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UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND
UWS

Member of Court

Appointment pack

Dreaming, Believing, Achieving.
A 21st century university



Contents

About UWS	02
University of the West of Scotland	03
The University Court	04
The role of a member of Court	05
Person specification	07
Eligibility	08
Terms of appointment	09
Appointment process	10
We are here for our students	11
Pioneering research and enterprise	13
A global outlook	14
UWS truths	16



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND
UWS

ABOUT UWS...

19,900
STUDENTS

1,385
STAFF

140
NATIONALITIES
ACROSS OUR FIVE
CAMPUSES

4 SCHOOLS

- BUSINESS & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
- COMPUTING, ENGINEERING & PHYSICAL SCIENCES
- EDUCATION & SOCIAL SCIENCES
- HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES

5 CAMPUSES
AYR, DUMFRIES,
PAISLEY,
LANARKSHIRE
& LONDON

UWS is a university that
dares to be different

Find out more about our exciting opportunity
as a member of the UWS Court >>>

University of the West of Scotland

University of the West of Scotland is a large, modern, multi-campus University with its origins dating back to 1897. Our 5 campuses are across the west and southwest of Scotland and also in London.

In the 2017/18 academic year, UWS created a quantitative impact of **£816million Gross Value Added (GVA)** and **5800 jobs** in Scotland; and **£955million GVA** and **7200 jobs** in the UK. In addition, across Scotland, the University generated **£7 impact** for every **£1 income** received and supported almost 4 jobs for every person it employs.
(source: BiGGAR Economics report on socio-economic impact of UWS 2019)

Further information about the University can be found at www.uws.ac.uk

The University has Charitable Status – charity number SC002520



The University Court

The Court is the governing body of the University and is led by the Chair of Court. Members are drawn from the external community, students and staff with a mixture of appointed and elected Governors reflecting a variety of different skills, experience and interests. The Court is responsible for ensuring the effective management of the University; planning the University's strategic direction and future development and advancing its mission. It must ensure appropriate arrangements for financial management are in place and ensure compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory obligations.

Higher Education in Scotland operates in a complex regulatory environment including:

- The Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016;
- The Scottish Code of Good HE Governance;
- Charity law;
- Scottish Funding Council requirements;
- A range of legislative requirements and duties including those relating to equality, health & safety and information governance.

The Primary responsibilities of the Court are:

- To protect the reputation and values of the University;
- To ensure, in conjunction with the Senate, the quality of the institution's educational provision and adequate provision for the general welfare of students;
- To approve and monitor the performance against the mission and strategic vision of the University, its strategic plan, key performance indicators (KPIs) and annual budgets, ensuring that they take into account the interests of students, staff and other stakeholders;
- To appoint the Principal & Vice-Chancellor as the Chief Executive Officer of the University and put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring his/her performance;
- To appoint the Secretary to the governing body;
- To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls, risk management, and clear procedures for handling internal grievances and complaints.

MEMBERSHIP OF COURT

Role of Court

The University Court is the governing body of the University and collectively determines the future direction of the University and fosters an environment in which the institution's mission is achieved and learners succeed. The Powers of the Court are set out in Schedule 1 to the UWS Order of Council 2019. The Court has wide ranging powers, in particular for the strategic direction of the University, but has delegated purely academic matters to Senate. The Court executes the financial responsibilities of the University and has a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance.

The Court normally meets 4 times per year in November, February, April and June, and should business dictate, an extra-ordinary meeting will be held in September.

The Court is composed of up to twenty five appointed and elected governors reflecting a variety of interests and experience, having regard to the balance of skills, attributes and experience required to enable the Court to function effectively. Between 12 and 16 external members are appointed by Court itself and are referred to as lay governors. The internal members are staff and students of the University.

All members exercise their responsibilities in the interests of the University as a whole rather than as a representative of any constituency. The University maintains a register of interests of members of the Court which is available for public scrutiny.

Further information is available at <https://www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/governance/court/>

Appointments are made by Court on the recommendation of the Governance & Nominations Committee for an initial term of 3 years, but lay governors may serve up to a further two terms. New members are provided with an induction and both internal and external training opportunities.



