



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

PIONEERING AMBITIOUS ORIGINAL

Invitation to join our Council

liverpool.ac.uk



Teaching
Excellence
Framework



WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS



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Welcome from the Chair

Thank you for taking an interest in joining the University of Liverpool as a lay member of our governing Council.

The University of Liverpool is a remarkable place, ranked in the top 140 in the QS World University Rankings, and combining academic excellence with the attributes of our famous home city: a spirit of creativity, originality, welcoming to all and committed to social responsibility.

We are a 300,000 strong international community of staff, students and alumni recognised globally for our world-changing research and teaching portfolio. Ideas born here have long transformed societies and industries, touching millions of lives around the world and making an impact that really matters. We also play a crucial role in achieving our city region's economic strategy and have a longstanding reputation for enabling students from all walks of life to access a university education both here, and with our campuses and partners globally.

Our performance speaks for itself, with 91% of our research rated world-leading or internationally excellent in the Research Excellence Framework and a Gold rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework. These and a wide range of other recent successes at institutional and departmental level, from ground-breaking discoveries to transformational partnerships both locally and globally, reflect our standing as a highly performing Russell Group university.

Lay members have a vital role in the governance of the University, bringing expertise and independent perspectives from a variety of professional and personal backgrounds. As a member of Council you would be involved in reviewing, challenging and agreeing the University's key strategies, policies and business decisions. You would also contribute to monitoring institutional and executive performance, helping to ensure the University delivers to consistently high standards.

Higher education is a constantly evolving environment and, as we navigate significant changes to the political, financial and regulatory landscape, the role of Council will be particularly valuable in ensuring the University's future success.

The following pages will provide you with further insight into the University's vision, our operating model and the role of Council as overall governing body.

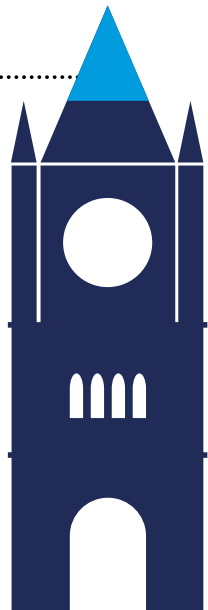
As we approach our 150th anniversary in 2031, this is an exciting moment to join Liverpool. We hope you will help us build on our achievements and shape the next chapter of our global impact.

I look forward to receiving your expression of interest.

Carmel Booth
Chair of Council

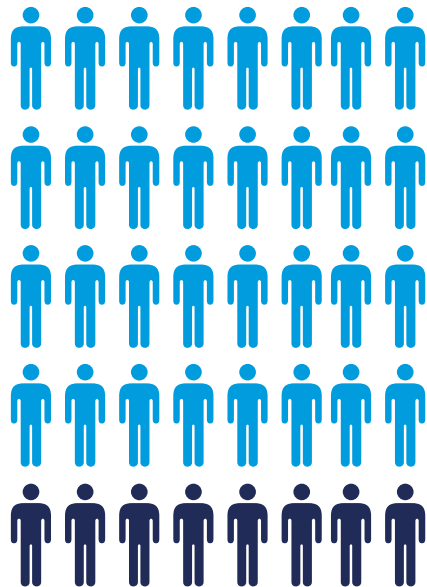
Ranked in the
TOP 140
universities worldwide

An internationally renowned
Russell Group University



Associated with
9 Nobel Prize winners

91%
of research ranked
world leading or
internationally
excellent



35,000
students

7,000
of whom travel from
all over the world

The original
REDBRICK
university

Established
in **1881**

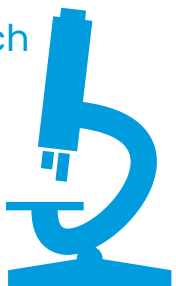
7,500
talented staff

A
UK leader
in widening
participation

Total value of
collaborative projects
£143.7 million



Annual research
income of
£166 million



A global **alumni**
network of
300,000
in over **175**
countries



94%
of our
graduates in
**employment
or further
study**

Working in
collaboration
with
384 organisations in
50 countries



££££££££££
Annual turnover of
£726.3million

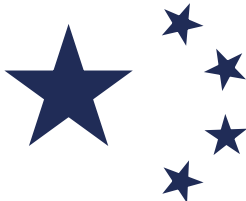
Awarded
GOLD
in the
**Teaching Excellence
Framework**



