



University of
Nottingham

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Appointment Brief Appointment of Council Members

December 2024

Reference: WNYP2

Saxton Bampfylde

Foreword by the Chair of Council

Thank you for your interest in the lay member roles at the University of Nottingham.

With a proud history stretching back to 1881, we are now one of the largest universities in the UK, home to more than 45,000 students and 9,000 staff across three countries and with a global reputation for the quality of our education and research. Despite a challenging backdrop, there is much that the university can be proud of over the past few years, and we are looking to the future with considerable optimism.

Our research culture and performance has grown – we performed well in the 2021 REF – and have had a number of notable successes and world-class strengths across our disciplines. Many of these build on existing and long-standing research strengths. We are the birthplace of MRI – which led to Professor Sir Peter Mansfield winning a Nobel Prize in 2003 – and will soon host the UK's most powerful MRI scanner. More broadly, we are a university with a distinct global footprint and perspective. Our vision – codified in our university strategy – is to be a university without borders, and we embody this through our international reach. We are one university with established, thriving campuses in Malaysia and China as well as Nottingham, with 13,000 students based outside the UK. This global perspective has been supplemented more locally in recent years by a renewed and enhanced civic role in the wonderful city that we are proud to be part of.

Our Future Nottingham programme of transformation is reviewing our professional services and academic provision to ensure we are well-placed to thrive and make the most of the opportunities over the next few years.

This outstanding university depends on upon the enthusiasm and commitment of all its leaders, including the lay members of its Council. As a lay member you will have a key role in the stewardship of the university helping it to fulfil its mission.

If you are passionate about higher education and you have the experience, skills and track record of success to contribute to the future of this great university, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Keith O'Nions



About the university

The University of Nottingham is a pioneering university providing an exceptional research-led education and an outstanding student experience. We deliver world-leading research that transforms lives and societies.

We're looking to the future

This is an important step in our university's history right now. We're an institution focused on making changes for the right reasons to make the University of Nottingham a university fit for the future.

We are prioritising our efforts and our resources to most effectively deliver on our core mission of teaching excellence, exceptional research and innovation, and an outstanding student experience.

Our focus is on being the best university we can be, conducting research that changes lives for the better and tackles some of the biggest challenges facing our planet today.

This university is the home to a global community of defiant pioneers at the forefront of world-leading research. This is a place where lives are transformed, barriers are broken, and change is made together. We call this a world beyond ordinary.

Our rich history

The University of Nottingham was founded on the vision and philanthropic spirit of Jesse Boot who, in 1928, donated the land that is now University Park. The vision of a university devoted to discovery, enterprise and the advancement of the human condition, combined with his lifelong commitment to improving health and wellbeing, remains intrinsic to the culture of the university today and will continue to underpin our future purpose.

Providing an exceptional research-led education and an outstanding experience for more than 45,000 students, from more than 150 countries. We rank 16th in the UK (THE World University Rankings 2024). We were recognised in the Research Excellence Framework 2021 as seventh for research power, and our graduates are among the most sought after in the UK (third for top employers, as rated by High Fliers Graduate Report 2024).

We have five faculties: Arts, Engineering, Medicine and Health Sciences, Science, and Social Sciences. In the last Research Excellence Framework, 90% of our research was classed as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' (4* & 3*), with 51% of that assessed as 'world-leading' for its impact.

As a member of the UK's prestigious Russell Group and the Universitas 21 global network of research-intensive universities, the university delivers a high standard of education and is Gold-rated in the national Teaching Excellence Framework.

Students are at the heart of what we do. We are continuously developing our campuses to ensure that they have the learning spaces, facilities and resources that they need.

We are committed to cherishing the natural environment and beauty of our campuses across the UK, Ningbo and Malaysia, delivering new kinds of spaces for staff and students; a secure and inclusive environment that supports the wellbeing of the community; an education that is more than a degree; and a rich and stimulating social, cultural and sporting life, open to all.

Here at the University of Nottingham, we don't settle for ordinary.

A global perspective

We have an authentic global perspective through our campuses in Nottingham, China and Malaysia and continue to evolve our principle of being one university with campuses in three countries.

