

Board of Governors Applicant Information Pack





Dear candidate

Thank you for your interest in offering your time, skills and expertise as a potential member of Edge Hill University's governing body.

Edge Hill is a thriving and ambitious modern university. Our Board of Governors is diverse in its make-up and provides effective governance and support in helping the University to continue to deliver a high quality student experience and outcome. We are proud of the value the University creates locally, regionally and nationally.

This is an exciting time for the Higher Education sector and Edge Hill University is well-positioned to take advantage of the opportunities and to meet the challenges. Your values and experience, and empathy with the University's mission and strategic aims, will be an important contribution to the Board's effectiveness in guiding the University through its next few years of successful growth.

This information pack outlines the key elements of being a governor at the University and the context in which the Board operates. It describes the role and responsibilities of a governor and the level of commitment we expect from our Board members, and the application process.

I hope you will be enthused by the opportunity to join our inclusive Board and I look forward to receiving your application.

Clive Elliott

Chair of the Board and Pro-Chancellor



About the University

Edge Hill University has been providing higher education since 1885, with a **mission to create and harness knowledge to deliver opportunity**.

From our beginnings as the first non-denominational teacher training college for women, Edge Hill has always embraced equality and diversity. These values are inherent in our community and reflected in our culture, attitudes and behaviours.

The University continually strives to improve and our efforts are regularly recognised. Most recently, we won one category at the Educate North Awards 2024 and at the 2023 Educate North awards we won three categories and received a high commendation. In 2022, *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022* named us **Modern University of the Year**. And in 2018 we were one of only three English universities to be allocated a free-standing medical school.

We are also proud of our results in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, which classed over half our research as **'world leading'** or **'internationally excellent'**.

We began with 41 female trainee teachers and now have over 15,000 students across a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The University goes from strength to strength and, through its oversight of the **Strategic Plan**, our Board provides the underlying governance and support for this growth to continue.



The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors oversees the educational character and mission of the University and has specific responsibilities for financial probity and the effective use of resources.

In common with many other higher education institutions, Edge Hill is classified as an exempt charity, regulated by the **Office for Students (OfS)**. Governors are trustees of the charity and must ensure that Edge Hill meets its charitable objective and continues to deliver public value.

The Board comprises independent, staff and student governors, all of whom have equal status. The University's Vice-Chancellor is an ex-officio member.

The Board is supported by **Audit & Risk, Governance and Nominations, and Remuneration** Committees. Committees undertake detail-oriented work on behalf of the Board, with all matters of strategic importance reserved for the Board.

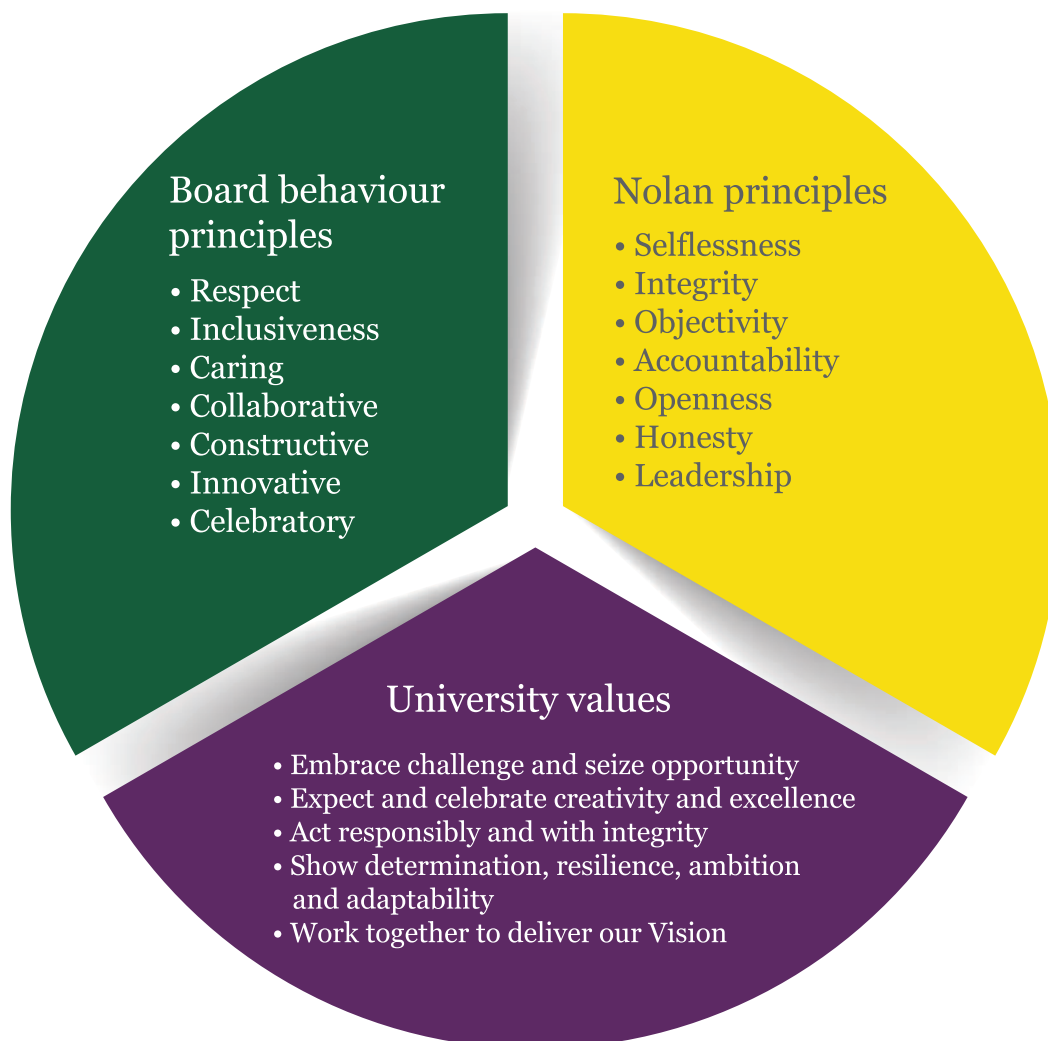
Board of Governors Culture Framework

The Board's purpose is to act as guardians of the University – to build on its past, and to protect and enhance its future – and, in doing so, to be the most effective Board that it can be, acting in the best interests of the University's stakeholders. An effective culture supports the Board to achieve this purpose.