Person Specification

1. Significant experience of operating at senior level in business, public sector and third sector interested in contributing to good governance on the University Court;
2. Demonstrable ability to add value in a non-executive capacity and to offer to the Court the best possible level of expertise, information and advice in pursuit of achievement of the University's Corporate Strategy;
3. Proven interpersonal and communication skills, including critical listening, the ability to question intelligently and debate constructively;
4. A commitment to high standards of governance and probity and the ability to operate in accordance with the accepted standards of behaviour in public life which embrace selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership;
5. The ability to analyse complex strategic and financial proposals and confidence to challenge and hold to account the University's Vice-Chancellor's Executive Group and other senior officers;
6. The ability to work within a framework of collective decision-making in the best interests of the University and an understanding of the need to balance conflicting factors and make objective decisions;
7. An appreciation of the importance of confidentiality;
8. A strong personal commitment to Higher Education, its governance and the purpose and truths of the University of the West of Scotland;
9. The ability to meet the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Key Responsibilities

1. Attend meetings of the Court and participate in discussions, acting as a "critical friend", contributing to the development, implementation and monitoring of the University's Corporate Strategy;
2. Question intelligently, debate constructively, challenge rigorously and decide dispassionately, listening respectfully to the views of others, inside and outside Court meetings;
3. Attend some of the formal or informal events of the University, including graduation ceremonies; lectures, exhibitions, dinners and other social and celebratory events;
4. Act as an ambassador for the University, promoting its activities in the wider community and to operate as a member of a team;
5. Submit an annual Register of Interests Return.

Time Commitment

The time commitment associated with the role of member of Court would be in the region of 10-14 days per annum, involving attendance at meetings, a residential conference and other formal or informal events and functions.

Remuneration

The role of member of Court is unremunerated, although incidental expenses will be paid.

Persons not appointable as Lay Governors

The appointment of certain individuals as lay governors could compromise effective good governance and so they would not normally be considered for membership. This may be due to:

- Significant and/or recurrent conflict of interests;
- A lack of wider experience, expertise or demonstrable independence; or
- Persons, however eminent in public life, who are unable or unwilling to attend the main meetings of Court or devote appropriate time to Court business.

The person appointed will act in accordance with the Nine Principles of Public Life in Scotland which are the foundation for the governing body's behaviour and its decision-making processes.

Appointment Process

We are currently seeking lay governors to fill vacancies in the membership of Court.

Applications from people with a background in Information Technology, Environmental, Health, Audit, Risk Management, Finance, Education and the Learner Journey would be particularly welcome.

We welcome applications from communities underrepresented in non- executive roles. We vary the times and locations of meetings to support the attendance of members of Court with different work-related or caring responsibilities.

How to Apply

To express an interest please send a full CV and supporting statement outlining your relevant experience and the contribution you could make to the University to:

Alison Loudon, Assistant Secretary to Court, University of the West of Scotland, High Street, Paisley PA1 2BE

E: alison.loudon@uws.ac.uk

Closing Date: Friday 1st May 2020

For further information or informal queries, please contact:

Donna McMillan, Secretary to Court

T: +44(0) 141 848 3677 • E: donna.mcmillan@uws.ac.uk

The University is committed to promote equality and value diversity and will ensure that positive action is taken to maximise equality outcomes. Applicants are also asked to complete a **Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form** and return it to Mags McQuade, HR Services and Payroll Manager, at mags.mcquade@uws.ac.uk

Please note that this form will be used purely for monitoring purposes. The form will be separated from your application and will not form part of the selection process.

At UWS, we invest in our students' future. Our graduates go out into the world ready to succeed thanks to our industry-relevant courses, cutting-edge facilities and innovative approach to teaching.

- Ranked in the top 3 universities in Scotland for teaching quality and in the top 5 for student experience and graduate prospects (The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019)
- Placed by Times Higher Education in the top 500 universities in their 2019 World University Rankings and in the top 150 in their Young University Rankings 2018
- Ranked number one university in the UK for Teacher Education (Guardian University Guide rankings for 2020)
- 95% of undergraduate students are in work or further study within 6 months of graduating (HESA destination of leavers in higher education 2016/17)
- 96.6% of postgraduate students are in work or further study within 6 months of graduating (HESA destination of leavers in higher education 2016/17)

We have a proud record in delivering work-ready graduates and developing effective partnerships with business, industry and the public and voluntary sectors.

