



UNIVERSITY OF
WINCHESTER

Governor and Chair of Risk and Audit Committee

Candidate Information Pack
September 2025

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Welcome from the Chair of the Board

Thank you for expressing an interest in the role of Chair of Risk and Audit Committee which is a full Governor role at the University.

The University of Winchester is a confident and ambitious institution, providing a transformative educational experience through excellence in teaching and research and championing student success across a broad subject portfolio.

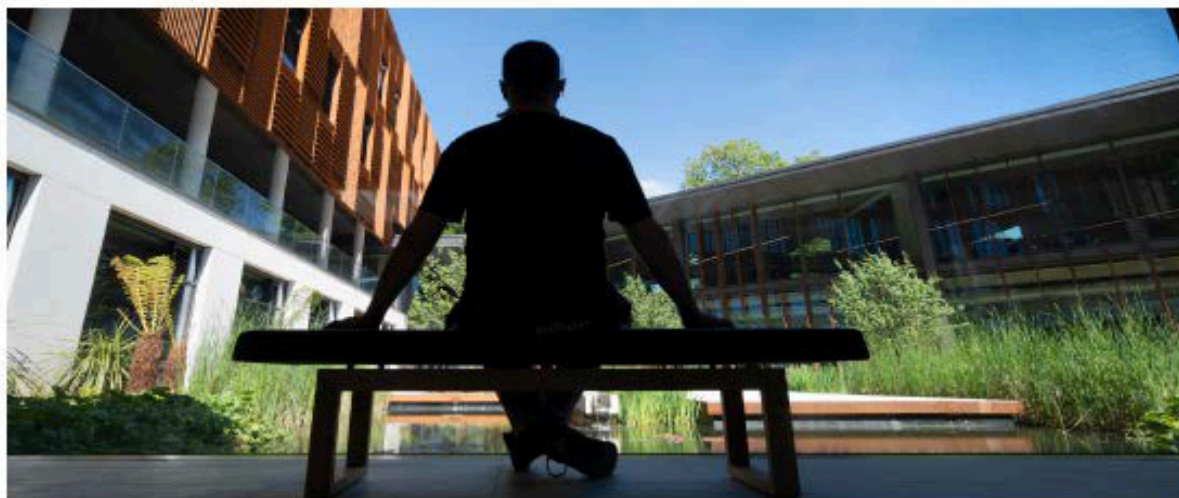
Based in the beautiful and historic city of Winchester and founded in 1840 by the Church of England to train teachers working in disadvantaged communities, the University has grown to be an institution of over 7,000 students and over 800 members of staff. As a member of the Cathedrals Group of universities, Winchester is widely known for its strengths in education; business; health, wellbeing, and sport; social sciences, humanities, and the arts. Our portfolio continues to be hugely relevant in areas such as adult and children's nursing, the allied health professions, policing and teaching. Its primary and secondary initial teacher training programmes are rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted. Our campus offers very attractive, modern facilities in the historic city of Winchester with ample student accommodation, including our landmark West Downs Centre building.

Having launched a new Strategic Plan in recent years, the University is at an exciting point, as it begins to deliver on this strategy, whilst also managing broader sector challenges (including financial sustainability). We aim to continue to grow and thrive, as a highly sought after institution for high-performing and motivated students and staff.

We are proud to be recognised for our work in preparing students for success, with Winchester ranking in the top 25 Universities in the country for graduate employment. We are strongly values-driven, educating and enabling graduates to become purposeful and compassionate members of society across our full range of courses.

Our aspiration is to provide an excellent experience for our students and staff, delivering and supporting outstanding teaching and producing high-quality, impactful research. We will also further develop our important role within the region, working closely with our partners to shape and deliver future success.

Yours Sincerely,
Mary Edwards, Chair of Board







The Role of Governors at the University of Winchester

The Chair of the Risk and Audit Committee is first and foremost a full Governor at the University.

The Board of Governors ('The Board') are the Managing Trustees of the University and are responsible for the overall governance of the University. The Board have a strategic role in forming the character and mission of the University. The Board functions in a non-executive capacity and is not involved in the day-to-day operational management of the University.

