

Health Sciences University

Chair of the Board of Governors Candidate Information Pack 2025



Introduction

Health Sciences University (HSU) stands at the forefront of health and care education, research, leadership and practice. Formed in July 2024 through the merger of AECC University College and the University College of Osteopathy, HSU brings together a proud legacy of innovation and global leadership in health education, spanning over a century.

As a specialist institution dedicated to advancing health and wellbeing, HSU operates across two vibrant campuses in Bournemouth and London and is committed to further expanding its existing transnational reach through additional academic partnerships. With a diverse community of around 2,500 students and over 400 staff, we offer more than 30 courses across allied health, sport and exercise sciences, psychology and mental health, chiropractic, osteopathy, and healthcare leadership and management. Our commitment to lifelong learning is reflected in our growing portfolio of apprenticeships, accredited CPD, and masterclasses, supporting the health and care workforce across the UK and internationally.

Research and knowledge exchange are a priority for HSU, driving innovation in healthcare education, clinical practice, and community wellbeing. Our research is structured across several specialist centres and themes, supporting a wide range of funded and self-funded projects. We are committed to improving health outcomes through evidence-based practice, supporting sustainable, person-centred healthcare, integrating digital technologies with compassionate care, and shaping future-ready healthcare professionals.

As a CQC-registered provider, HSU boasts an advanced clinical infrastructure supporting over 15 clinical services. Our cutting-edge facilities include an Integrated Rehabilitation Centre, Open Upright MRI Scanner, Digital X-ray and Ultrasound Suites, and a range of onsite MSK, podiatry, and rehabilitation clinics. HSU Clinical Services support around 80,000 patient visits each year across our two main locations, providing private and student-led training clinics, clinical and imaging services commissioned by NHS and private partners, and hosting multiple partners onsite—including University Hospital Dorset's Imaging Centre, a charity-based Lymphoedema service, and local NHS MSK services.

Introduction

HSU collaborates widely with NHS Trusts, private healthcare providers, local authorities, and health systems regionally, nationally, and internationally. These partnerships ensure our education, practice, and research are high-impact and aligned with the evolving needs of the health and care sector.

This is an especially exciting time to join HSU. Following the rebranding to HSU, we successfully launched our new Health Business School in London. Major projects are under way to be driven by a dynamic Executive Leadership Group and Board of Governors, as we are investing in our people, infrastructure, and strategic partnerships—both in the UK and overseas—to ensure we remain a leader in health sciences education.

We are now seeking to appoint a new Chair of the Board of Governors—an individual with the vision, experience, and commitment to help guide HSU through its next phase of growth and impact. The Chair will provide strong leadership to the Board, ensuring effective governance and supporting the University's mission to shape the future of healthcare through education, research, clinical care, community engagement, and transnational collaboration.

If you share our passion for health sciences and are ready to contribute your expertise, energy, and ideas at the highest level, we invite you to consider this pivotal role at HSU. Together, we can make a lasting difference to the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve—locally, nationally, and globally.





About Health Sciences University

The University was formally launched in October 2024 when Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal was installed as the university's inaugural Chancellor. Both founding institutions bring with them a proud legacy of innovation and global leadership in health education: AECC University College, founded in 1965, is renowned for its expertise in chiropractic education, and the University College of Osteopathy, established in 1917, has a distinguished history in osteopathic training.



Our Locations

Our Bournemouth Campus / Parkwood Road

The HSU main campus building in Bournemouth is a grade II listed building situated on Parkwood Road which dates back to 1888 and was previously a convent school. HSU's clinical services and state-of-the-art Integrated Rehabilitation Centre are close by. The campus is a 5-minute walk from Southbourne, a neighbourhood east of Bournemouth full of artisan cuisine, bars and independent shops, and a 10-minute walk from seven miles of golden Blue-Flag award winning beaches.



Our London Campus / Borough High Street

Our London campus is situated in Borough High Street, which offers a rich blend of history and culture, perfectly fitting for a location in the heart of the capital. The London Clinic is just a short walk away. Close by, you'll find the iconic Borough Market and the historic London Bridge with excellent public transport links nearby.



Our Vision, Mission & Values

Our Vision:

Our vision is 'to be a leading specialist health sciences university providing excellent education, clinical care and applied research. We will become an important anchor institution serving our local communities, recognised nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence.'

This vision continues to drive our institutional journey as we develop and diversify our academic portfolio, research and innovation, and patient services.

Our Mission:

Our mission to 'create a healthier society through education, research and clinical care' is as relevant today as it was when the heritage institutions were launched 60 and 108 years ago respectively.