TOP 20%

For 'Working with Business, Research Partnerships
and Working with the Public and Third Sector in the
Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) 2025

First to establish a
**Joint Venture
University**
in China




We have more than
22,000 graduates
from our
online programmes

GLOBAL TOP 100
Triple accredited
Management School
**MBA is ranked in the
global top 100**
(Financial Times 2026)



One of the top UK universities
most targeted
by global
graduate
employers



Who we are

Established in 1881, we are the original ‘redbrick university’ – a phrase inspired by our distinctive red brick Victoria Building. This spirit of originality shapes everything we do; ideas are born here that transform industries and travel the globe, touching and improving millions of lives as they go.

Our founding mission – ‘for the advancement of learning and ennoblement of life’ reflects our belief in the transformative power of research and education.

With around 7,500 staff, 35,000 students and 300,000 alumni in over 175 countries, our diverse, multicultural community makes us a home for all kinds of ambitions and all kinds of achievements. Alumni include nine Nobel prize winners, the first female poet laureate, and the first female Director General of MI5, alongside those who have led the way in fields from nuclear disarmament to the life cycle of malarial parasites.

We are proud to create an inclusive and welcoming environment that attracts the best staff and students from around the world and we are committed to embedding inclusivity within everything we do by working towards disability inclusion, and gender, LGBTQ+ and race equality.

From Liverpool to the world

Ranked in the Top 140 universities in the world, we are globally-focused and have an extensive international history across research and teaching activity, with hundreds of international research collaborations spanning diverse subject matter across our three faculties – Health and Life Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Science and Engineering.



Our highly successful partnership with Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University creates life-changing opportunities for students at both universities, along with valuable research collaborations and cultural exchange.

This year we have also launched a new campus in Bengaluru, India, which aims to blend world-leading, research-intensive education with the energy, talent and innovation of one of the world’s fastest-growing knowledge economies.

Meanwhile our partnerships with Kaplan Open Learning and Kaplan International Pathways build on our strong track record in offering a range of online programmes and, through University of Liverpool International College, deliver a foundation pathway that sees around 500 students annually progress to our on-campus degree programmes. We also work extensively with global partners including research institutes, universities, industry, governments and foundations, developing new opportunities for international research and impact.

Here in the UK, our strategic partnership with Unilever is an exemplar of successful collaboration between academia and industry, catalysing our world-leading expertise in advanced materials to develop new materials and formulations, spin-out companies and co-fund cutting-edge facilities. Launched in 2017, the Materials Innovation Factory is the University’s flagship knowledge exchange centre, providing a centre of research for over 200 Unilever R&D staff along with a similar number of University of Liverpool researchers.

A life-changing student experience

Our research focus is reflected in the design of our curriculum, which seeks to engage our students in understanding the newest discoveries and ideas, and the best learning experience, on their way to a high-quality degree that we know will be desired by leading employers.

Our Gold rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework highlights our commitment to world-class teaching and learning. We offer a wide range of individual support, including academic advisers for each student, access to peer mentors and a comprehensive selection of student services, and aim to inspire all students to be creative, independent and courageous on their way to achieving their personal goals.



Campus life

Our main campus sits at the top of Brownlow Hill, just a ten-minute walk from Liverpool’s vibrant city centre and at the heart of the Knowledge Quarter, while our Leahurst campus in Wirral is home to the University’s Veterinary School, which includes two farms, two referral hospitals, and two of the Institute’s three first-opinion practices.

The University helps drive the city’s knowledge economy through close collaboration with fellow universities, industry and the NHS, helping the Liverpool City Region compete in the global business world.