The Board Culture Framework focuses on the ways we, individually and collectively, discharge our responsibilities. As such, it is about defining, embedding, and consistently demonstrating (and regularly reviewing) appropriate behaviours.

An effective culture is an ongoing endeavour, and we continually review our practices.

The Board's values





Who we are looking for

We are interested in all applicants who believe that they can add value as a Board member. We are particularly interested in those with expertise in the following broad areas:

- Digital
- Knowledge exchange / commercialisation
- Marketing / PR /communications / digital media
- Research
- People

We believe that an effective board includes, and makes good use of, difference in the skills, expertise, background, race, gender and other qualities of individual governors. It is important to us that our Board is representative of our EHU community and we particularly welcome applicants from underrepresented groups. You can read more about our inclusive approach in our [Board Diversity and Inclusion Statement](#).

Accessibility

We want our governors to bring their best selves to their governing role. We are committed to promoting inclusivity and will always strive to meet the needs of governors to effectively perform their duties. You are not required to declare any protected characteristics, but we would encourage you to [inform the Clerk](#) if we can make reasonable adjustments to make the application process more accessible for you. All information will be kept in confidence.



Being a Governor

We are looking for applicants who can demonstrate an active interest in higher education, and a commitment to:

- the role of the University as a major, high quality provider of higher education regionally, nationally and internationally
- the University's vision
- promote equality and diversity
- quality and enhancement
- promote the University externally and within the community it serves
- work positively with others and to contribute as a member of a team
- make reasoned decisions and to act honestly, diligently and in good faith
- contribute to establishing performance targets and the monitoring of performance against these
- accept collective responsibility.



Person Specification

Key attributes expected of all governors are:

- Strategic awareness
- Vision and commitment
- Ability to share and work to common values
- Critical listening and evaluation skills
- Ability to ask probing questions
- Analytical and problem solving abilities
- Integrity to act without self-interest and make decisions based on evidence
- Ability to work within a framework of collective decision-making in the best interests of the Board and the University
- Awareness of standards in public life, public accountability and a determination to abide by them

Edge Hill University is committed to increasing diversity and maintaining an inclusive culture. If you meet our criteria, we welcome your application regardless of your age, ethnicity, race, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, social demographic or whether you live with a disability.



Our Expectations

In common with many other institutions, this is a voluntary role, though reasonable travel expenses will be paid. All governors are expected to:

1. Prepare for, and attend, Board and committee meetings. Board meetings normally last no longer than 2.5 hours and Committee meetings 2 hours. The schedule for 2023-24 is available on our [website](#). Not all governors attend committees. Committee attendance is agreed on an individual basis, in view of governors' skills and expertise.
2. Contribute actively and constructively to the work of the Board. Meetings will normally be undertaken in-person, though may be held online. All papers will be circulated via the Board's electronic portal, and a basic level of digital literacy will be required in order to engage with the role.
3. Commit to induction and ongoing development.
4. Adhere to the Board's values and the **Nolan Principles** of public life.
5. Continue to be a fit and proper person and declare any conflicts of interests. We will ask you to complete our fit and proper person test once your application has been shortlisted. All governors are asked to renew this assurance on an annual basis throughout their tenure.



Benefits of being a governor

There are many benefits to being a governor at Edge Hill. If appointed, you will:

- Shape the future of a thriving University committed to high-quality teaching and research which opens opportunities for all.
- Refine your boardroom skills and executive presence. The skills you develop as a trustee of our large and complex organisation will be invaluable to your professional development and are transferable to many corporate and public settings.
- Be part of a vibrant and inclusive board including members from a wealth of backgrounds.
- Attend formal and informal events to celebrate the University's successes. There may be opportunities to represent the Board at national awards ceremonies.
- Participate in a comprehensive induction programme during your first year. This is bespoke to each individual governor meaning that, whether you are an experienced trustee or a first-time board member, you receive the information you need to reach your full potential.
- Be supported to undertake professional development at each stage of your governance career. This includes opportunities to undertake external training provided by sector partners.
- Have access to guidance and ongoing support from a professional Secretariat function.

While the role is not remunerated, governors are eligible for reasonable expenses paid in line with our Financial Regulations.



How to Apply

To be considered for a role on our Board (for three years in the first instance), your application should include:

- an up-to-date CV
- a supporting statement that addresses the criteria in the person specification and outlines your motivation for applying. The statement should be no longer than 2 pages of A4 in 12pt font.

Please tailor your application to the role, explaining why you meet the criteria and what you feel you could contribute to our Board and the University.

Please submit your application to **Helen Smallbone, Clerk to Governors**.

The deadline for applications is **12noon on Monday 10 June 2024**. We expect to hold interviews on Thursday 27 June.

You may also contact the **Clerk** if you have queries about any aspect of the appointment process, need additional information or wish to have an informal and confidential discussion.

The University will respect the privacy of any initial approach or expression of interest in this role, whether formal or informal.



Edge Hill
University

St Helens Road
Ormskirk
Lancashire
L39 4QP
United Kingdom

**We look forward to
receiving your application**

edgehill.ac.uk