



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
NEW UNIVERSITY

EST. 1891



Audit Committee Member

Recruitment Pack

BNU.AC.UK

Welcome from the Chair of Council and the Vice-Chancellor

Thank you for your interest in the role of Audit Committee Member at Buckinghamshire New University (BNU).

BNU is a modern university, with a proud 130-year heritage of transforming our students' lives. Our richly diverse student body has a high proportion of students drawn from ethnic minorities and from areas with low rates of participation in higher education. We build social capital as well as skills and competences to help our students reach their full potential and succeed in their chosen careers and professions. We offer a distinctive, high-quality education coupled with well-developed regional, national and international partnerships. Our staff are adept in using employment-focused and skills-based teaching in a learning community which features small class sizes with highly interactive research-informed teaching and employment-related practice. This is reflected in the University's current award of Silver in the Teaching Excellence Framework, our excellent student satisfaction results, and significant improvements in our league table position.

The University continued its ascent of the Guardian University Guide, with our 2022 results in the National Student Survey (NSS) playing a strong part in our climb of seven places to rank joint 70th. This was BNU's fourth successive year-on-year improvement in the Guide.

The University also climbed into the top 10 for teaching quality in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023, and into the top 20 for student experience.

Reflecting our mission and diverse student body, the University climbed 11 places to 15th for social inclusion and we are proud to have the 11th smallest Black achievement gap among all UK providers BNU also excelled in the recent Whatuni Awards. The University climbed 43 places this year to rank 11th in the competition for Whatuni 2022 University of the Year. BNU also finished as runners-up for 'Lecturers and Teaching Quality' and ranked in the top ten for Student Support (5th), International (7th), Students' Union (9th), and Career Prospects (10th).

These successes have been built on an impressive and sustained financial performance. Having previously posted deficits in the years 2016/17 to 2018/19, the University embarked on an ambitious strategy, Impact 2022, to deliver financial sustainability and sustained improvements in education, research, and a range of strategic priorities as well as our underlying resource base. Since then the University has delivered impressive performance, producing successive years of financial surplus, some of which we have been able to share with our staff through an annual bonus scheme. In 2021/22, this performance culminated in our best ever financial results, posting a healthy surplus, growing gross income, building cash reserves, and maintaining impressive levels of liquidity. We have produced substantial growth in student numbers, dramatically improved our reputation, and embarked on significant developments in relation to our estate, our digital capability, and our people.

All the while, we have made serious and sector-leading commitments on sustainability and corporate social responsibility, building on our inclusive and values-based culture. In some ways capping these remarkable successes, we were enormously proud last year to announce that Jay Blades MBE is BNU's first Chancellor. Jay is an alumnus of the University, having studied criminology and philosophy, and has frequently praised the University for the support he received to overcome dyslexia. Jay will inspire our students and staff with his passion for education and for social justice. He will work closely with us to develop new and innovative furniture-related courses and facilities and create legacy projects that will provide lasting benefits for our students and local communities.

This is therefore an extraordinarily exciting time to join the University in a governance role as we, inspired by our new Chancellor, commence work on our new and equally ambitious strategy, Thrive 2028.

We are seeking enthusiastic and energetic individuals who have a keen interest in higher education and bring key skills of collaboration and commercial acumen. We are particularly interested to hear from individuals with skills and expertise related to:

- Finance, in particular qualified accountants

Additionally, we would particularly welcome individuals with regional connections to Buckinghamshire. We are seeking individuals who will be ambitious in supporting the University in the delivery of our mission to transform lives through inspiring, employment- and profession-focused education, and enabling our students positively to impact society.

We thank you in advance for your interest in joining the University's Council and look forward to hearing from you.



Maggie Galliers CBE
Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council



Professor Nick Braisby
Vice-Chancellor







OUR HISTORY





Strategic **vision**

To thrive
To grow or develop strongly, vigorously...; To prosper, flourish

Thrive 2028 is designed to ensure the University's relationship with its customers is thriving, that its product base is thriving, that its people thrive, and that its environment thrives, and will make effective, substantial and lasting change to ensure this happens. For each of these four, over-arching pillars, it aims to ensure that the University is better able to compete in the markets in which it operates – that it drives, grows, develops, is successful, healthy and strong.