Like Liverpool itself, we march to the beat of our own drum. And we encourage our students and staff to do the same. Leading by example, we foster creativity, independence and courage. We open our doors wide, and make sure everyone can express their true character here, whoever they are and wherever they come from. Because when they do, they make our learning environment richer, and our whole University stronger.



An exciting vision: Liverpool 2031

Our strategic framework, [Liverpool 2031](#), builds on our distinctive strengths and characteristics, setting out how we will develop the confidence and sustained excellence to break into the top 100 ranked universities worldwide. It gives new impetus to the University's continued evolution, with a focus on the most important opportunities and challenges we face both now and in years to come, including the development of new materials and technologies, addressing local and global health challenges, tackling environmental change, and stimulating knowledge-based economies and the creative and cultural sectors.

Success will see our research capability considered world-leading in an even wider range of specialisms, including our unique [Research Frontiers](#), and directed through partnership to spur innovation and creativity that benefits communities within our region and beyond.

Our students experience from programmes and a learning environment that help them to realise their full potential and equip them with the skills and dexterity to succeed as global citizens, employees and entrepreneurs in a rapidly changing world. These successes will be underpinned by successful public, private and third sector partnerships and we will have an excellent reputation internationally for our research and its impact, our influential alumni, and our status as an aspirational destination for students, postgraduate researchers and staff.

Liverpool 2031 also places emphasis on our role in securing a more sustainable future, building on our existing commitments in the transition to Net Zero and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, while also reflecting our ability through research and education to shape future generations of change-makers able to tackle these greatest of challenges.



And at the heart of our commitments are the University's people; our remarkable community of academic, technical and professional services staff, who are the key to achieving all of this. The framework sets out the path to being an employer that attracts, values, develops and retains the best people, enabled by a culture that helps unlock everyone's potential, promotes high performance and confidence, and will deliver our aspiration to be a global Top 100 university.

This strategic framework is ambitious and our vision will only be achieved through a sustained and focused team effort across the University and its strategic partnerships. It will be progressed through a range of new and existing strategic implementation plans including institutional plans for growth and a major new fundraising campaign aligned with our 150th anniversary in 2031, unlocking significant additional resources for investment in our priorities.



Our purpose

The strategic framework supports the University in fulfilling its Purpose:

Embracing Liverpool’s enterprising and creative spirit through research and education that transform students’ lives and creates a fairer, better world.

Our vision

Through the framework, we are seeking to realise our Vision:

The University of Liverpool will be recognised for globally-leading research and education, the quality and scale of its partnerships, and its positive impact on people, our place and the planet.

Driven by our values and diverse community of colleagues, students and alumni, we will make ground-breaking discoveries that shape the future, empower individuals to become changemakers, and inspire students to fulfil their academic and personal ambitions.

Our values

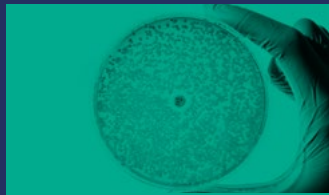
We are a values-led organisation. Our five Values reflect the character of our University and the things our people believe are most important to creating an environment in which individuals and the University as a whole can thrive.

They will guide our way of working from day-to-day and be a reference point for our decision-making, future plans, and individual performance and development.

Ambitious	Collaborative	Inclusive	Innovative	Responsible
We dream big and make things happen We have the confidence to make bold decisions to achieve success	Together, we achieve more We make an impact through partnerships, releasing the power of collective expertise and shared endeavour	Shaped by diversity, powered by difference We champion a culture in which all are valued and supported to thrive	Original thinking with an independent spirit We create, reimagine and break new ground	A focus on doing the right thing We create positive change that improves lives

Our strategic pillars and themes

The strategic framework features four pillars, representing our main areas of strategic focus. The pillars are:

 Research and impact	 Education and experience	 Global experience	 Place and Innovation
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There are also two overarching themes, essential to each pillar and to achieving the overall vision:

 People and Culture	 Sustainability
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Who we are looking for

We are seeking to appoint an outstanding individual who has an affinity with the values, ethics and role of the University, and who can make a significant contribution to its governance and ambitious plans for the future.

