

Health Sciences University

Independent Governors Candidate Information Pack 2026



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.

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 seeking to appoint two new Independent Governors who have significant senior level expertise in finance, accountancy and risk. In addition to their Board roles, candidates will join either our Finance and Performance Committee or our Audit and Risk Committee as a result of existing members retiring at the end of their terms of office. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction and governance of our university, ensuring we continue to thrive in a rapidly changing higher education landscape. Please also note that we will also be seeking to appoint a new Chair of Finance & Performance Committee at an appropriate point later in the year. The current Chair of Finance & Performance Committee will be available for a handover period as appropriate.

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.

Professor Lesley Haig,
Vice Chancellor





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.

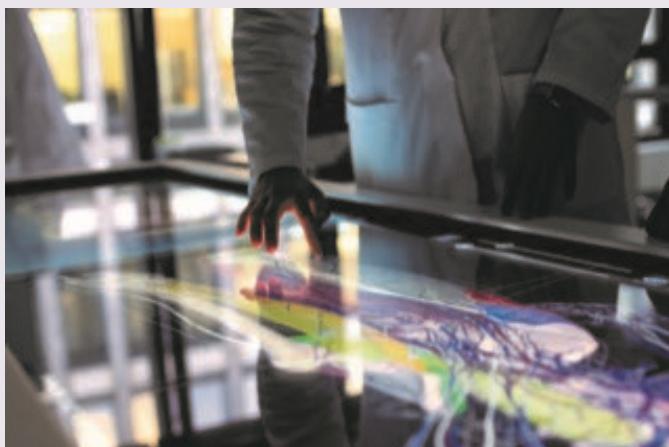
If there is anything else you are concerned about or think we could provide, please let us know.

Our Strategic Aims

Now over 18 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 Governors

The University is directed by its Board of Governors acting under its Articles of Association. The Board has ultimate responsibility for the strategy, performance and sustainability of the Institution.

Our Independent Governors are members of the Board and their roles are defined as follows:

Overall Purpose of the Role

- To take ultimate responsibility for the governance of the Institution.
- To determine strategic priorities for the Institution and delegate authority for the delivery of these priorities to the Vice-Chancellor.
- To oversee the affairs of the Institution, ensuring that it is solvent, well-run and delivering agreed strategic objectives.
- To ensure that the Institution complies with all relevant legal, constitutional and regulatory requirements.
- To contribute to and share responsibility for the Board's decisions including its duty to exercise reasonable care, skills and independent judgement.
- To uphold the core values of the institution through high standards of conduct and behaviour as set out in the Nolan Principles and by complying with the Institution's Code of Conduct for Governors, Articles of Association and Rules, Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations.
- To always act in the Institution's best interest.

Corporate Responsibilities:

- To ensure that a robust framework is in place for management of risk, internal control and the safeguarding of the Institution's assets.
- To help drive the delivery of equality and diversity, and safeguarding and sustainability plans, ensuring that they are effectively integrated into all aspects of corporate life.
- To hold the Executive Team to account for delivery of strategic objectives and for maintaining high standards of service performance.

The Role of the Governors

- To follow external trends and influences which affect the Institution and maintain an awareness of developments in Higher Education.
- To ensure the Board receives accurate, reliable and timely reports to enable it to take informed, clear and strategic decisions.
- To scrutinise and evaluate the Institution's performance in relation to its strategies and financial plans.
- To apply knowledge and experience effectively when dealing with matters being considered by the Board.
- To establish strong working relationships within and between the Board, the Executive Team and other senior colleagues.
- To work with all colleagues so that the Institution is seen as fair, caring, trusting, respectful and open, and which values its people and retains and attracts the best talent.
- To uphold the Code of Conduct for Governors and the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Higher Education Code of Governance.
- To participate in learning and development activities as an individual and as part of the Board including participating in appraisals and effectiveness reviews.



Person Specification

We anticipate that to demonstrate the required competencies for the role, suitable candidates will have experience of

- Working at a senior level in a complex, regulated environment with multiple stakeholders and
- Hold a professional financial qualification such as CIMA, ACCA and ACA (ICAEW)

Candidates will:

- Provide strategic oversight into how the University can strengthen its long-term financial resilience and prepare effectively for future opportunities and risks.
- Help the Board to critique and articulate the commercial value and strategic implications of potential growth, capital investment appraisals, diversification opportunities, mergers and acquisitions.
- Maintain a strategic perspective while interrogating risk management processes, decision making and financial assumptions.
- Contribute to the development of institutional strategy and provide informed oversight of progress against agreed objectives and measures of performance.
- Demonstrate a genuine commitment to the University's vision, mission and values and the wider social purpose of health sciences education and clinical services.

Our Board benefits from Independent Governors who have a broad range of lived and professional experiences, but all typically demonstrate the following attributes:

- Proven ability to work constructively and collaboratively as part of a team.
- Able to assimilate and analyse information and make well considered contributions.
- Excellent communication skills, including listening and questioning and an ability to summarise.
- Respectful and constructive approach to others even when providing robust challenge.
- Able to work with change in a dynamic environment.
- High personal standards, integrity, openness and accountability.
- Understanding of the need to separate board and personal interests.
- Willingness and ability to network for the benefit of the institution.
- Able to commit sufficient time to the needs of the role.

