



Job Description and Person Specification

Summary

Job title:	Executive Dean (Faculty of Health, Social Care & Medicine)
Faculty:	University Executive
Reference:	EHM0009-0526
Grade and Salary:	Competitive Salary
Contract Type:	Permanent
Hours:	Full Time (37 hours per week)
Location:	Hybrid Role with Ormskirk Base



About the Faculty

The Faculty is a major provider of health, social care and medical education comprising three schools: The School of Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health, The School of Applied Health, Social Work and Wellbeing, and The Medical School. We are an innovative Faculty with a strong reputation for collaborative teaching, research, and knowledge exchange sensitive to local population needs. We work with local health and social care providers across a broad portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including those leading to dual professional registrations.

The Faculty has facilities in Ormskirk, Manchester and on a number of local NHS sites. Facilities include a state-of-the-art Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre.

Our teaching profile is supported by a thriving multi-disciplinary research environment that is influencing and shaping health and social care practice locally, nationally, and internationally, focused on research centres and groups including:

- The Edge Hill Primary and Integrated Care Research Centre
- The International Centre for Applied Research with Children, Young People, Pregnant Women and Families
- The Research Centre for Arts and Wellbeing
- Health and Social Care Workforce Sustainability and Development Research Group

Our research is supported by the Health Research Institute which offers a university wide health research platform enabling multi-agency inter-disciplinary external collaboration. In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework 71% of our research was rated as internationally excellent or world-leading and we have continued to drive forward research growth as we work towards our ambition of increasing the scale, quality, reach, and influence of our impact. Consequently, further developing research capacity and capability remains a key strategic focus.

Research is a key priority for the Edge Hill Medical School, and we have a strong reputation in health professions education research. This provides a strong evidence base for the development of curricula which promote preparedness for practice and transfer of learning into the clinical environment

About the Role

In this key executive role, you will have autonomy for all aspects of the Faculty's strategic direction and its future positioning in regional, national, and international contexts. Reporting directly to the PVC Academic and working as part of the executive team you will have the opportunity to help shape the wider University's strategic objectives.

You will define and deliver an ambitious vision that aligns the Faculty's education, research and innovation activity with the evolving needs of the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan, Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), and national policy priorities. You will have to carefully balance priorities for teaching and learning, student experience, research excellence, knowledge exchange, income diversification and external engagement.

You will lead the Faculty to become a partner of choice for workforce development, service innovation and applied research, strengthening collaboration with NHS Trusts, ICSs, primary care, social care providers and industry.

A key priority for the role will be to further develop the Medical School to ensure that is sustainable, is a flagship school and aligned to NHS workforce priorities. You will ensure the Medical School delivers excellent clinical education, strong student outcomes and a distinctive identity, while operating on a financially sustainable and scalable model.

With your strong track record of academic leadership and engagement, you will be responsible for the overall strategic leadership and management of academic provision within a diversifying Faculty including:

- Leading, managing and motivating a diverse team of academic and professional support colleagues to deliver a first-class student experience.
- Lead a high-performing Faculty with financial accountability.
- Development and delivery of high-quality teaching and training provision
- Effective governance and oversight of the faculty, aligned to institutional governance structures and policy.
- Strengthening the Faculty's research portfolio, external partnerships and brand reputation.

You will work closely with other senior managers and will be an ex-officio member of the University's Academic Board and Academic Planning Committee.

About You

With a passion for creating an environment for outstanding student experience and a compelling, yet achievable, vision for the future of the Faculty of Health, Social Care & Medicine, you will be considered to be an exceptional and credible academic leader with a distinctive leadership style that brings people along with you. You will have an emerging national and/or international standing within a relevant academic discipline or policy arena, with a track record of providing strategic leadership that shapes research, policy, and professional agendas. Aligned to this expectation, the Faculty will be led to operate in a business-focused and financially sustainable manner, with clear performance targets informed by robust strategic planning and disciplined resource management.

In support of the strong and welcoming culture at Edge Hill University, you will model and uphold positive leadership and management behaviours, promote agile and innovative responses to the internal and external environment, and encourage cohesive, collaborative working to strengthen relationships across the Faculty, University and with external stakeholders.