Our Values:

Our values: Caring, Professional, Passionate, Inclusive and Collaborative, set out to guide not just what we do but also 'how' we do things.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Health Sciences University is an equal opportunities employer, committed to equal opportunities policies. We welcome applications from all backgrounds so that our Board mirrors the community we serve. We welcome applications from anyone regardless of disability, ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexuality, religion, socio-economic background and political beliefs.

Health Sciences University is deeply committed to inclusive working practices, so during the application process we commit to:

- Paying for childcare whilst you are at interviews where these take place in person.
- Paying for your travel costs to the campus and back for interviews held in person.
- Making any reasonable adjustments – for example ensuring we have a sign language interpreter organised in advance if you'd like them.
- Providing this document in a Word document format readily available to download.
- Offering a guaranteed first stage interview with Inclusive Boards for disabled candidates who meet the minimum requirements for the role.

If there is anything else you are concerned about or think we could provide, please let us know.

Our Strategic Aims

Now 16 months post-merger we continue to realise our ambitions and the opportunities associated with our unique brand across both campus locations. As we near the end of the current strategic plan, we will shortly commence a strategic review to take stock of our challenges and opportunities, which will guide our priorities and focus.

Our current strategic aims are as follows:

- Provide an outstanding student experience and deliver excellent graduate outcomes.
- Support the expansion and development of the health workforce by providing demand-led high quality education and training programmes.
- Provide excellent patient-centred and multidisciplinary clinical, rehabilitation and diagnostic services.
- Position ourselves as a first-choice partner within specialisms for research and innovation in the health sciences.
- Establish ourselves as the anchor University for knowledge exchange and economic development within our communities.
- Create a diverse, inclusive and sustainable environment in which we support our people and develop our activities, spaces and facilities.



The Role of the Chair

The Chair of the Board is a visionary leader at the heart of the University's strategic direction, driving innovation and shaping the future of higher education. This is a pivotal role for someone who thrives on challenge and opportunity—championing commercial acumen, financial sustainability, and bold new ideas that propel the University forward.

As Chair, you will energise and empower the Board of Governors, fostering a culture of openness, collaboration, and constructive debate. You will inspire confidence in governance, ensuring the highest standards of integrity and accountability, while embracing the complexities of financial risk and the fast-evolving landscape of higher education.

You will be a catalyst for change, leveraging your networks and influence to unlock new partnerships, drive income generation, and support the University's mission locally, nationally, and globally. Your leadership will ensure the Board is not only effective, but ambitious—ready to seize opportunities, navigate risks, and deliver lasting impact for students, staff, and the wider community.



Role Description

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide strategic leadership and ensure the effectiveness of the Board of Governors, upholding the highest standards of governance and integrity.
- Set and monitor the strategic direction of the University, balancing financial sustainability with appropriate risk and innovation.
- Ensure business is conducted efficiently, effectively, and in accordance with legislation and university governance instruments.
- Promote a positive, open, and collaborative Board culture, encouraging all members to contribute and build consensus.
- Maintain strong working relationships with the Vice Chancellor and Committee Chairs through regular meetings and ensures committee business is conducted properly and reported to the Board.
- Lead on the orderly succession and recruitment of Board members, with a focus on inclusivity and diversity.
- Oversee the induction, development, and performance review of Board members.
- Oversee the recruitment, development and performance review of the Vice Chancellor.
- Ensure efficient and effective use of university resources, long-term financial viability, and safeguards against fraud.
- Act as a formal signatory for key university documents as required.
- Hold the honorary title of Pro Chancellor, representing the University at formal occasions and play an active ceremonial role at graduation ceremonies and other key university events.
- Represent the Board and University externally, including as a member of the Committee of University Chairs, and use personal influence and networks to support the University.
- Attend all relevant meetings, induction, and training events.
- Serve as an ex-officio member of the Finance and Performance Committee and the Governance and Nominations Committee and attends meetings of the Remuneration Committee.

Other Requirement:

- Receives feedback on performance as Chair through a review process.

Person Specification

Experience / Background:

- Extensive experience of strategic leadership and governance within a large, complex organisation, ideally with exposure to both public and private sectors.
- Demonstrable financial and commercial acumen, including experience in financial planning, oversight, risk management, and the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability.
- Proven ability to scrutinise and manage financial risk, ensuring long-term financial sustainability and safeguarding against fraud.
- A track record of driving innovation and organisational change, with the ability to apply commercial insight to support the University's achievement of its strategic objectives.
- Experience of working across sectoral boundaries, leveraging partnerships and opportunities for income generation and commercial development.
- Previous non-executive and/or chairing experience is desirable.

Skills:

- Excellent chairing and leadership skills, fostering effective decision-making and constructive debate.
- Strong analytical skills, with the ability to weigh conflicting opinions, assimilate complex information quickly, and communicate decisions clearly.
- Ability to build positive relationships and a harmonious working environment, engaging openly with students, staff, and stakeholders.
- High-level networking, negotiation, and advocacy skills, with the ability to influence and command the confidence of diverse groups.
- Comfortable using digital platforms for communication, decision-making, and accessing board materials.

