

GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT PACK 2024

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

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We're looking to recruit one or two new members to our Board of Governors, who have significant senior-level experience within higher education, or are experts in specific aspects of higher education practice. This pack sets out the detail of the role, but if you would like an informal discussion with the Secretary, or with the Governor who currently fills this role and whose term is coming to an end, please contact [**governance@aub.ac.uk**](mailto:governance@aub.ac.uk)

Message from the Chair of the Board

Thank you for your interest in joining our Board of Governors.

AUB is a distinctive, specialist institution steadily expanding its reach and influence in the UK and around the world. The launch of our new school of Arts, Media and Creative Industries Management demonstrates our continuing commitment to ensuring that our graduates are equipped for a wide range of successful careers in the rapidly growing creative industries sector and beyond.

Delivering a high-quality academic experience lies at the core of AUB activity, and we wish to stay at the forefront of teaching and learning practice, incorporating new technology and new thinking around pedagogy. The HE experienced governor makes a vital contribution to this, supporting academic quality assurance and innovation in teaching and learning, as well as helping the university prepare for success in external assessment frameworks and compliance with regulatory requirements. We're keen to attract someone with deep knowledge and experience, prepared to offer fresh perspectives and ask challenging questions.

AUB benefits from inspiring executive leadership, dedicated experienced staff and a Students' Union focused on practical support for student success at university and beyond. With growing strength in research, a very active civic role and the development of new partners in transnational education, the institution is developing rapidly to meet the challenges of diversifying revenue sources while continuing to deliver undergraduate and postgraduate education of the highest quality.

I'm grateful that you are considering giving your time to this role and I hope that the information in the pack encourages you to take your interest further.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Dorothy Mackenzie
Chair of the Board

ABOUT AUB

Arts University Bournemouth is a specialist Higher Education Institution (HEI) dedicated to the study of art, architecture, design, media, performance and creative industries management, with an enviable national and international reputation. The University has just over 4,000 students based at an award-winning and striking modern, 11-acre campus.

AUB offers about 30 undergraduate degree courses and nearly 20 postgraduate taught courses, some of which are delivered online. There are also opportunities for PhD research and a range of short courses. We offer a full range of creative disciplines and prepare students for roles within the vibrant and growing creative industries across the UK and internationally. Our new School of Arts, Media and Creative Management will create the leaders and managers for the creative industries of the future.

As well as being offered a first-class education in their chosen subjects, students are encouraged to be curious and to take risks in their work. Across the campus (both physical and virtual) students are busy sharing ideas and creating, whether designing costumes, 3D printing, drawing, modelmaking, preparing film scripts or rehearsing plays. The University places great importance on collaborative study across course boundaries and provides access to the most up-to-date technologies, innovative facilities, and digital tools.

We also have five academic (validation) partnerships, one of which is international, and are actively growing this area of our work.

The University has an ambitious **Strategy 2030**, which sets out how it will develop national and international distinctiveness by embracing innovation, collaboration and connectedness; and secure financial sustainability through diversifying sources of income, and widening its commercial activities. With its commitment to a global future, and to creating new overseas opportunities for students and staff, now is an excellent time to join AUB.

Vision and values

VISION

A world-class arts, design, performance and media university working with professional partners to create excellence, relevance and impact.

VALUES

In all that we do, we're innovative, collaborative, connected and passionate.

GOVERNANCE AT AUB

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the mission and educational character of AUB. It sets strategic direction, and is collectively accountable for institutional activities, including academic assurance.

The Board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the University complies with the Conditions of Registration set down by the Office for Students (OfS), as the lead regulator for HEIs, and with the requirements of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) for research funding.

The Board has its own Statement of Primary Responsibilities, which reflects the powers and responsibilities of the Board derived from its Instrument and Articles. The Board has adopted the Nolan Principles of standards in public life and is committed to the delivery of high-quality higher education, which commands public confidence and protects the reputation of the UK system. It follows the model Code of Governance published by the Committee of University Chairs (CUC).

THE ROLE

The Board has a preferred overall membership of 17. Current Board membership, and the profiles of members, is available at aub.ac.uk/legal-and-governance

We seek to appoint one or two new members to our Board, to take up the role from January 2025.

Person specification

We expect all Board members to:

- Be driven by a genuine commitment to public service and the value of creative arts education.
- Have, or develop, a strong grasp of evolving regulatory framework in higher education, and the political context in which the sector is situated.
- Have, or develop, a strong understanding of the requirements and constraints of running an institution that is publicly funded, and which needs to meet high standards of public accountability.
- Be well-connected in areas relevant to the role with a proven ability able to influence and persuade.
- Be committed to the vision and forward direction of the University, and willing to advocate and lobby on its behalf.

All Board members must also demonstrate:

- A high level of personal integrity and high ethical standards.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to relate to a wide range of different people and constituencies, both inside and outside the University.
- The ability to draw support from third parties to further the University's mission.
- Sound analytical skills, judgement and decision-making, both in relation to people and issues.
- A commitment to working as part of a well-functioning Board, working positively with others.