Those appointed to Council are likely to possess the following attributes:

- An interest in higher education and the University of Liverpool in particular
- Experience of education/business/commercial/the professions/the public or voluntary sector which might be beneficial to the University
- The ability to comprehend and analyse issues in higher education, to understand the workings of a complex organisation, to think strategically, to make reasoned judgements, and to offer sound and wise advice
- Availability to prepare for and attend four business meetings of Council per annum, each lasting up to three hours, and two away days as well as other University events
- Availability to serve on a reasonable number of University committees and bodies
- Willingness to support the senior management of the University as a critical friend
- Willingness to promote the best interests of the University and to bring influence to bear in the outside world for the benefit of the University
- The desire and ability to act, and be perceived to act, ethically at all times, in line with accepted standards of behaviour in public life, including the Nolan Principles of Public Life.

As part of the OfS regulatory requirements, members of governing bodies must be fit and proper persons. A fit and proper person:

- is of good character
- has the qualifications, competence, skills and experience that are necessary for their role
- is able by reason of their health, after reasonable adjustments are made, to properly perform the tasks of the office or position for which they are appointed
- has not been responsible for, been privy to, contributed to, or facilitated any serious misconduct or mismanagement (whether unlawful or not) in their employment or in the conduct of any entity with which they are or have been associated.

In line with our University values, we are committed to ensuring an inclusive governance environment and that the membership of Council should, as far as possible, reflect the diversity of our University community (more specifically our student body). The University would particularly encourage and welcome applications from individuals who identify as: Racially Minoritised, including individuals who identify as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, disabled and or Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (that includes nonbinary), Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA+). All appointments will be made on merit.

We will also seek to ensure an appropriate balance in the range of skills and experience across Council membership. Based on an assessment of current and future skills needs, the University would benefit from knowledge and experience of research, industry, or strategic communications. However, candidates with strong relevant leadership experience should not be deterred from applying.



How we are run

Our team

The University Council is our governing body, and has ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all the affairs of the institution.

The Council is also the Trustee Board and its members are the trustees of the University. The Council has a number of committees reporting to it, including Senate, Finance and Resources Committee, Audit and Risk Committee, Health and Safety Committee, Nominations Committee and Remuneration Committee.

There are 22 members of Council with a lay majority. Membership comprises: the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Senior Independent Governor, 10 other lay members, the Vice-Chancellor, the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Operating Officer, the President of the Guild of Students, three members of the academic staff drawn from the Senate, one member of staff from the Professional Services, and one member of the student body.

Elected and appointed members serve for renewable three-year terms. Council meets six times per year (four business meetings and two away days).

Senate has a membership of 80 members, including the Vice-Chancellor, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Chief Operating Officer, the Pro-Vice-Chancellors, a number of Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellors, the Deans of Schools/Institutes, nominated Heads of Department, elected Faculty representatives and student representatives.

The governance structure is set out in the University's Charter, Statutes and Ordinances from which both Council and Senate derive their powers.

VICE-CHANCELLOR

- Professor Tim Jones BSc, PhD

PROVOST AND DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

- Professor Richard Black BA, PhD

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

- Lucy Everest BA

PRO-VICE-CHANCELLORS

- Professor Tariq Ali PhD, DIC, CPhys, FInstP, FRAS (Global Engagement and Partnerships)
- Professor Gavin Brown BSc, PhD (Education)
- Professor Anthony Hollander BSc, PhD (Research and Impact)
- Professor Alison Fell PhD (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Professor Louise Kenny MB ChB (Hons.), PhD, MRCOG (Faculty of Health and Life Sciences)
- Professor Laura Harkness PhD, MPhys, PGCert, MInstP, FHEA (Faculty of Science and Engineering)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- Nicola Davies BSc, MSc, FCA

UNIVERSITY SECRETARY AND GENERAL COUNSEL

- Kevan Ryan BA, CPE, LPC

PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)

- Professor Youmin Xi BSc, MEng, PhD



The Council

The Council is the governing body of the University and is collectively accountable for all institutional activities, including the following:

- Agreeing and monitoring the University's overall mission
- Overseeing the governance of the institution
- Protecting the institution's long-term sustainability and reputation.