Our Four Pillars

SUPPORT STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

DELIVER KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

BECOME A FIT AND AGILE ORGANISATION

SUPPORT OUR PLACES AND OUR PARTNERS





Campuses

HIGH WYCOMBE CAMPUS

Our main campus sits prominently in the centre of High Wycombe and continues to develop in line with the University's strategic direction. High Wycombe has a vibrant, friendly and inclusive atmosphere. Students benefit from new and evolving facilities that enable them to achieve their potential, both practically and academically.

Over the last few years, we have invested heavily in renovating and expanding the High Wycombe Campus to provide students with cutting-edge resources and facilities. Our state-of-the-art building, the Gateway, won a RIBA Award in 2010 and comprises a learning resource and technology centre, events hall, gym, sports science laboratory, dance, drama, music and video production studios, a library and meeting rooms.

Bucks Students' Union is housed on site, along with a student bar, cafés and an entertainment venue. The University has three self-catering halls of residence in High Wycombe which provide 885 single study bedrooms.

The Human Performance, Exercise & Wellbeing Centre opened in 2015 to bring together our existing health and sports provision with new undergraduate programmes. The Centre also houses a sports injury and physiotherapy clinic open to the public, a human performance laboratory and a three-lane running track with motion-capture technology.

In January 2022 the University commenced an ambitious £15m re-development of its High Wycombe campus to create the heart of the campus. This will provide new student social space including a student hub and refreshment facilities.



Visuals of the High Wycombe development



AYLESBURY CAMPUS

Our newest campus continues our vision of offering education that equips students with the skills that employers are looking for. The new campus provides access to degree level courses and professional development programmes, allowing individuals to access employer-led education and training locally, and for employers to work in partnership with us to meet their needs. Based at the head of the Grand Union Canal basin, next to the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury, the campus includes specialist and general teaching facilities.



MISSENDEN ABBEY

Missenden Abbey is a dedicated conference and events venue set in ten acres of beautiful grounds in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. This unique part of the Buckinghamshire New University estate is also used as a training facility and hosts BNU-accredited postgraduate and professional short courses.

Missenden Abbey was originally founded in 1133 by a group of Augustinian Canons from Arrouaise in Northern France. After being forfeited to the crown following the dissolution of the monastery and changing hands a number of times throughout its 800-year history, it became an impressive part of the Buckinghamshire New University estate in the 1990s.

The University has ambitious plans to relaunch Missenden Abbey as a high end boutique hotel providing opportunities for our students to gain valuable work experience on our international hotel management programmes.



BNU BASED AT PINEWOOD STUDIOS

Our small and growing site at the world renowned Pinewood Studios enables our students studying creative courses linked to the film and TV industries to learn right in the heart of this exciting industry.



UXBRIDGE CAMPUS

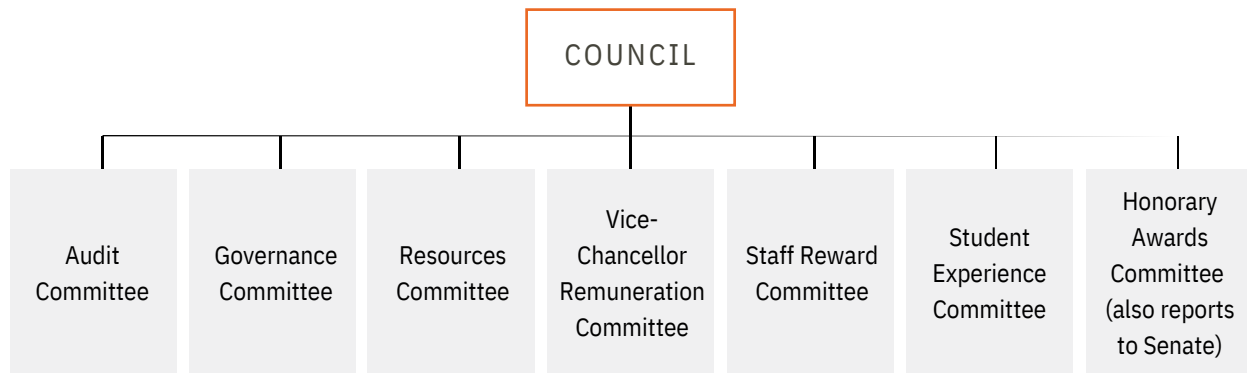
Our Uxbridge Campus opened its doors to students in 2009. It is the home of our prestigious nursing and health care practice courses and is based in the centre of Uxbridge. The School of Nursing & Allied Health benefits from the fantastic facilities this campus offers, including an impressive range of specialist medical equipment and high-tech learning facilities such as clinical skills rooms and simulation manikins.

