



University of
Greater
Manchester

• Candidate Pack

Appointment of Governors, University of Greater Manchester



Contents

3	Welcome from the Chair of the Governing Body
4	About the University of Greater Manchester
6	Strategic plan
7	The roles
8	Duties and responsibilities of the post
9	Person specification
10	Terms of appointment
11	How to apply



Appointment of Governors
University of Greater Manchester

Welcome from the Chair of the Governing Body

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Governor of the University of Greater Manchester. I am delighted that you are considering this important opportunity to support our University and the communities we serve.

This is an exciting time for our University. As we build on our bicentenary celebrations and enter the next phase of development, we are looking for thoughtful, committed individuals who share our belief in educational excellence, social mobility and the transformative power of higher education.

The University of Greater Manchester has a proud heritage of widening participation and helping learners achieve their ambitions. Today, we are proud to serve a diverse student community, work closely with employers and partners, and contribute to the economic and social development of Greater Manchester and beyond. Our recent achievements give us confidence and energy as we look to the future.

The role of Governor is both rewarding and meaningful. Governors provide strategic oversight, constructive challenge and careful stewardship of the University's resources, reputation and long-term sustainability. With higher education facing significant change, wise and supportive governance is vital. Training is provided to new and existing Governors, and the skills gained are widely transferable.

We warmly welcome individuals with varied professional experience, diverse perspectives and a genuine interest in supporting an ambitious, values-driven institution. Expertise in finance, audit, legal affairs, education, business, public service or related fields would be especially valuable.

I hope this brief gives you a helpful sense of the opportunity and encourages you to consider joining us. On behalf of the Board, thank you again for your interest; we would be pleased to receive your application.



Andrew Roberts
Chair of the Governing Body
University of Greater Manchester

About the University of Greater Manchester

The University of Greater Manchester is a distinctive, teaching-intensive university with a long history of widening access to education and a strong commitment to its students, its local communities and the wider Greater Manchester region.

Its roots stretch back to 1825, when the Bolton Mechanics' Institute was established to provide working people with the knowledge and skills needed in a rapidly industrialising society. The institution achieved full university status in 2005 and, in December 2024, became the University of Greater Manchester, reflecting both the growth of the institution and its increasing role across the city region, while retaining its longstanding home and identity in Bolton. In 2025, the University celebrated both its bicentenary and 20 years of university status.

Today, the University has a global student community of around 11,000 and employs more than 900 people. It has developed a strong reputation for student-focused education, characterised by relatively small teaching groups, professionally relevant programmes and close links with employers and industry. Its Teaching Intensive, Research Informed approach has been central to this identity, and the University holds a Silver award in the Teaching Excellence Framework. In the 2025 National Student Survey, it was ranked first in Greater Manchester for teaching, with particularly strong results for teaching, learning opportunities and learning resources.

1st

in the North West for
Teaching Quality.
The Times and
Sunday Times 2025

1st

in the North West for
Student Satisfaction.
The Times and Sunday
Times 2025

1st

for student
satisfaction NW. The
Complete University
Guide 2025



The University has invested significantly in its estate and academic provision over the past two decades. Recent developments include the Greater Manchester Business School, the National Centre for Motorsport Engineering and the £40 million Institute of Medical Sciences, developed in partnership with Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, Bolton College and Bolton Council. Based at the Royal Bolton Hospital, the Institute is home to the University's new Medical School, which welcomed its first MBChB students in September 2025, and is intended to make an important contribution to meeting regional and national healthcare workforce needs.

A distinctive University Group

One of the University's defining characteristics is the breadth of the wider University Group, which spans higher and further education, apprenticeships, schools and outdoor learning.

Through organisations including Bolton College, Alliance Learning and the Anderton Centre, alongside its relationship with the Quest Multi Academy Trust, the Group can support learners across different stages of their educational journey. This creates opportunities to develop clearer progression routes, share expertise and facilities, and respond closely to the skills needs of employers and communities.