As such, the University seeks only exceptional individuals to be members of Council; those who, in addition to the insight, talent, time and effort they bring to the role, embody the University's values and enact them in everyday life.

The management of the University is conducted by its Senior Leadership Team led by the Vice-Chancellor. The role of Council lay members is to bring independent, external advice and scrutiny to the conduct of the University's business and to bring perspectives and expertise from the world outside higher education to the governance of the University.

Members of Council may become involved in the more detailed consideration of University business, especially if they have particular relevant expertise, by appointment to University committees, or interview panels for senior staff appointments. The University also expects lay members to promote the University externally and bring their influence to bear for the benefit of the University.

For further information on how the University is governed visit: liverpool.ac.uk/governance

Recipient of public funds

The Office for Students (OfS), the principal regulator for Higher Education in England, requires institutions to comply with the Terms and Conditions of OfS Funding and the Terms and Conditions of Research England Grant, as well as the OfS Regulatory Framework and its ongoing conditions of registration. This also includes compliance with the OfS's Accounts Direction, plus Terms and Conditions of OfS Funding applying from previous years.



Council: The University as a charity

The University has charitable status, and members of Council are charitable trustees, subject to the obligations this imposes under charity law. They are expected to discharge their duties of compliance, prudence and care as trustees and to accept ultimate responsibility for the affairs of the University and for ensuring that it delivers its charitable objectives for the public benefit.

In summary, members must:

1. Ensure the University is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, and that its assets are applied solely for its charitable purposes.
2. Comply with the University's governing documents (University Charter, Statutes and Ordinances) and the law. This includes charity law, the requirements of the OfS as regulator, and other relevant legislation, in particular the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 and legislation relating to employment, health and safety and diversity and equality of opportunity.
3. Act in the University's best interests, including by managing conflicts of interest. This includes doing what the trustees (and no one else) decide will best enable the University to carry out its purposes, and make balanced and adequately informed decisions, thinking about the long term as well as the short term.
4. Ensure the University is accountable. This includes complying with statutory accounting and reporting, as well as ensuring accountability within the University.

5. Manage the University's resources responsibly, including managing risks and protecting its assets and people. Sometimes referred to as the duty of prudence, members are expected to ensure that the University is and will remain solvent, that its funds and assets (including those derived from charitable donations) are used reasonably and only in furtherance of its charitable objectives, that undue risk to its property, funds, assets or reputation is avoided and that special care is taken in relation to investment or borrowing.
6. Act with reasonable care and skill. This includes members making use of their skills and experience and taking appropriate advice when necessary. Members should also give enough time, thought and energy to their role. For example, by preparing for, attending and actively participating in all trustees' meetings.



Expectations of members

The main collective responsibilities of members of Council (derived from the powers and duties of Council set out in Statute 9, which is part of the University's statutory framework) are to:

- Promote and safeguard the interests of the University, supporting the development of its mission and strategic vision, such that these meet the needs of stakeholders
- Ensure that the University's performance against its strategic objectives is monitored and evaluated
- Be the principal financial, business, legal and employing authority of the University and to have overall responsibility for its assets, property and estate
- Ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability
- Ensure that the University delivers its charitable objectives for the public benefit
- Ensure the University is compliant with regulation and legislation relevant to its activities

Further information on the Primary Responsibilities of the Council is available on the University website.

