professional Development

- Support the development and recognition of teaching excellence among academic and professional services staff.
- Oversee initiatives for staff training, mentoring and sharing of best practice in pedagogy and student support.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- Embed EDI principles in all aspects of teaching, learning and the student experience.
- Oversee the Access and Participation Plan, including addressing awarding gaps and promoting widening participation and access.

Person Specification

Essential

- A distinguished academic record and experience in higher education teaching and learning.
- Proven leadership in educational innovation and enhancement.

- Strong understanding of the UK higher education landscape, including quality assurance and regulatory frameworks.
- Successful record of undertaking significant academic management and administrative roles at school, faculty and/or university level.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication and influencing skills.
- Commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Desirable

- Experience of leading large-scale change or cross-institutional projects.
- Track record of successful partnership working with students and external organisations.
- Familiarity with digital education, learning analytics, and emerging pedagogical trends.

Expected Outcomes

- Delivery of an outstanding and inclusive student experience across the Faculty's diverse disciplines.
- Continuous improvement in teaching quality and student outcomes.
- Enhanced reputation of the Faculty and University for educational excellence.
- Effective collaboration across disciplines and professional services.



Appointment process

The Vice-Dean of Teaching, Learning and Students will be appointed by a selection committee.

An executive search exercise is being undertaken by Saxton Bampfylde in parallel with the external and internal advertisement of the post. Saxton Bampfylde will support the selection committee in the delivery of its duties, both to assist in the assessment of candidates against the requirements for the role and to identify the widest possible field of qualified candidates.

How to apply

As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applicants from all sections of the community regardless of age, sex, gender (or gender identity), ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and transgender status.

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

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

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 **Monday 12 January 2026**.

Longlisted candidates will be invited to discuss the role further in January 2026. The selection committee will then convene to decide upon a shortlist. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for panel interview. An appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references, and in line with the usual terms and conditions of employment of the University.

* 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.