The campus is contained within one building and students enjoy the same friendly and inclusive atmosphere that flows throughout the University. Permanent representatives of Bucks Students' Union are based at Uxbridge, and it also has its own café.

A shuttle bus runs regularly between our High Wycombe and Uxbridge campuses, ensuring students are able to benefit from facilities on both sites.

Governance

The Council meets six times per year to debate and discuss issues relevant to the University and the higher education sector in general. The Council has a number of committees and members serve on at least one of these committees. In addition, dependent on availability, members support major University events, for example, Graduation Ceremonies, Professional Lectures or other public events.



The full Council meets six times a year and its committees typically once per term with the majority of meetings being held on the High Wycombe campus either in person or virtually



Commitment to Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

BNU is proud to have a diverse community and a strong track record of diversity, equity and inclusion. Our aim is to continue to build an environment where everyone thrives and can be themselves. We therefore ensure that our interview/shortlisting Chairs complete the relevant e-learning and/or inclusive recruitment training.

We therefore particularly encourage applications from candidates who are likely to be underrepresented in BNU'S workforce. These include people from global majority backgrounds, disabled people, and LGBTQI+ people. We will also offer alternative interview options for neurodiverse candidates.

Reasonable expenses associated with the interview will be reimbursed.



About the role

Audit Committee Members should be passionate about contributing to the development of Higher Education and learning. As a member of the University's governance they play a key role in ensuring that the University continues to pursue its vision and mission, deliver on its Strategic Plan and meets the requirements of its regulator – the Office for Students.

RESPONSIBILITIES

University governing bodies are entrusted with funds, both public and private, and therefore have a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance. This includes ensuring and demonstrating integrity and objectivity in the transaction of their business, and wherever possible following a policy of openness and transparency in their decision-making.

For more information about the work of the committee you can read the terms of reference [here](#)

The University's Council subscribes to and complies with the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) 'Higher Education Code of Governance' which supports governing bodies to deliver the highest standards of governance and sets out the primary responsibilities of Higher Education governing bodies:

4. the employment of those designated by the Council as Senior Employees and their appointment, grading, assignment, appraisal, suspension, dismissal and determination of their pay and conditions of service
5. setting the framework for the employment, including pay and conditions, of all other employees and contractors
6. corporate policies, regulations and procedures to assure the effective governance of the University and to meet statutory and other legal obligations, including an anti-fraud and anti-corruption policy.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION CODE OF GOVERNANCE

The University's Articles of Government, as approved by the Privy Council, detail the responsibilities of the University's Council as being:

1. the determination of the educational character and mission of the University and for oversight of its activities
2. the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the University and the Corporation and, for safeguarding their assets
3. approving annual estimates of income and expenditure



