



Governors

July 2024



Solent University

Overview

Solent University creates opportunities: for its students, for its staff, for its partners, and for its communities. It offers expertise and experiences you couldn't get anywhere else, opening doors and making introductions, and fanning the flames of ambition and aspiration. Solent gives all the freedom to achieve.

We are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in university education, teaching, learning and research that enables learners from all backgrounds to become enterprising citizens and responsible leaders.

We are committed to promoting economic and social prosperity for the communities we serve.

We undertake research that has wide-ranging and significant impact on the experiences and learning of our students and on the lives of those in our local, national, and international communities.

It is our mission to be work ready, world ready, and future ready.

We focus on the practical side of higher education:

- our students receive the connections, experience and confidence to turn their newfound knowledge into a career with real, meaningful impact
- our graduates are highly sought after for their work ready, world ready, future ready skills
- our practice-based research helps our community and partners to problem solve, upskill, and grow
- our world-class facilities match the same high-end facilities found in workplaces.

More information on Solent University can be found on [our website](#).



Recent achievements (see links for detail):

- [Triple TEF Gold 2023](#)
- [Institute of Technology](#)
- [Virtual Production Stage](#)
- [University of Sanctuary Status](#)
- [Maritime Decarbonisation Research Partnership](#)

Notable statistics:

- 11th in UK for graduate startups (HESA 2022)
- Top 20% in UK for Assessment and Feedback (NSS 2023)
- 6th in UK for sustained employability (LEO 2022)
- 75,000 alumni around the world (LinkedIn)
- £125m campus investment in last 5 years
- £288 million GVA and around 4,700 jobs in the Solent LEP area (2018 Biggar Economics report)

Solent in numbers:

- Students – 8,656 (HESA 2022)
- Staff - 880 FTE

Recent student awards:

- Two National Student Television Awards
- Student of the Year Rise 2023 Awards
- Terry Mansfield Fashion Publication Award 2023
- Bevis Minter Award 2023, from Nautilus International
- Best Film, Making Waves Future BAFTA Winners Short Film Competition
- Two coveted pencil awards at D&AD New Blood

The person

You will play a key role in guiding and overseeing the strategic direction, governance, and management of Solent University. As a Governor, you will be a member of the Board which oversees Solent University's policies, ensuring its financial sustainability and upholding its academic standards. You will demonstrate a commitment to excellence in higher education, strong leadership skills, an understanding of what good transformation looks like and the ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders.

There are three vacancies upcoming, one of which is Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee. It is an especially exciting time to be joining the board given the recent appointment as Chair of Richard Smith, chief executive of FTSE 100 company Unite Group Plc until the end of 2023. We are particularly interested in candidates with senior executive experience in one of the following areas:

- finance (for Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee)
- allied health
- maritime

Since diversity is core to the identity and mission of Solent University and to this appointment process, candidates lacking direct expertise in these specific specialisms should not feel discouraged from applying, albeit being able to demonstrate an affinity to Solent's values, objectives and aims will be essential.

Essential criteria

- A strong personal commitment to higher education and the values, aims and objectives of the University.
- At all times act fairly and impartially in the interests of the University as a whole, using independent judgement and maintaining confidentiality as appropriate.
- A strong understanding of the application of principles of good governance.
- The ability to work in a team, which has both executive, non-executive members and student body representatives.
- Change leadership experience, evidenced by successful outcomes.
- The ability to analyse and review complex issues and weigh up conflicting opinions.
- The ability to explain both orally and in writing reasons for arriving at decisions.
- Understanding of strategic planning and resource management.
- A commitment to engaging positively and openly with students, staff, the public and diverse other stakeholders.
- Commitment to the Solent Values: Respect, Inclusivity, Integrity, Ownership, Engagement and Teamwork.

Desirable

- Experience gained in an area of expertise directly relevant to the University's activities.
- International experience.
- Experience of non-executive directorships and an understanding of not-for-profit/charitable sector objectives.

Role description

The appointment is for an initial term of three years from 1 September 2024 and may be renewed for a further and term of three years by agreement of the Board of Governors.

1. Responsibilities of the Board of Governors

- a) The Board of Governors acts in accordance with the instruments and articles of governance of the University, the conditions of registration for higher education in England and with the University's internal regulations and policies, and should seek advice from the Pro Vice-Chancellor Students and Governance or the Clerk to the Governors in any case of uncertainty.
- b) The Board of Governors exercises collective responsibility, making decisions corporately by all members acting as a body.
- c) From time to time, Governors may be formally or informally involved in the process for the recruitment of new members of the Board of Governors.

2. Standards

- a) Board members are required to conduct themselves in accordance with accepted standards of behaviour in public life, embracing selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.
- b) Board members shall declare any conflict of interest in order that the integrity of Governing Body business shall be seen to be maintained.
- d) Board members are required to annually complete and file a satisfactory 'fit and proper' person declaration.
- e) Governors will make themselves available to attend induction and training events organised by the University or other appropriate bodies.
- f) Governors will attend all meetings of which they are a member, or give timely apologies if absence is unavoidable.

Role description cont.

3. The business of the University

a) The Board of Governors exercises control over the strategic direction of the University, through an effective planning process, and assesses the performance of the University against the objectives which the Board of Governors has approved.

b) Governors should establish and maintain a constructive and supportive but challenging working relationship with the Vice-Chancellor's Group (VCG), recognising the proper separation between governance and executive management, and avoiding involvement in the day-to-day executive management of the University.

c) Governors are required to join at least one Committee of the Board: Audit, Governance, People and Culture, Finance and Resources, or Remuneration.

d) Independent Governors are encouraged to attend degree award ceremonies and participate in other University events such as Open Days.

4. The external role

a) Governors may be asked to use personal influence and networking skills on behalf of the University.



Terms and conditions

- The likely overall time commitment required of an Independent Governor for the effective conduct of the duties of the post is approximately 18 days per year. For the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee it will be 20-25 days per year.
- The office of Independent Governor is not remunerated but Board members are encouraged to reclaim all travelling and similar expenses (including childcare) incurred during University business, via the Clerk to the Governors.
- If at any time the Board is satisfied that a Governor is unfit or unable to discharge the functions of a member of the Board of Governors, the Board may by notice in writing remove them from office.
- Governors are subject to the following attendance standards that are applicable to all members of the Board as follows:
 - Governors 'shall automatically cease to hold office if he/she fails to attend at least 66% of the normal meetings of committees and groups of which they are in formal membership; and achieve at least a 50% attendance across all meetings of the Board and its committees.' (Solent's Standing Order of Board of Governors)

How to apply:

Please send applications to solent@networkedpeople.com. Applications must include a full CV and a letter of application setting out your interest in the role and details of how your knowledge, skills and experience match the essential criteria being sought (no more than two pages).

The deadline for receipt of applications is midnight on Monday 5th August 2024.

Informal questions regarding the post should be directed to Hamish Laing at Networked via - hamish.laing@networkedpeople.com or +44 (0)7861 329463.