Few universities operate across such a broad educational landscape, and strengthening the connections between different parts of the Group will be an important area of opportunity over the coming years



Strategic plan

The Greater Manchester Way

The University's Academic Strategy is focused on improving student outcomes while ensuring its academic provision remains relevant, distinctive and sustainable.

At its heart is the Greater Manchester Way, introduced in September 2025. The model builds on the University's established Teaching Intensive, Research Informed approach and places greater emphasis on focused, immersive learning and assessment. Students study through a more intensive block teaching model, supported by small-group learning and timely feedback. The approach has been designed particularly with the University's student population in mind, with the ambition of improving engagement, belonging, retention and attainment.

Growth, partnership and resilience

Alongside its focus on teaching and learning, the University continues to diversify its academic and income base. Areas of opportunity include medicine and healthcare, apprenticeships, specialist engineering, applied research and knowledge exchange.

The University has developed a significant portfolio of UK and international educational partnerships. These relationships extend its reach and provide important opportunities for growth, while bringing increasing complexity and a need for robust academic assurance, quality oversight and risk management. Strengthening the governance of partnerships will therefore continue to be an important priority.

Shaping the next chapter

The University is approaching an important point in its strategic development. Following a period of significant leadership and governance change, it expects to undertake a comprehensive review of its institutional strategy during the 2026/27 academic year, with a new plan anticipated in autumn 2027.

These appointments also come at a time of governance renewal. The University is adopting the revised CUC Higher Education Code of Governance and undertaking an externally supported review of the Board. New Governors will therefore join at a formative moment, with an important role in providing constructive challenge, strengthening governance and helping to shape the University's future direction.



The roles

The University is seeking to make a number of new appointments to the Board, as part of a wider programme of renewal and strengthening following a period of significant change. These appointments will help ensure that the Board has the breadth of experience, expertise and perspective required to support the University effectively through its next phase of development.

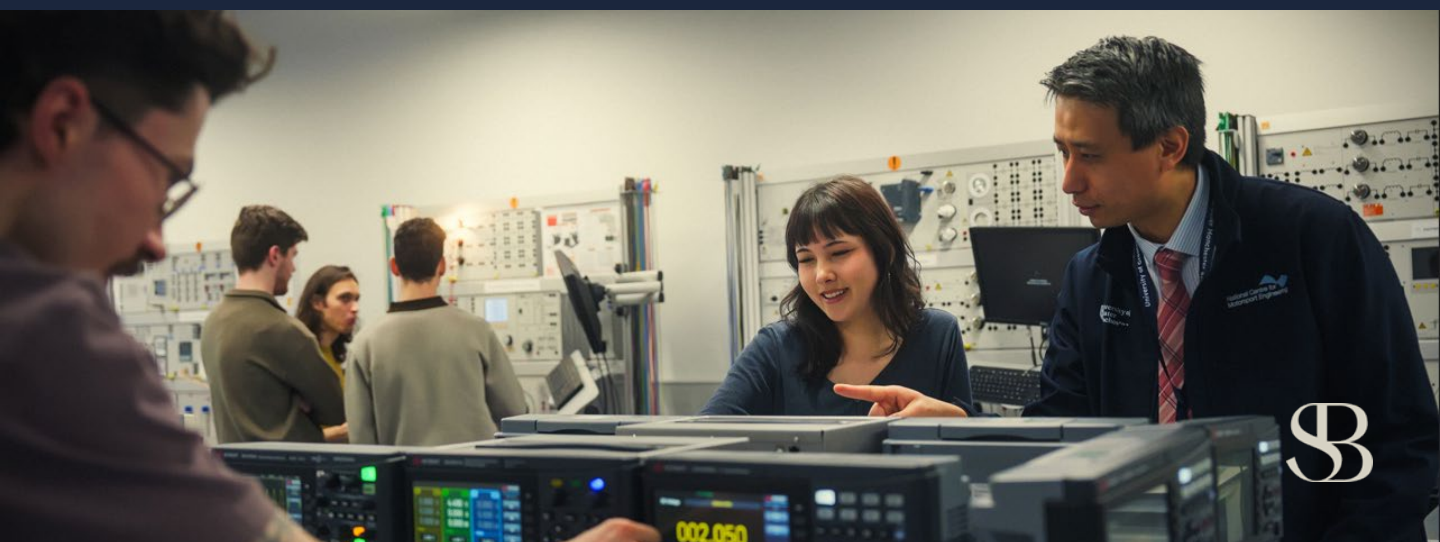
The University is also undertaking an externally supported review of the Board, alongside its implementation of the revised CUC Higher Education Code of Governance. This provides an important opportunity to further strengthen governance arrangements, Board effectiveness and a culture of constructive challenge and strong stewardship.