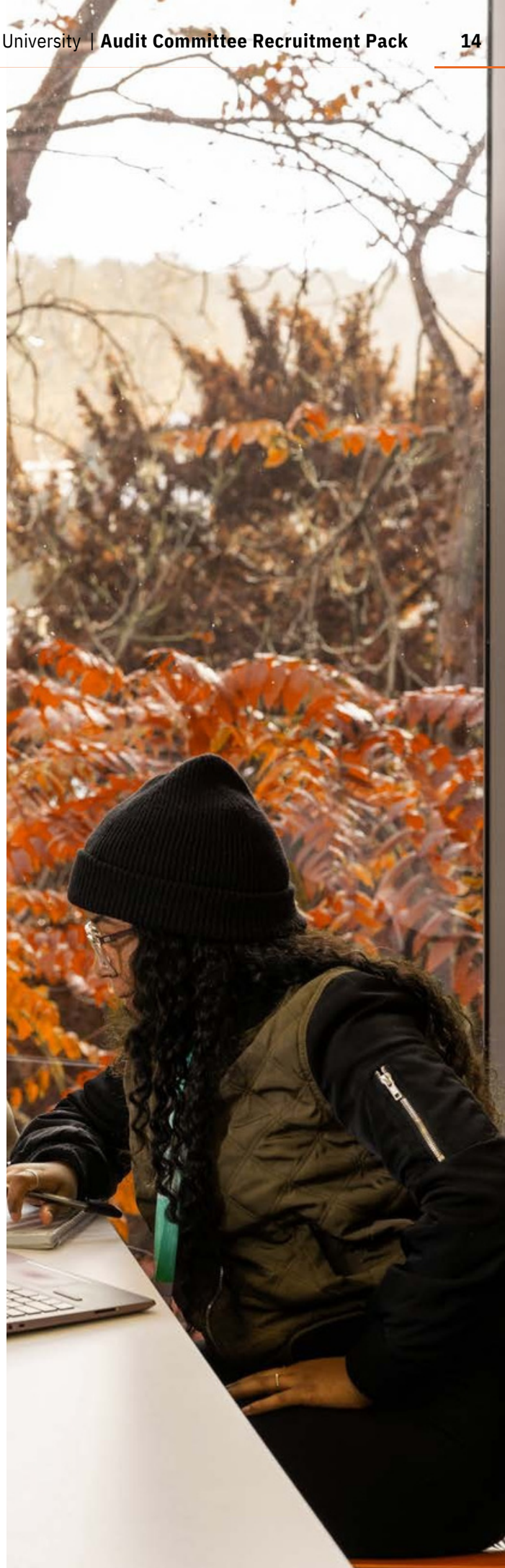
Person specification

Audit and Risk Committee Members use their skills, knowledge and time to assist the governing body in respect of the entire assurance and control environment of the University.

Individuals will demonstrate the standards expected of appointments to public office

In particular, the University is looking for candidates who:

- have a strong interest and commitment to education
- have a good knowledge and experience of working in a senior finance role.
- possess independence of mind: a proven track record of providing clear independent, balanced advice and guidance with the ability to challenge constructively.
- have held prominent or senior positions or been Board members within the context of their workplace or profession, have an understanding of corporate governance and will be able to exercise their responsibilities with initiative and discretion.
- possess excellent communication skills with the ability to interpret complex information.
- demonstrate the standards expected of appointments to public office.
- are committed to the ethos, mission and values of the University, and committed to equality diversity and inclusion.
- are willing to act as an ambassador for the University.



Additional information

TIME COMMITMENT

The committee will normally meet four times a year, with one meeting to be scheduled at a time in the autumn to consider the University's financial statements and prepare the Audit Committee's annual report to Council and the Vice-Chancellor. The estimated time commitment for this role is eight days annually although more time may be required depending on allocated committees and additional responsibilities including chairing duties. In addition members are encouraged to attend University events eg, Graduation Ceremonies.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

The initial term of appointment is four years extendible for a second term up to a maximum of eight years.

REMUNERATION

This role is non-remunerated. Members are able to claim reasonable travel and other expenses incurred whilst undertaking University duties.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All candidates will be asked to declare any conflicts of interest. This will be examined to see if an actual conflict exists.

How to Apply

The recruitment process is being undertaken by Inclusive Boards on behalf of Buckinghamshire New University. If you wish to apply for this position, please supply the following by **23.30 on 17/12/2023**.

- A detailed CV setting out your career history, with responsibilities and achievements.
- A covering letter (maximum 2 sides) highlighting your suitability for the role and how you meet the person specification. **Please note that the covering letter is an important part of your application and will be assessed as part of your full application.**
- Details of two professional referees together with a brief statement of their relationship to you and over what period of time they have known you. Referees will not be contacted without your prior consent.

If you have further questions after reading this pack, please email bnu@inclusiveboards.co.uk or call **0207 267 8369**.

Please visit www.inclusiveboards.co.uk/opportunities to apply online or send your CV and cover letter to BNU@inclusiveboards.co.uk.





Missenden Abbey
London Road
Great Missenden
Buckinghamshire
HP16 0BD


High Wycombe Campus
Queen Alexandra Road
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP11 2JZ


Aylesbury Campus
59 Walton Street
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP21 7QG


Uxbridge Campus
106 Oxford Road
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UB8 1NA


BNU based at
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INCLUSIVE BOARDS

About Us

Inclusive Boards is the UK's leading board diversity practice. We have worked alongside over 300 organisations to provide support with Board recruitment, development and governance reviews. We strive to be at the forefront of equity and diversity, and believe that everyone should be represented at Board level. Additionally, we also provide bespoke training sessions on a variety of subjects including personal branding, inclusive recruitment practices and board structures and governance as well as delivering leadership development programmes for underrepresented leaders across a range of sectors.

Contact us today

Improve diversity on your Board, please don't hesitate to contact us via hello@inclusiveboards.co.uk.

To join a Board, sign up to become a candidate via our website and be notified of the latest opportunities as and when they become available.



www.inclusiveboards.co.uk



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