In order to respond to the increasing complexities of globalisation, we will build on our success by cultivating a global mindset among our staff and students. This will include deepening our exceptional international research and teaching partnerships, refining our curricula in the light of new global demands, providing appropriate mobility opportunities for students, and creating an on-campus culture of positive interaction among people from different parts of the world.

Malaysia

Established in 2000, the University of Nottingham Malaysia (UNM) was the first branch campus of a British university established outside of the UK

Offering world-class teaching from academics at the top of their fields across the faculties of Arts and Social Sciences and Science and Engineering. It provides a vibrant, comprehensive learning experience for students across a wide range of subjects and specialties.

Located amidst lush greens in Semenyih, the UNM campus offers a multicultural environment where students from around the world come together to learn, grow, and make lasting connections.

China

A truly global university in the heart of China, University of Nottingham Ningbo (UNNC) is the first Sino-foreign university in China.

Its social science and engineering courses rank among best in the world, and its community of more than 18,000 alumni make up a diverse and supportive global network.



Our Vision is to be a university without borders, where we embrace the opportunities presented by a changing world, and where ambitious people and a creative culture will enable us to change the world for the better.



Our strategy

Our strategy is at the heart of everything we do as an institution.

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Mission

We have inspiring campuses in three countries, energising us to be a globally engaged university that is also committed to making a difference in our cities and regions

We empower and support students and staff to collaborate in learning, scholarship and discovery across all realms of knowledge, solving problems and improving lives

We are stewards of a pioneering and entrepreneurial tradition of creativity and innovation

Values

In all we do, we value...

Inclusivity - We are a community where everyone can contribute and be appreciated for who they are.

Ambition - We set the highest standards for ourselves and our work and support each other to achieve them.

Openness - We adopt a straightforward and transparent way of communicating with each other and with the world, championing the free exchange of ideas.

Fairness - Our decisions and actions are consistent, impartial and ethical.

Respect - We have regard for each other's rights and feelings, and demonstrate this in our behaviour, treating each other with kindness.

What we are aiming for

Solving Problems and Improving Lives

We are solving problems and improving lives through education, research and knowledge exchange of the highest quality, through application to local and global challenges and through preparing our students to lead rich and fulfilling lives, thriving in the rapidly changing world of work.

Supporting Potential

We recruit students and staff with the highest potential and a desire to succeed, and we support them to ensure they achieve their goals. We work with local communities in our region and beyond to identify and encourage people who would benefit from our education. We put measures in place to ensure that we eliminate the attainment gaps between students from diverse backgrounds and embed equality in our decisions about staff recruitment, reward and progression.

Developing the Campus Experience

We cherish the natural environment and beauty of our campuses while building on Nottingham's reputation as an outstanding campus university. We continue to develop our campuses to answer the contemporary needs of staff and students for: new kinds of spaces; a secure and inclusive environment that supports the wellbeing of the community; an education that is more than a degree; and a rich and stimulating social, cultural and sporting life, open to all. While we will not grow our on-campus student populations significantly, we will reach out to new potential students across the world, attracting those who wish to access online resources, continuing professional development and lifelong learning.

Cultivating a Global Mindset

We have a global perspective and will evolve further our principle of being one university with campuses in three countries. In order to respond to the increasing complexities of globalisation, we build on our success by cultivating a global mindset among our staff and students. **We** provide an international experience for everyone, whether or not they leave their local campuses. This includes deepening our exceptional international research and teaching partnerships, refining our curricula in the light of new global demands, providing appropriate mobility opportunities for students, and creating an on-campus culture of positive interaction among people from different parts of the world.

Fostering Creativity, Discovery and Experiment

Our staff, students and graduates are known for a willingness to experiment and innovate. We foster an appetite for enterprise and creativity, celebrating new discoveries, tackling societal challenges and equipping our students with the curiosity, entrepreneurialism and emotional intelligence to enable them to be innovators and problem solvers. **We** develop incentives to ensure people are empowered to experiment without fear of failure; we develop curricula and extra-curricular opportunities that extend student skills; and we draw on the expertise of our staff and students to solve our own problems and to engage with external challenges.