The role and responsibilities allocated to Governors in the University's Articles of Association cover the following areas:

- Assurance that the conditions of registration set by the Higher Education regulator for good governance, for standards of institutional quality, for student experience and outcomes, for financial sustainability and accountability, and for access and participation are being met.
- Assurance that the whole student experience is supported, and the interests of all students are protected.
- Assurance that the educational character and the academic standards of the institution are being upheld.
- To continue to develop the strategic vision and the foundational mission of the institution.
- Assurance that the institution continues to be financially viable and that and that all resources are being managed in a sustainable fashion.
- The appointment and appraisal of designated senior post holders.
- The governance of employment related matters, in order to support and develop the culture of the institution, including the framework for the pay and the conditions and the conduct of staff.

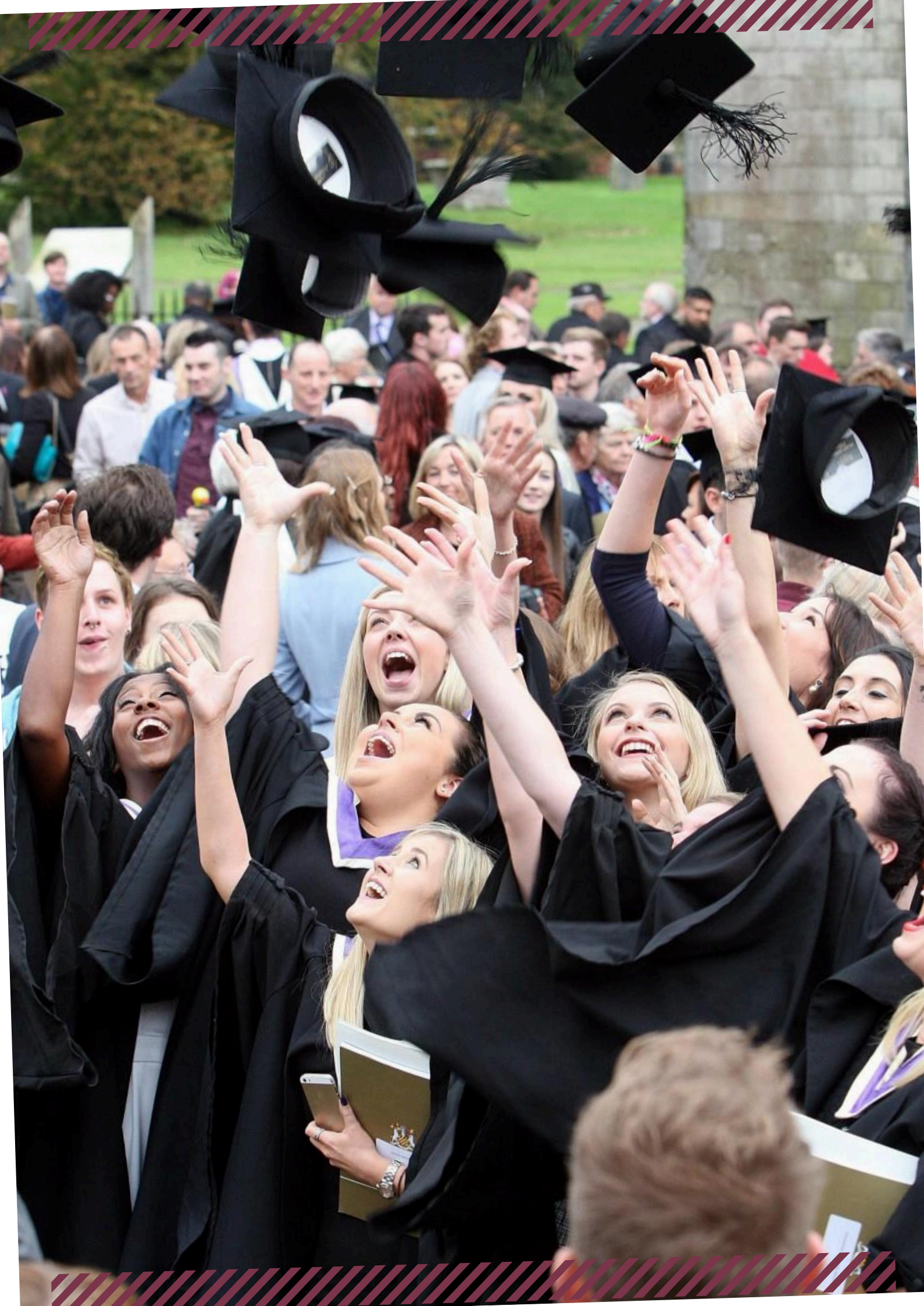
All Governors are expected to be aware of, and adhere to, the 'Nolan Principles', which are the basis of the ethical standards expected of public office holders - available [here](#).



