

Academic Board

2025-26

University committees are requested to ensure that, in undertaking the business of the meeting, decisions taken are consistent with and reflect and promote the University's [Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom](#) and the University's [Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Policy](#).

Purpose

Academic Board safeguards the academic integrity of the University and is the custodian of its degree awarding powers. As the most senior University academic body, it provides the Vice Chancellor and the Board of Governors with authoritative and expert advice on the formulation and delivery of the University's Mission and Strategic Plan.

Terms of reference

1. To advise the Vice Chancellor and the *Board of Governors* on:
 - a) the formulation and delivery of the University's Mission, values and vision
 - b) the formulation and delivery of the University's Strategic Plan
 - c) the continuous improvement of the student academic experience and student outcomes
 - d) the standards of awards
 - e) the University's academic portfolio, admissions policy and annual targets for admissions.
2. To be responsible for:
 - a) the approval of general regulations relating to the University's awards, including honorary degrees
 - b) the University's framework for the management of quality and standards and for the health of the University's academic provision, in particular through the consideration of an annual quality report
 - c) the convergence of the University's academic planning and resource allocation processes in consultation with the *Executive Board*
 - d) the criteria and procedures for academic promotion, on the advice of the *Academic Promotions Committee*
 - e) the appointment of such honorary positions as approved by the Board and to award honorary degrees and fellowships
 - f) making appointments to the committees of Academic Board as specified within their terms of reference and constitutions
3. To recommend to the *Board of Governors* the University's Mission, vision, values and Strategic Plan.
4. To provide assurance to the *Board of Governors* that the University has an effective framework, overseen by the Academic Board, to manage the quality of learning and teaching, and to maintain academic standards.
5. To advise the *Board of Governors* on the development of the academic activities of the University.
6. To advise on such other matters as the *Board of Governors* may refer to the Academic Board.

Delegated responsibilities

7. Through the *Research Committee* to determine and monitor the effectiveness of the Research strategy of the University and the ethical conduct of research, and have oversight of University research units, centres and institutes.
8. Through the *Quality and Standards Committee*, *Education Committee* and *University Assessment Board* to exercise responsibility for the determination and implementation of the University's regulatory framework for awards, assessment policy (including arrangements for external examining), quality assurance and enhancement arrangements and the wider student experience including matters such as student support and welfare.
9. Through the *Strategic Portfolio Committee*, to be responsible for the strategic development and oversight of the University's academic portfolio.
10. Through the *Appeals and Conduct Committee*, to be responsible for the approval of exceptional arrangements for student programmes of study, consideration of cases of cheating and plagiarism, adjudication on the recommendations of Standards Review Committee in relation to suspension and termination of academic study, appeals against academic judgement and appeals against decisions about fitness for academic practice.
11. Through the *Appeals and Conduct Committee* to be responsible for the procedures for consideration, hearing and resolution of issues concerning student conduct and discipline.
12. To the Chair, to approve Visiting Professorships and Fellowships on the recommendation of the Pro Vice Chancellor Education and Pro Vice Chancellor Research and International, with the support of the relevant Head/Dean of School/London Campus.
13. To the Chair, to approve appointments to committees in between meetings as necessary.
14. To the Chair, to approve any partnership agreements that are recommended after the end of the last Academic Board of the academic year.
15. To the Chair, to approve any amendment to University regulation or policy required to meet professional, statutory, or regulatory body requirements after the end of the last Academic Board of the academic year.

Constitution

In accordance with the University's Articles of Association, the Academic Board comprises not more than 30 members including the Vice Chancellor (as Chair).

The Academic Board shall consist of:

Core members

- Chair, Vice Chancellor, ex officio, Professor Karen Bryan OBE
- Deputy Chair, University Secretary and Registrar, Kathryn Kendon
- Pro Vice Chancellor Education, ex officio, Professor Richard Bourne
- Pro Vice Chancellor Research and International, ex officio, Professor Rob Mortimer
- Heads/Dean of School (6), ex officio
 - Professor Anne-Marie Evans (School of Humanities)
 - Professor Brendan Paddison (York Business School)
 - Dr Caroline Elbra-Ramsey (interim) (School of Education, Language and Psychology)
 - Professor Helen Minors (School of the Arts)

- Dr Graeme Law (interim) (School of Science, Technology and Health)
- Louise Donaghy (London)
- Director of Student Success and Learning Services, ex officio, Rumnique Gill
- President of Undergraduate Experience, Students' Union, ex officio, Ann-Marie Mafura
- President of Postgraduate Experience, Students' Union, ex officio, Efosa Iyekekpolor
- Representative of the Academic team elected from each School and the London Campus, not being the Head of School, to be elected by the academic staff to serve for three years (6), elected
 - Dr Elizabeth Goodwin (School of Humanities) (to June 2028)
 - Dr Sarah O'Brien (School of the Arts) (to June 2028)
 - Dr Owen Kavanagh (School of Science, Technology and Health) (to June 2028)
 - Dr Clare Cunningham (School of Education, Language and Psychology) (to June 2026)
 - Dr Owen Powell (York Business School) (to June 2028)
 - Dr Amir Keshtiban (London representative) (to June 2028)
- Additional co-opted member from among the academic staff, elected from under-represented groups, Professor Helen Sauntson (to December 2025)

In attendance

- Academic Registrar, Executive Officer, Penni Robson
- Director of Strategy and Projects, Christina Raven
- Director of Marketing, Student Recruitment and Admissions, Matthew Taylor
- Chief Information Officer, Emma Woodcock
- Student representatives, appointed by the Students' Union (up to two per meeting), attendance by agreement
- Head of Academic Quality, Emma Sheffield
- Board of Governors representative (one per meeting), attendance by agreement
- Staff member elected to the Board of Governors, Holly Keable
- Minuting Secretary, Lorna Shrubbs

In making appointments to the Committee, Academic Board should give due regard to the University's commitment to create an environment where our people can participate and flourish, where quality, humanity and social justice are valued and promoted within and beyond the University.

Frequency

Four per year, plus one joint meeting with the Board of Governors.

Procedural rules

Meetings shall be conducted according to the Standing Orders for Academic Board and its committees.

The quorum for a meeting shall be half the membership plus one.

Alternates:

- *Ex officio members:* Alternates will be nominated by the members and notified to the Academic Registrar annually.

- *Elected members:* Where University-wide elections take place; the unsuccessful candidates who received the highest number of votes will be the designated alternates. In the event of there being insufficient nominations, each elected member will nominate an alternate at the beginning of each year of their term of office.

Reporting

A record of minutes will be maintained by the Executive Officer and Minuting Secretary. Minutes of Academic Board are provided to the Board of Governors.