Ideally, candidates should have experience of Board-level decision-making, but we're also interested to hear from those who meet the person specification for whom this would be a first public appointment.

AUB seeks to add to its Board and appoint one or two members to its Board of Governors who have **senior-level experience in higher education**, or who are **experts in specific aspects of higher education practice**, who meet a majority of the following criteria:

EXPERIENCE

- Experience of management and leadership at (at least) second tier level in a HEI and in subjects relevant to AUB provision.
- Experience of higher education in the creative and performing arts.
- Experience of the development and implementation of strategy in a relevant context.
- Experience of participation in national/international-level activity in relevant subjects/disciplines or organisations such as Subject Associations and Mission Groups.
- Experience of Governance and Committee work/relevant NED experience.
- Experience of involvement in academic quality control, assurance and management, preferably in validation, institutional approval and review.
- Experience and deep understanding of creative pedagogies, and the use of innovation in higher education.

UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE

- Understanding of how a university or HEI operates, including an appreciation of the importance of the interplay between academic delivery and professional services support.
- Understanding of the regulatory and reporting framework for English higher education [e.g. OfS, HESA, UKVI, HEBCI etc] and of assessment frameworks such as the REF, TEF and KE.
- Understanding of Risk Management in an academic context and ability to advise the Audit and Risk Committee on such.
- An appreciation of what constitutes research in art, design and performance, in addition to related humanities and of social sciences disciplines relevant to AUB.
- An appreciation of changing trends in learning, teaching and assessment, including the influence and impact of digital technologies.
- Understanding of other regulatory frameworks affecting AUB, especially the Ofsted framework and related inspection regime for FE and apprenticeships, including the willingness to represent the University as a governor in external reviews as necessary (e.g. Ofsted inspection).
- An understanding of activity leading to income from diverse sources (e.g. commercial enterprise, knowledge transfer, short courses) and of transnational education and academic partnerships.

OTHER

- Availability and willingness to attend meetings of the University Academic Board (usually held online) as a non-voting representative of the Governors and to participate in other relevant committees of the Board, including the Academic Matters Committee.

- Able to provide informal support, understanding and empathy toward senior staff responsible for delivering and achieving the goals of the University’s Portfolio Plan and Research and Knowledge Exchange plans, respecting the lines of demarcation between academic governance and executive leadership and management.
- Able to provide formal and/or informal support to elected officers of the AUB Students’ Union in matters of academic governance, and to demonstrate understanding of and empathy for the experiences of the student community at AUB.

DIVERSITY

AUB has a genuine and active commitment to embedding equality and diversity into its work. The Board recognises the importance of reflecting this diversity, and the recruitment of new members from diverse backgrounds is therefore a priority.

Expressions of interest are particularly encouraged from underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities and disabled people. All appointments will be made on merit, following a fair and transparent process. In line with the Equality Act 2010, however, the organisation may employ positive action where candidates from underrepresented backgrounds can demonstrate their ability to perform the role equally well.

Practical matters

- i) Appointment will be for a three-year term; members may serve for a maximum of three three-year terms. Appointment for a second (or third) term will be on the recommendation of the Search and Governance Committee, which will consider overall Board profile, and the member’s attendance and engagement at the Board and its Committees.
- ii) Candidates should be UK-based.
- (iii) Members are expected to attend all meetings of the Board and any Committees of which they are a member or give timely apologies to the Secretary if absence is unavoidable.
- iv) All members will be expected to serve on at least one of the Board’s Committees, as well as the Board itself. The successful candidate will be expected to take over as Chair of Academic Matters Committee from July 2025.
- v) The Board meets five times in each academic year, and the Committees generally three or four times. Remote attendance at Board meetings is permitted in exceptional circumstances, but shouldn’t be the norm. Members should expect to attend the University at least 6-8 times in an academic year.
- (vi) Members of the Board are not remunerated, but members may reclaim travelling and similar expenses incurred in attending meetings/events. Full details are available from the Secretary.

(vii) Members will be encouraged to engage in regular appraisal/review of the performance of the Boards, its committee and its members as established by the Board of Governors for the purpose.

(viii) If invited to interview, candidates will be required to sign a declaration to confirm that they fulfil the Board's 'fit and proper' person criteria.

Expressions of interest

Enquiries and expressions of interest (a short cover letter and CV) should be directed to governance@aub.ac.uk by 17.00 on **25 October 2024**.

Actual or potential conflicts of interest should be declared at the point of submitting an expression of interest.

Expressions of interest will initially be reviewed by a sub-group of the Board to ensure that a wide range of candidates are considered at the second stage of the process, covering all the necessary skills and experience. A longlist of candidates will be drawn up for initial interviews to be held on 18 November 2024; a final, second interview will be held in early December 2024.

For an informal conversation about the role, please contact [**governance@aub.ac.uk**](mailto:governance@aub.ac.uk)