You will be expected to demonstrate the following key attributes:

- Confidence to take difficult decisions and the judgement to know when to act collaboratively, bringing people with you through times of change. Your leadership style is visible, transparent, and inclusive, building trust with staff, students, and key stakeholders.
- Combine strategic thinking with entrepreneurial flair, ensuring academic and financial sustainability while creating new opportunities for growth. With strong communication skills, you can influence and build relationships at the highest levels, from government and industry to NHS and international partners.
- A highly developed understanding of current and emerging agendas and policy issues in Higher Education as they relate to the Faculty of Health, Social Care & Medicine.
- Excellent networking, presentational and interpersonal skills necessary to provide outstanding leadership in a rapidly developing Faculty and University, and the ability to forge excellent working relationships with colleagues and a wide range of other key stakeholders.
- Effective leadership and management at a senior level in a Higher Education environment, with demonstrable experience of effectively leading academic and professional support teams through significant change and improvement agendas.
- Evidence of a commitment to, and ability to engender further, a positive culture of equity, diversity and inclusivity.

About Us

“A great success story... an institution that improves and impresses year after year” –Times Higher Education.

Founded in 1885 and gaining University Title in 2006, Edge Hill University is a multi-award-winning University based on a 160-acre campus in Ormskirk, Lancashire. An educational community, providing high quality teaching, support, and transformational opportunities; it's a place where students discover ideas, attain subject knowledge, and achieve their full potential.

The University has over 14,000 students studying at both undergraduate and postgraduate level and employs more than 2,000 staff.

Edge Hill's significant success in achieving its mission is recognised by a range of awards. It is one of the select few to have held the coveted Modern University of the Year title (2022), awarded by the Times and Sunday Times and is the Daily Mail's University of the Year for Student Experience, 2026.

It was ranked in the UK Top 35 universities (Guardian University Guide 2024), 5th in the UK (Uni Compare 2026) and is a Top 4 North West Institution (Complete University Guide 2025). It is also the safest campus in the North West according to the same guide. In 2024, it was the first University to achieve Ofsted Outstanding for all phases of its Initial Teacher Training provision under the new Inspection Framework.

The University has invested £350m in the campus over the last two decades. Construction has recently finished on a new £17.4m Life Sciences Building alongside a £35m investment in brand new accommodation and a Students' Union building which opened at the beginning of October 2024.

The University's researchers are addressing some of society's most pressing problems today and providing expertise to develop solutions and enact change. And there is a strong commitment to sharing that new knowledge through Knowledge Exchange and partnership working and through a significant number of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships.

From promoting inclusive societies and encouraging wellbeing for all, nurturing creativity and innovation, to tackling some of the world's biggest challenges to secure a sustainable future, Edge Hill's research builds new partnerships, enhances understanding and enriches lives. 62% of the University's research was classed as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework.

Job Description

Duties and Responsibilities

Corporate Responsibilities

1. Develop and implement a faculty strategy which will ensure the Faculty is financially sustainable and has clear and differentiated portfolio aligned to market needs.
2. Lead, encourage and initiate academic development and planning within the Faculty and across the University; seeking opportunities for new and modified programmes, enhancing and maintaining programme quality & standards, and championing innovative models of delivery and behaviour.
3. Actively contribute to the University's transformation agenda, embracing innovation and experimentation to deliver meaningful change across the institution.
4. Raise the research and knowledge exchange profile of the Faculty to exploit the opportunities for working with business, public bodies, partners and the community.
5. Deliver a successful pro-active approach to student recruitment, retention, and satisfaction across the Faculty.
6. Ensure effective implementation and further development of Quality Assurance systems across the Faculty, being responsive to new and emerging regulatory requirements.
7. Work with partners to ensure the Faculty is able to anticipate and respond to the workforce needs of the region.

Faculty Leadership Responsibilities

1. Lead the Faculty in embedding digital transformation and sustainability across teaching and learning, research, knowledge exchange, and operations.
2. Promote an inclusive culture that values diversity, supports wellbeing, and ensures all staff and students feel they belong.
3. Participate in and accept shared responsibility for the corporate leadership, management, and development of the University.

4. Foster cross-university co-operation in the facilitation of achieving the University's mission and strategic plan ensuring the effective utilisation of University resources.
5. Represent the University as appropriate by chairing or serving on internal and external committees, working and advisory groups as required by the Vice-Chancellor.
6. Model strategic agility and collaborative leadership, supporting the University's ambition to be a connected, impactful, and globally engaged institution.
7. Champion civic engagement by fostering partnerships that address regional health and social care challenges and promote community wellbeing.