Contributing to Sustainable Development Goals

We make an outstanding contribution to supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through our research and education, our engagement with partners and our behaviour on campus and in our communities. We place a special emphasis on environmental sustainability, supporting the City of Nottingham's desire to be a net zero carbon city by 2028 and working with partners in China and Malaysia to improve sustainability within their regions.

Embedding Collaboration in all that we do

We endeavour to become a university without borders, reaching out to our students, to our alumni and to our civic partners, industry, governments and citizens to ensure our research and education is developed in collaboration with our stakeholders and that we are recognised for the many benefits we provide to society. We will also promote a borderless principle within the university, encouraging collaboration across structural and cultural boundaries to improve our performance and effectiveness.



World-changing research

Changing the world will take collaboration, research, education and building our communities for the future.

Our pioneering researchers deliver solutions to complex global challenges. Our people work with communities, locally and globally, to make a difference.

We have a long history of delivering world-changing fundamental and translational research, taking findings and discoveries from the desk or laboratory and creating practical uses and products that improve people's lives.

We take sustainability seriously

We actively address the complex challenges facing our planet and are committed to making significant contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We're proud to be recognised among the world's top higher education institutions for our efforts, ranking in the Top 200 in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024.

Our world-leading research places us within the world's Top 100 for a number of individual SDG goals and our researchers deliver solutions to complex problems and work with partners in the UK and across the world so our innovations have transformative impacts on people's lives.

We've helped our partners cut CO2 emissions by 16.3m tonnes a year in recent years. Across transport, food, energy and other industries, our technologies are securing a net-zero future.

We are the birthplace of MRI

50 years ago, Professor Sir Peter Mansfield published the research paper that led to magnetic resonance imaging, an invention that transformed medicine. Today an MRI scan takes place every three seconds and countless patients have benefited from his invention.

Our legacy in the development of medical imaging includes the award of a Nobel prize in 2003 to Professor Sir Peter Mansfield. From humble origins in a physics lab in the late 1970s, it has become a world leading technology.

We are soon to host the UK's most powerful MRI scanner and our innovations in medical imaging continue to revolutionise understanding of brain function and human disease.

Setting Tourette's sufferers free

When Barbara Morera and fellow researchers from the schools of Psychology and Medicine first witnessed the reactions of participants in a clinical trial of a revolutionary treatment designed to ease the torment of people living with Tourette syndrome, she admits to being amazed – and moved.

The wearable device delivers rhythmic electrical pulses to the wearer's wrist, with the aim of reducing the verbal and physical tics associated with Tourette's. The device and its novel application of peripheral nerve stimulation also offers exciting possibilities for the treatment of a wide range of brain conditions.

The success of the trial, conducted with the support of the charity Tourette's Action and National Institute for Health Research Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre, attracted interest around the world and was the springboard for the creation of a University of Nottingham spinout company, Neurotherapeutics Ltd.

Securing net zero aviation

Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time and to safeguard the future of life on our planet, aviation must play its part in drastically reducing carbon emissions. The UK was the first major aviation sector in the world to commit to net zero CO₂ by 2050, and underlined this pledge with interim decarbonisation targets of at least 15% by 2030 and 40% by 2040. Yet commercial aircraft in the sky are predicted to double in the next 20 years, with emissions soaring in their wake, and by 2050 10 billion passengers will fly every year.

To achieve such ambitious targets and deliver net zero aviation will take concerted and coordinated action, taking in clean aircraft technologies and propulsion systems, sustainable aviation fuels, advances in materials, manufacturing and aircraft maintenance and more efficient airspace and airport operations.

At the University of Nottingham, we have sector-leading strengths in these fields. With the support of our partners, our ambition is to make the East Midlands the world's foremost location for low-carbon aerospace innovation.

Slavery survivor voices shape anti-slavery action

The University of Nottingham's Rights Lab was created in response to UN Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 - to end slavery in every corner of the world by 2030.

The Rights Lab is supporting this mission through research that shapes national and international strategies for ending the enslavement of an estimated 40 million people globally.

It is the world's largest and leading group of modern slavery researchers, and Rights Lab scholars are fighting slavery from every angle: whether exposing it in developed countries through scrutiny of supply chains; mapping slavery from space in countries with fish farms, brick-making kilns or deforestation camps; or proposing new anti-slavery policies based on slavery survivors' own narratives.