We are delivering on our purpose to transform lives and communities through higher education. We equip our students with the skills and confidence to shape their futures, while ensuring that they have the best possible experience and outcomes. As one of Scotland's biggest modern universities with campuses in Paisley, Lanarkshire, Ayr and Dumfries, UWS is the local university for over 30% of the population of central Scotland. We also have a growing national and international reach: our 5th UK campus opened in London in September 2015.

Our student body is unique - many UWS students are the first in their families to go into higher education and we have a high level of mature students with caring and work responsibilities. Our diverse student population means we need to deliver learning in innovative, flexible, personalised and supportive ways. In our Corporate Strategy we set out an ambitious vision to deliver an outstanding teaching and learning environment which is paying dividends for our students.

We have invested in innovative student support services, personalised and flexible education delivery, and interactive technology-supported learning. Our new Lanarkshire Campus, for example, represents a radical departure from traditional university teaching. Its technology-rich, flexible break-out and study spaces encourage greater interaction and collaboration amongst students. They become active co-creators in their education – enhancing their success in learning.

Across the campuses we provide a wealth of academic and enterprise opportunities, including impressive facilities such as Scotland's highest-specification environmental chamber.

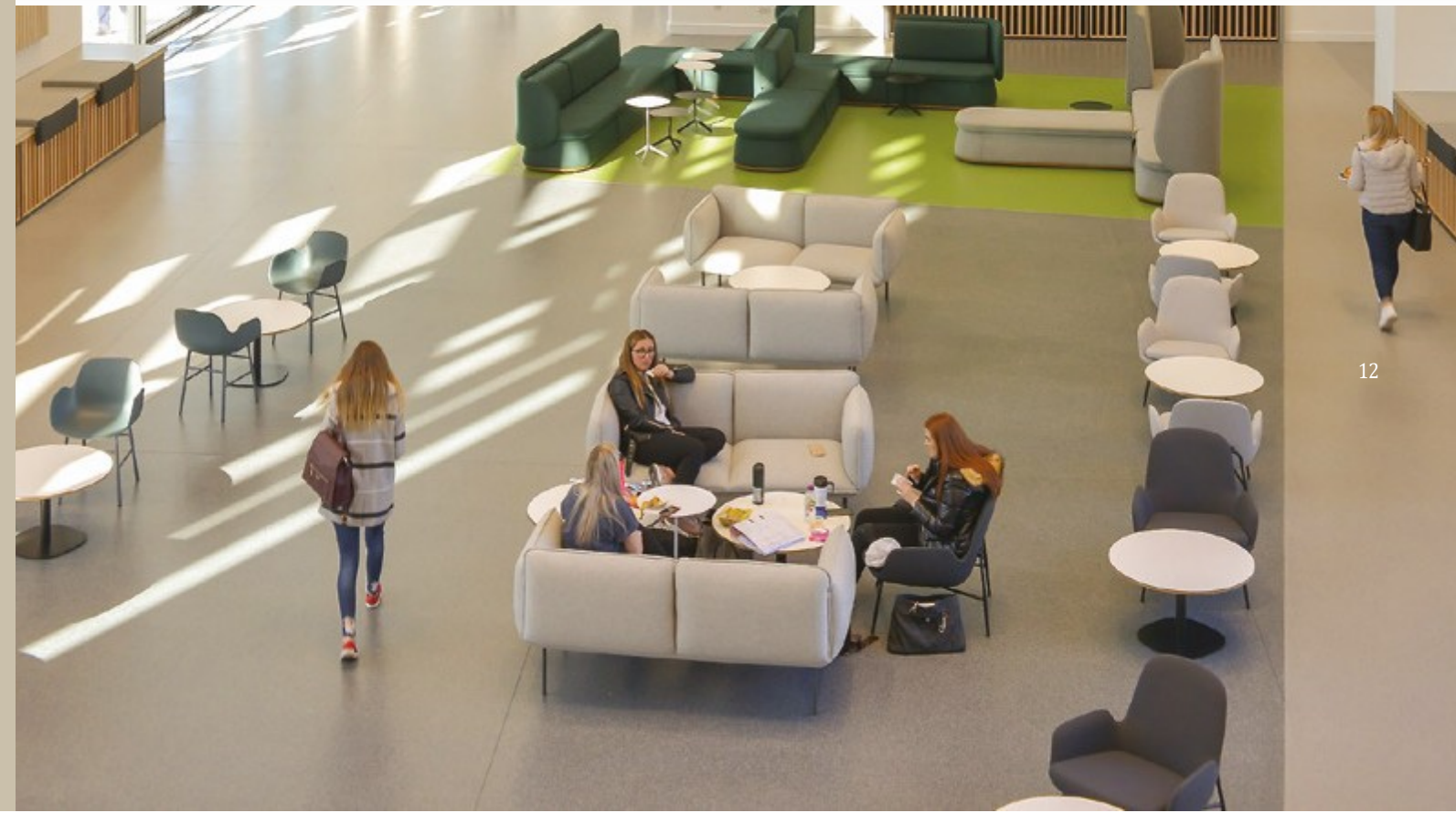
Widening Participation

We are incredibly proud to be leading the way in ensuring that more people from disadvantaged backgrounds go to university in Scotland.

Embedded within our Corporate Strategy is a clear commitment to the support, retention, and success of students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

As a result of our dedication to widening access to higher education and closing the attainment gap, we are delivering on our purpose to change lives and transform communities through outstanding, distinctive and progressive higher education while also helping to meet the Scottish Government's target for widening access.

- Recently published Scottish Funding Council data for 2017/18 shows that almost a quarter of all SIMD20 students in Scotland were studying at UWS (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation SIMD – a statistical tool using postcodes to determine levels of deprivation)
- In addition, during 2017/18, 29.5% of Scottish domiciled full-time first-degree entrants to our University were from SIMD20 areas and 50.3% were from SIMD40 areas



Pioneering Research & Enterprise

We have established ourselves as a force for good through our internationally relevant research which is making a real difference across the globe.