Personal Qualities:

- Strong commitment to higher education and university values, including fairness, impartiality, independent judgement, and confidentiality.
- High degree of personal credibility, gravitas, and integrity, with a track record of openness and honesty.
- Pragmatic, with sound judgement and a calm, measured approach to duties and responsibilities.
- Commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion, and to engaging with the full range of university stakeholders.
- Resilient, positive, and able to deal constructively with differences of opinion.



Additional Information

Time Commitment

The current term of office of the Chair is four years. The Board may agree to reappoint the Chair for a further period of office.

The time commitment for this role is estimated to average 4 to 5 full-time equivalent days per month, with 4 board meetings a year and 1 away day.

Location

Board and committee meetings are typically held in person at either our Bournemouth or London locations though are conducted remotely on occasion.

Remuneration and Expenses

The Chair role is an unremunerated position. Reasonable travel and subsistence expenses will be reimbursed.

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 Health Sciences University. If you wish to apply for this position, please supply the following by 11.59pm on 3/12/2025:

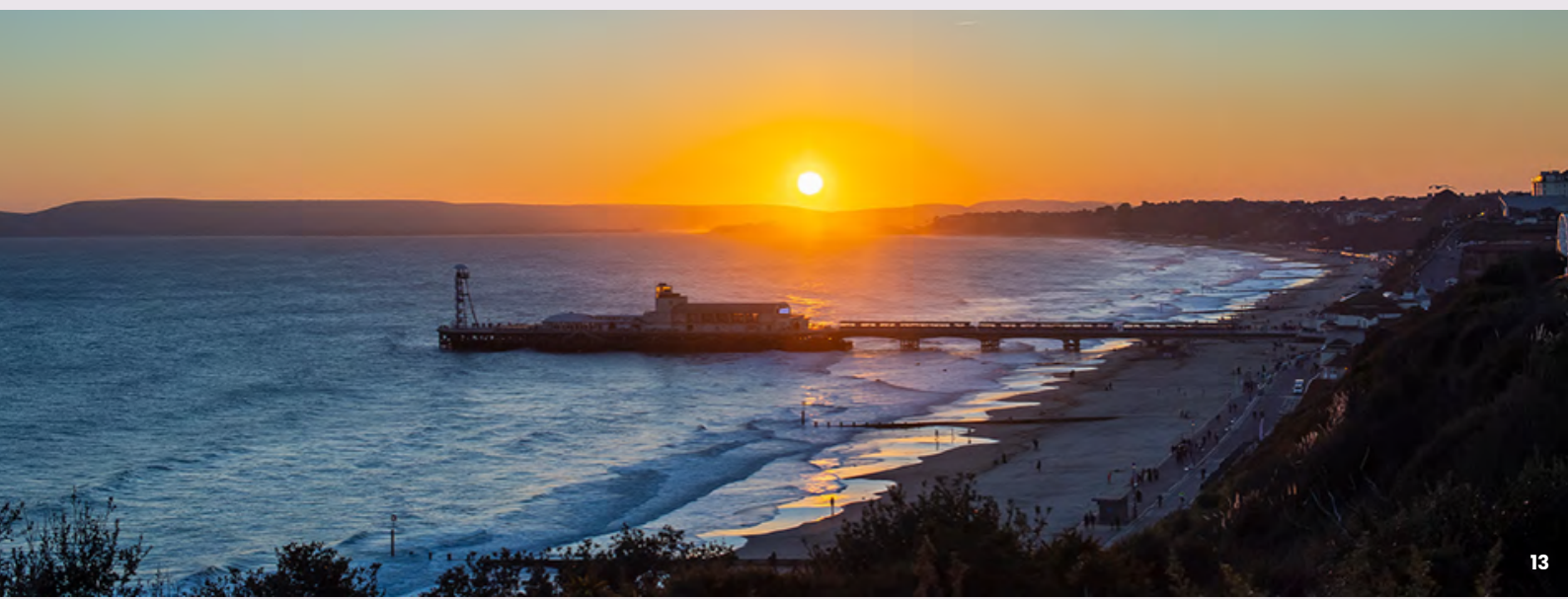
- A detailed CV, setting out your career history, with responsibilities and achievements.
- A cover letter (maximum two sides of A4) highlighting your suitability for the role for which you're applying and how you meet the person specification. Please note that the cover letter is an important part of your application and will be assessed.
- 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 HSU@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 HSU@inclusiveboards.co.uk

Further Information:

The Charity Commission's guide to the Trustee role – "[The Essential Trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do](#)" or a [brief overview of the role of a Charity trustee](#).



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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