In addition to the above, all Edge Hill University staff are required to: adhere to all University policies and procedures; complete all mandatory training and induction modules, including Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Health & Safety; engage in appropriate learning and development activities; actively participate in performance review; demonstrate excellent customer care; contribute to an inclusive environment for everyone; respect confidentiality; act in a sustainable and environmentally conscious manner; and proactively consider accessibility in all aspects of your work.

Eligibility

Candidates should note that shortlisting will be based on information provided on the application form with regard to the applicant's ability to meet the criteria outlined in the Person Specification attached.

Person Specification

Please note that applications will be assessed against the Person Specification using the following criteria, therefore, applicants should provide evidence of their ability to meet all criteria. Where a supporting statement is indicated you will be asked to provide a statement of how you meet this criterion within the application form.

Qualifications

Criteria	Essential or Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment
Doctoral degree (PhD, Professional Doctorate, or equivalent) in a relevant discipline within Health, Social Care, or related field	Desirable	Application

Experience and Knowledge

Criteria	Essential or Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment
A highly developed understanding of current and emerging agendas and policy issues in Higher Education as they relate to the Faculty and more broadly	Essential	Application, Supporting Statement and Interview
Effective leadership and management at a senior level in a Higher Education environment, with demonstrable experience of effectively leading academic and professional support teams through significant change and improvement agendas	Essential	Application, Supporting Statement and Interview
Up to date understanding of the National and regional policy developments affecting universities: Funding frameworks (e.g. OfS, UKRI, NIHR), Regulatory changes including quality assurance and PSRB requirements and Student experience metrics (e.g. NSS, TEF, Graduate Outcomes)	Essential	Application, Supporting Statement and Interview
Awareness of workforce challenges in health and social care education	Essential	Application Supporting Statement and Interview

Abilities and Skills

Criteria	Essential or Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment
Outstanding communication, networking, presentational and interpersonal skills necessary to provide excellent leadership in a rapidly developing Faculty and University, and forge excellent working relationships with colleagues and a wide range of other key stakeholders	Essential	Application, Supporting Statement and Interview
Ability to lead through influence and collaboration, with experience of managing complexity and change	Essential	Application, Supporting Statement and Interview
Strong financial and organisational management skills	Essential	Application and Supporting Statement
An intellectually capable leader who can think critically, work across professional and disciplinary boundaries, and develop innovative solutions to complex system challenges, supporting integrated care, workforce development, and improved population health outcomes	Essential	Application, Supporting Statement and Interview
A high level of integrity and professionalism, with an entrepreneurial approach to growth and partnerships	Essential	Supporting Statement and Interview

Candidate Guidance and How to Apply

At Edge Hill University we value the benefits a rich and diverse workforce brings to our community and therefore welcome applications from all sections of society.

For informal enquiries about this vacancy, you may wish to contact: George Talbot, Pro-Vice Chancellor: talbotg@edgehill.ac.uk or Lynn Hill, Chief Operating Officer Lynn.Hill@edgehill.ac.uk

When you are ready to start the formal application process, please [visit our Current Vacancies website](#), search for the role you wish to apply for, and select the 'Apply Online' button at the bottom of the job advert. The online application form can be completed in stages and can be revisited at any time. The form automatically saves as you enter your information, and you can move backwards and forwards between individual form sections at any time prior to application submission. Help is available at each stage to guide you through the form. Before final submission, you can preview your application and can then choose to refine or submit the form.

As part of your application, you will be asked to provide details of two referees. Please see our application form for guidance on how to nominate your referees.

You are able to upload a CV to the application form to supplement your application and supporting statements.

Please refer to the advert for the closing date for this vacancy, all applications must be submitted by 11:59pm on this date. Please note that you will receive an automated email from our online recruitment portal to confirm receipt of your application. Please check your spam/junk mail if you do not receive this email.

Following the closing date, we will contact you by email to let you know whether or not you have been shortlisted to participate in the next stage of the selection process. We try our best to inform all applicants within two working weeks following the closing date.

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to pre-employment clearance. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity and evidence of your qualifications and professional memberships as referenced as essential or desirable in the person specification for this role. You will also be asked to complete onboarding forms including a pre-employment health questionnaire to support the University make appropriate adjustments to support you in the role. The University will also contact the referees you have nominated. Please note that you may be asked for alternative or additional referees as we seek references that cover your previous three years of employment history. Following successful completion of pre-employment clearances (including an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check, as relevant, please see job advert) a start date will then be arranged with you.