Members are expected to:

- Attend all meetings of Council. While non-attendance may be unavoidable in exceptional circumstances, this must be agreed in advance with the Chair. Attendance at fewer than four meetings in a session will result in membership being reviewed
- Commit the time and effort needed to carry out their duties as a Council member effectively. This will include serving on a small number of Committees of Council, and preparation time for meetings. Members are expected to read the papers provided in advance, so that they are able to contribute fully to discussions
- Represent Council at a reasonable number of other University and associated events
- Participate in induction and relevant development sessions
- Conduct themselves in accordance with accepted standards of behaviour in public life, which embrace selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership,

whilst also adhering to the 'fit and proper person' principle as described by the Office for Students. Where a potential conflict of interest occurs, this must be declared at the earliest opportunity

- In their capacity as charitable trustees, discharge their duties of compliance, prudence and care, and to accept ultimate responsibility for the affairs of the University, and for ensuring that it delivers its charitable objectives for the public benefit
- Have a strong personal commitment to higher education and the values, ethics, aims and objectives of the University. They are expected to act as ambassadors and influencers for the University, promoting its activities and strategic aims in the wider community
- At all times to act fairly and impartially in the interests of the University as a whole, using independent judgement and maintaining confidentiality as appropriate
- Play an appropriate part in ensuring that the necessary business of Council is conducted efficiently and effectively. They are expected to use their knowledge and skills to make constructive and rational contributions to debate, to apply strategic insight to complex issues, and to challenge constructively and act as a critical friend to the University. In doing this, they must recognise the proper separation between governance and executive management
- Fulfil their responsibilities in ensuring that Council exercises control over the strategic direction of the University through an effective planning process and that the performance of the University is adequately assessed against the objectives approved by Council as part of the Strategic Plan
- Members are expected to act in a corporate manner, such that decisions are taken collectively by all members acting as a body in the interests of the institution. Members elected or appointed by particular constituencies may not act as if delegated by the group they represent, and may not be bound in any way by mandates given to them by others

Where a Council member does not fulfil these expectations, there is provision under Ordinance 8 for their removal from Council.



Support for members of the Council

The University values its Council members and recognises the contribution they make to University life and the institution’s ongoing success. It will do everything it reasonably can to support members and help them to carry out their duties as effectively as possible.

Council members can expect to:

- Receive an appropriate induction
- Receive the information they require to carry out their duties in an appropriate form and a timely fashion
- Be provided with appropriate support and advice on all legal and fiduciary responsibilities attendant on them
- Be provided with adequate cover for personal liabilities through the University’s insurance policy on Directors and Officers in respect of any claims made against them in carrying out their duties as a member of Council
- Discuss their contribution to Council and development needs in relation to their role with

the Chair and University Secretary on a regular basis (at least annually); have development opportunities suggested to them; and be funded to pursue appropriate development opportunities

- Have access to the University Secretary, who will provide or make arrangements for support in all matters relating to Council.

Time commitments

Council meets six times per year, with four business meetings and two away days. Lay members of Council should be prepared to spend at least ten days per year on University business. This will include scheduled meetings and preparation time. At certain times it may be necessary to convene additional meetings of Council.

Remuneration

Apart from the Chair of Council, Council members are unremunerated but may have reasonable expenses incurred while fulfilling their duties reimbursed. What constitutes reasonable expenses is defined in the University’s Expenses Policy.





Appointment process and how to apply

Expressions of interest may be submitted in the form of an up-to-date CV, details of two referees and a covering letter explaining why you are considering joining the University Council, by email to **governance@liverpool.ac.uk**

The closing date for expressions of interest is 5pm on **Friday 27 November 2026**.

Shortlisted candidates will subsequently be invited for an interview with the selection panel which will be held on **Tuesday 15 December 2026**.

Informal enquiries can be directed to the University Secretary, **Kevan Ryan** (**ryank@liverpool.ac.uk**).



Our story began in 1881.

We became one of the first civic universities.

The Original Redbrick. More than 140 years later, we're as original as ever.

We're still welcoming people from every walk of life.

Still colourful and creative. Welcoming and warm.

Still advancing learning and ennobling life, just like we always have.

And uncovering world-firsts through our pioneering research.

Still marching to the beat of our own drum.

Still bursting with character. And characters.

Still shaping the spirit that makes Liverpool a one-of-a-kind kind of city.

And helping our students forge their own path.

1881 is where our story started. We were original then.

And we're original now.