Our ground-breaking research in areas including eye-care, drone technology, artificial intelligence, thin films and sensors, 5G networking, arthritis and dementia care is driving innovative technology developments and shaping society. These endeavours inform our teaching, meaning our students' learning is shaped by those working at the very forefront of their profession.

In 2019 UWS was recognised as one of the UK's top 10 Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) providers, at eighth place for Higher Education institutions across the country.

This success follows a period of tremendous growth for UWS KTP offerings – our KTP portfolio has increased by 300% in the past 12 months, placing UWS as the fastest growing provider of these partnerships in Scotland. The University currently boasts 20 KTPs with a value amounting to £4.1million.

In a Scottish Higher Education first, the University has established its own KTP Centre to ensure business partners, KTP Associates and UWS staff have exclusive access to an in-house specialist team to support their KTP activities.

100% of 2014 REF

(Research Excellence Framework) submissions were ranked as having international or world-leading status in terms of their originality, significance and rigour

A Global Outlook

UWS has a global outlook and enjoys successful partnerships with educational institutions and businesses around the world. This gives our students access to a wealth of international opportunities, from studying abroad with one of our 200 partner institutions to gaining work experience with an international organisation.

- 25 Transnational Education partners (in locations including Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Russia, India and Sri Lanka)
- 140 European partners (including universities in Ireland, Germany, France, Finland, Spain, Italy and Cyprus)
- 30 partners in China
- Scotland's first official training partner for China following accreditation from China's State Administration for Foreign Expert Affairs (SAFEA)





At UWS, we believe in our students' future.

We have a proud record in delivering work-ready graduates and developing effective partnerships with business, industry and the public and voluntary sectors.

With our cutting-edge courses, practical knowledge, and intelligent teaching, we help our students get ahead.

Through our innovative learning partnership we invest in people's potential to shape their future. Built on uniting students, professionals, industry and our communities, this partnership stretches from the West of Scotland around the world.

We believe in the transformative power of active learning and engagement. We treat our students as individuals, partners and potential leaders in their fields and professions, providing them with the globally relevant knowledge, skills and confidence to think critically and to challenge received wisdom.

DREAMING, BELIEVING, ACHIEVING
a 21st century University.

Campuses in
Ayr, Dumfries, Lanarkshire,
London & Paisley

uws.ac.uk