Student experience

Our teaching is delivered by some of the brightest minds in their fields and shaped by the latest ground-breaking research.

Our graduates are not only talented but trailblazers in their fields, sought after by leading employers worldwide. It's why we are ranked the third most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers 2024).

A member of the prestigious Russell Group of world-class, research-intensive universities, we deliver teaching excellence and prepare our graduates for the world they will inherit and enable them to make an impact.

But it's not a case of all work and no play. We were also proud to be The Times and The Sunday Times Sports University of the Year 2024.

We prioritise making sure students feel supported and our specialist teams help to deliver the best possible university experience through support services across admissions, accommodation, disability support, careers, sport and fitness, libraries, visa and immigration advice, and more.

Management and governance

Council

The university's governing body is the Council, which approves the strategic plans of the university and is ultimately responsible for its finances, buildings and staff.

Sir Keith O'Nions took up the role of Chair of Council from 1 January 2020, having joined Council in November 2018. He is a renowned scientist and former President and Rector of Imperial College London. His career includes roles as Chief Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defence, Director-General Science and Innovation, Department for Innovation and Universities and Skills, and Chair of Cambridge Enterprise, University of Cambridge.

Council is made up of eleven lay members, two student members, and six academic members including the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Council currently meets in-person four times a year for sessions that last a day and a half. Council members engage with the university in between sessions, often through online meetings.

Senate

The academic authority of the University of Nottingham is the Senate, which has responsibility for directing and regulating teaching and examinations, and promoting research. The Senate is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor.

University Executive Board

The University Executive Board meets regularly and is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor. Its membership includes the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Chief Financial Officer, and others.

Person specification

Being a global university with influence and impact on an international knowledge economy depends on the passion and commitment of all its leaders, members and champions. University Council has a key role to play in the stewardship of the university, helping it to fulfil its mission and ensure ongoing integration with, and impact in, all the communities that the university is part of locally and globally.

We are now seeking to appoint exceptional lay members who will sit as members of University Council. Candidates will bring a breadth of experience at board level from the public, private or third sectors and will contribute their skills and insights to the effective stewardship and strategic directions of the university.

The role of a Council member is wide-ranging, contributing to the governance of the university, overseeing investment and financial matters and legislative responsibilities, promoting and making provision for research and the student experience, and generally exercising the powers of Council as set out in the university's ordinances.

Individually, as a Council member you will provide your advice, support and expertise to ensure that the university's activities and management are both effective and efficient, establishing constructive, supportive and appropriately challenging working relationships with senior staff across the institution. You will also ensure that our work is in accordance with the public interest governance principles set by the Office for Students as well as our university values of inclusivity, ambition, openness, fairness and respect.

Collectively, members of Council make certain that the university delivers its charitable objectives for the public benefit and manages public funds appropriately, protecting the interests of taxpayers and other stakeholders.

Council members should also make sure that all students have opportunities to engage with the university to allow the full range of perspectives to inform the management and governance of the university, and that academic staff have freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom and to put forward new ideas.

The following attributes are essential for Council members:

- A passion for, a personal interest in, and a commitment to higher education alongside a commitment to the values, aims and objectives of the university.
- High-level experience from the public or private sector as an executive or non-executive. This might include experience of large organisational change programmes.
- A willingness to support the senior management of the university as a critical friend, while promoting the interests, activities and strategic aims of the university in the wider community.
- Ability to devote sufficient time to Council on a voluntary basis, including attendance at four sessions a year, lasting a full day and a half each.
- Sound judgement and judiciousness.
- Skilled at leading and managing constructive debate.
- Diplomacy and sensitivity.

In accordance with the regulatory requirements of the Office for Students, every Council member must be a fit and proper person, and not have been responsible for or contributed to any serious misconduct or mismanagement.



Terms of appointment

Members of Council serve a four-year term and are then eligible for re-appointment for two further terms of two years each. The minimum time commitment for this will be approximately one day per month.

All positions are unremunerated, although reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to the University of Nottingham on these appointments.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **WNYP2**

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Wednesday 8th January 2025**.

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.



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