For these appointments, the University is particularly seeking individuals who can offer one or more of the following skills and experience:

- Finance and accountancy
- Audit and risk
- Legal and regulatory expertise
- Higher education and further education

Role purpose

- To influence the strategic direction and governance of a dynamic academic institution and contribute to the leadership and oversight of the University.
- To contribute to high-level decision-making, support the delivery of academic excellence and help to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the University.
- To have an understanding and commitment to the purpose and value of higher education in widening access and equality of opportunity.



Duties and responsibilities of the post

- To contribute to determining the educational character and mission of the University and have oversight of its activities.
- To contribute to the oversight of the University's strategy and long-term financial sustainability.
- Engage with the issues facing the higher education sector and the University to support active and effective contribution to the business of the Board and University.
- To protect the interests of the University as a charity, ensuring the efficient and effective use of resources in pursuit of its charitable purpose.
- To ensure that the Board operates in accordance with the University's Instrument and Articles of Government and recognised sector governance standards, including any internal regulations designed to ensure legal and regulatory compliance.
- Engage in all meetings of the Board and of Committee(s) of which they are a member. Members are expected to participate in at least one Committee in addition to the main Board.
- To observe and conduct themselves in accordance with the seven principles as provided by the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

External duties

- Members are asked to represent the governing body and promote the University at external events and activities, with appropriate support provided by the University in order for Members to carry out the role effectively and promote the University via their professional and social networks.
- Members are also expected to engage in the life of the University community by participating in events such as the annual graduation ceremonies and professional lectures.

Person specification

Candidates will be able to demonstrate:

- A strong track record of achievement and leadership in the private, public and/or third sectors.
- Experience of operating at board level, advising governing bodies, or contributing to the strategic oversight of complex organisations.
- Sound judgement, intellectual curiosity and the ability to provide constructive challenge in support of effective governance and decision-making.
- An understanding of risk, stewardship and organisational sustainability, with the ability to scrutinise performance, strategy and financial matters.
- A commitment to the values and purpose of higher education, including widening access, social mobility and equality of opportunity.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to work collaboratively and build effective relationships across a diverse academic community.
- High levels of integrity and a commitment to the principles of public life, including accountability, openness and ethical leadership.
- The ability to assimilate complex written information and contribute thoughtfully to discussions on the performance, governance and future direction of the University.





Terms of appointment

Time Commitment

The expected time commitment of a Member of the Board is currently:

- Four (4) meetings per academic year, plus time for reading papers in advance
- Support for one or more of the Board's Committees. Each Committee has three (3) meetings per academic year.
- Attend University organised Board training and development activity days (twice a year in March and November).

Members are encouraged and supported to attend other development activities relevant to their role.

Appointment and Tenure

Members are appointed for an initial period of three (3) years.

Appointments may be renewed at the end of the first period of office, subject to the recommendation of the Nominations Committee.

Remuneration

Whilst this is a voluntary unremunerated position, the University will reimburse all reasonable travel and other expenses incurred by Governors in fulfilling their duties whilst on University business.



How to apply

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

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at **roles.saxbam.com** using code **ICARA**.

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 Wednesday 2nd September 2026.

* 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.

• **[Read our guide to writing cover letters](#)**





 University of
Greater
Manchester