Person Specification

We are currently seeking to appoint **two new Independent Governors**. Whilst our Board already demonstrates breadth and depth of experience, at this time we are particularly seeking candidates with expertise in **finance and accountancy**.

Candidates will:

- Bring an understanding of financial modelling.
- Be able to stimulate thinking on the Board around the ways in which the University might best prepare itself financially for the future.
- Be able to ask strategic questions and constructively challenge the Board and Executive.
- Provide experience of contributing to the shaping of strategy and the oversight of delivery of strategic objectives.
- Whilst maintaining a strategic focus, monitor the Institution's approach to risk management, challenge management decision-making processes and outcomes, and demonstrate a well-developed commercial acumen.
- Above all, candidates will demonstrate a commitment to the values and mission of the University.

Our Board benefits from Independent Governors who have a broad range of lived and professional experiences, but all typically demonstrate the following attributes:

Experience:

- Experience of working at a senior level in complex and diverse organisations.
- Familiarity with working within a regulated environment.

Skills:

- Proven ability to work constructively and collaboratively as part of a team.
- Ability to assimilate and analyse information and make well-considered contributions and judgements.
- Excellent communication skills, including listening and questioning and an ability to summarise.
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to co-operate with and respect colleagues while providing robust challenge.
- Respectful and constructive approach to others.
- Ability to work with change in a dynamic environment.
- Commitment to working with a high degree of openness and accountability.
- High personal standards of behaviour and integrity and understanding of the need to separate personal and board interests.
- Willingness and ability to network for the benefit of the Institution.
- Ability to commit sufficient time to the Institution's business.



Additional Information

Time Commitment

Members of the Board are expected to contribute approximately ten to fourteen days a year; the Board meets four to six times a year and, in addition, the sub-committees meet three or four times a year. Other briefings may take place between meetings and members are encouraged to get involved in other important University events.

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 roles are not remunerated, although reasonable expenses are 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 08/03/2026**:

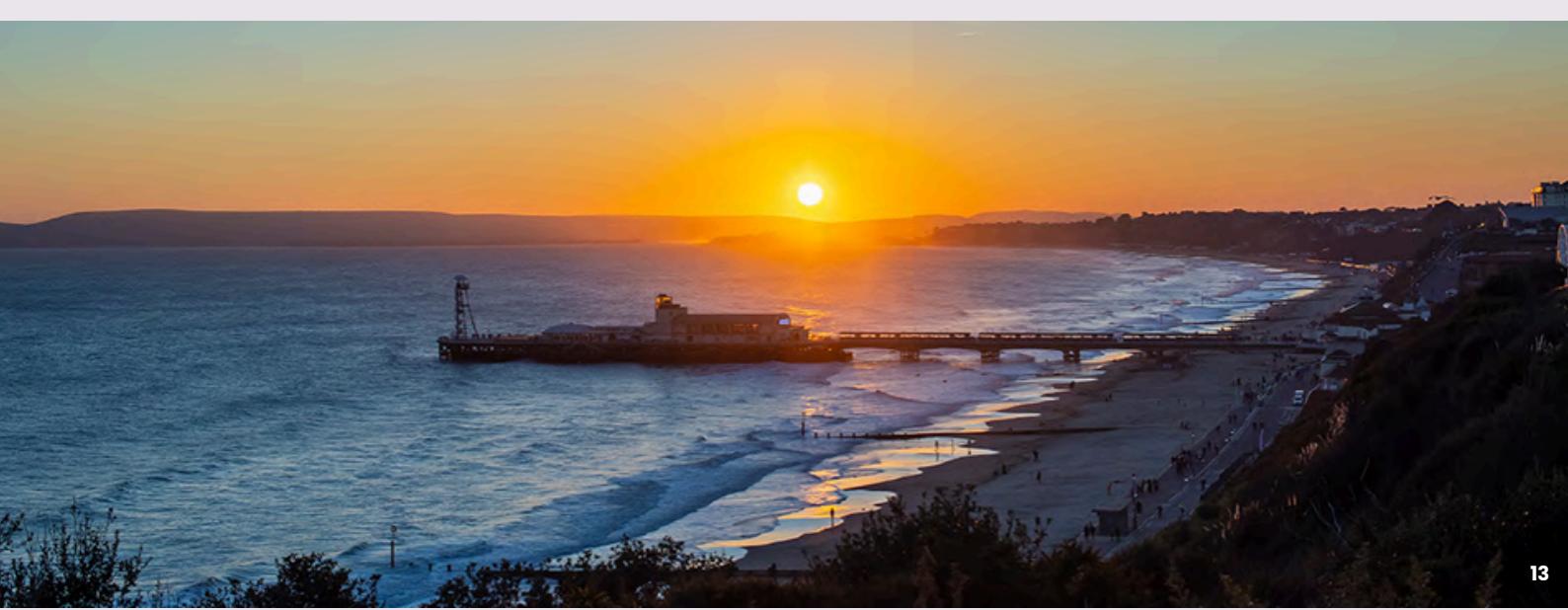
- A detailed CV, setting out your career history, with responsibilities and achievements.
- A cover letter (maximum two sides of A4) highlighting your suitability for the role for which you're applying and how you meet the person specification. Please note that the cover letter is an important part of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