The Role of the Chair of Risk and Audit Committee

In addition to the Governor duties outlined on the previous page, the Role of the Chair of Risk and Audit Committee will have the additional responsibilities.

- The Chair of the Risk and Audit Committee plays a key role in setting how the Board tests how the University manages its appetite for risk.
- The Chair must have a clear understanding of the committee's duties and responsibilities; be able to commit the necessary time; be readily available on urgent matters and in times of crisis; and have the requisite business, communication and leadership skills. There is an expectation that that the Chair will become familiar with the regulatory landscape of higher education.
- The Chair plays a critical role in focusing the agenda on the important issues: risk assessment of the institution through its Risk Register, quality financial accounting statutory reporting and effective internal controls.
- The Chair should ensure that the Risk and Audit Committee are able to carry out robust assessments of the effectiveness of external and internal audits, including reviewing evidence of where auditors have challenged the Executive Team.
- From time to time, the Chair will also take part in the assessment, appointment and re-appointment of the University's external and internal auditors.
- The Chair will be expected to ensure that all committee members understand the critical risks to the University's strategy, its business model and its survival. The Chair will work to ensure that the Committee obtains a better understanding of the issues facing the University including matters of tone and culture within the organisation.
- Where practicable, the Chair may lead deep dives into important areas of risk management, accounting policy or statutory reporting requirements to further support the Committee's role in the Board and at the University.
- The Chair should ensure the Risk and Audit Committee includes the right mix of skills (both hard and soft), experience and personal attributes pertinent to the University. To achieve this, the Chair will be a member of the Nominations Committee.
- To fulfil their role, the Chair must be kept apprised of emerging and ongoing regulatory and compliance issues.
- The Chair should understand and make clear to members that the Risk and Audit Committee is not an ancillary to the function of the Finance and Resources Committee and should direct the Committee accordingly.





Essential criteria

- A background in audit/risk management, ideally in higher education
- Proven experience of working collaboratively and constructively with leadership teams/executive management
- Proven experience of effectively engaging with stakeholders at all levels in an organisation
- Excellent communication skills
- Experience of fostering a positive and inclusive culture
- A commitment to the transformative power of higher education
- Commitment to the Nolan Principles of Public Life
- Proven commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion

Desirable criteria

- Knowledge of complex higher education structures and understanding of regulation
- A professional accountancy qualification with experience in some or all of the following: Risk management, Internal audit, Finance

Commitment

The overall time commitment for the position would be approximately twenty five days per year.

As a member of the Governing Body, the successful candidate will attend regular meetings of the Board and the annual Governor Strategy Day. The Board currently meets in person five times a year.

The Risk and Audit Committee Chair leads three two-hour meetings of the Risk and Committee per academic year. Dates of meetings are provided a year in advance. The meetings of the Committee are currently held online via Teams although hybrid meetings have also taken place to accommodate some business.

All appointees are required to confirm before appointment that they are a ‘fit and proper’ person as defined by the Office for Students.

Governors are appointed for an initial term of three years and are eligible to serve for a further two terms.

This appointment is of a public service nature and is therefore **not remunerated**. However, reasonable expenses to cover travel and other direct expenses will be reimbursed.

Prospective Governors are advised to read the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) document: ‘The Higher Education Code of Governance’ (September 2020) - available [here](#). This sets out the key values and elements that form an effective governance framework.







The Recruitment Process

How to Apply

To apply for this post, you will need to submit the following documentation to us by no later than **5pm on 9 October 2025**.

1. A CV setting out your career history, with key responsibilities and achievements. If you have had previous experience in a non-executive or Governor role please specify this.
2. A Supporting Statement (approximately two pages) explaining how you consider your personal skills, qualities and experience provide evidence of your suitability for the role, with particular reference to the role outline.
3. Confirmation of whether you require any reasonable adjustments to support your application.

The above documents should be sent directly to Kerry Bowers (kerry.bowers@winchester.ac.uk), Senior People & Culture Operations Services Advisor.

Further Information

For a confidential discussion about the role, please email Kerry Bowers (kerry.bowers@winchester.ac.uk), Senior People & Culture Operations Services Advisor.

Recruitment Timeline

- 22 September 2025 - applications open
- 9 October 2025 - applications close
- November 2025 - interviews (date to be confirmed)

Please note that the dates above are indicative and may be subject to change.

GDPR

To read more about how we collect, store and share your data please read our privacy notice which can be accessed here:

<https://www.winchester.ac.uk/About-Us/Leadership-and-governance/Privacy-and-cookie-policy/>



