

London and South East
University Group

Appointment of Independent Governors





Thank you for your interest in the role of Independent Governor on the Board of Governors of London and South East University Group (name subject to consultation), the UK's first pioneering multi-university group being formed by the Universities of Greenwich and Kent and launching on 1 August 2026.

As we prepare to establish the new Group, we do so at a moment that reflects the shared civic missions of both our universities, including the 60th anniversary of the University of Kent which was founded to widen access to higher education. Together, we are creating a bold, future-focused institution designed to expand opportunity for students and strengthen our region for decades to come. This new chapter brings the scale and expertise needed to deliver exceptional value for learners, drive impactful research and provide employers and communities with the talent and innovation essential for the future prosperity of London and the South East.

The Board of Governors will be the Group's board of directors and trustees, playing a central role in setting the Group's strategic direction, working with the executive to ensure that our ambitions for London and South East University Group are fulfilled.

We are seeking 2-4 exceptional individuals to join us as founding Independent Governors Designate to support the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer Designate, Professor Jane Harrington, and her team. They will bring their insights and experience to bear at this formative stage, during a pivotal time for the higher education sector when strong governance and clear strategic leadership matter more than ever.

This is a fantastic time to be joining London and South East University Group – a truly unique higher education organisation in the UK – and to help shape its direction from the outset. If you bring a drive for excellence, professional credibility and a shared belief in the power of higher education to transform lives, I encourage you to apply for these roles. This is a rare opportunity to contribute to something genuinely new – and genuinely impactful.

Mark Preston

Chair of the Council,
University of Kent
(Group Chair Designate)

Why Join Us Now?

- Opportunity to shape the Group
- Significant scale and regional impact
- Rare governance opportunity in UK HE.

About the London and South East University Group

London and South East University Group will be a pioneering new 'super university', bringing together the [University of Kent](#) and the [University of Greenwich](#) to create a first-of-its-kind multi-university group from August 2026.

The two universities [announced](#) that they were planning to develop a new university group in September 2025. Following extensive legal and financial preparation, that ambition has now been [formally confirmed](#), with both institutions legally committed to the creation of the Group.

Working closely with the Office for Students and the Department for Education, the universities have secured approval for a genuinely innovative, first-of-its-kind model –enabling the creation of a new multi-university group while allowing both universities to continue trading under their individual names.

Building on over 20 years of partnership between Greenwich and Kent, London and South East University Group will combine scale, resilience and academic strength to provide a strong foundation to weather current and future economic challenges, widen access to higher education, address skills gaps and inequalities, and increase research capacity - particularly in shared priority areas, such as food security and sustainability, health and wellbeing and the creative industries. As one of the largest higher education institutions in the UK – and the largest in the South of England – the Group will have the collective power to tackle

real-world challenges with greater impact locally, national and globally, and will be the biggest recruiter of students in London and the South East.

From 1 August 2026, the trailblazing multi-university group will operate as a single legal entity. The University of Greenwich and the University of Kent will continue as distinct academic divisions within the new structure, whilst retaining their individual names, identity and brands. Students will continue to apply to, study at and graduate from their chosen university, while benefitting from the enhanced opportunities and resilience that comes from being part of a larger group. All staff from both universities will be employed by the university group.

The proposed name of the London and South East University Group is currently subject to a formal regulatory consultation, expected to conclude in the next few months.



About the University of Greenwich

The [University of Greenwich](#) has been providing higher education for over 125 years. It has 30,000 UK and international students studying at three campuses in the UK, and an additional 17,000 students studying overseas.

The university operates across three campuses: Greenwich (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and Avery Hill in London and Medway in Kent. Greenwich's mission is '**Education without boundaries**', which means proactively supporting students and staff to achieve their ambitions because of, rather than despite, their backgrounds.

Greenwich achieved Gold in the 2023 Teaching Excellence Framework, the national assessment run by the Office for Students which measures the extent to which universities deliver an excellent experience and outcomes for their students. Only 22% of eligible institutions received such a rating. Its renowned research has been globally received and endorsed by five Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher & Further Education.

Notable alumni include the late Nobel Laureate Sir Charles Kao, Blur musician David Rowntree and campaigner Doreen Lawrence, Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon.



About the University of Kent

The **University of Kent** is a values-driven, student-centred university with a strong international reputation for education, research and civic impact. It welcomes more than 16,000 students from over 150 countries across its Canterbury and Medway campuses, offering a supportive and ambitious academic environment rooted in collaboration and community.

Kent is internationally recognised for academic excellence across the arts and humanities, sciences and social sciences. Subjects including Law and Psychology are ranked among the world's top 100 (Times Higher, 2026), and research is focussed on impact, including top rankings for History (REF, 2021), the world renowned [Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology](#), and the [Centre for Advanced Diagnostics Development and Application](#). Kent Business School is among a small global elite to hold triple accreditation (AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS). Significant investment in library facilities, high-performance computing, robotics and specialist hackspace provide outstanding student experience.

A major civic and economic contributor to South East England, Kent combines global reach with regional impact. Notable figures associated with the university include Nobel Prizewinning authors Kazuo Ishiguro and Abdulrazak Gurnah.





Leadership and Governance

For the two universities to form the new multi-university group, the legal process requires the University of Greenwich initially to change its name to the London and South East University Group¹, which will be a company limited by guarantee as well as a charity. The University of Greenwich will become an academic division, and the University of Kent will join the group as an academic division to complete the formal process, which will complete by 1 August 2026. The new group will retain the same charitable objectives as the two universities have now.

The new super-university will have one unified Board of Governors, one executive team, and one Vice-Chancellor. Beyond this, no decisions have been made on future structural changes. Integration teams are being established at Greenwich and Kent to lead the project of integrating the two institutions over the next couple of years. The universities have agreed that the current University of Greenwich Vice-Chancellor, [Professor Jane Harrington](#), will be the new Vice-Chancellor Designate of the Group; [Mark Preston](#), current Chair of the Council of the University of Kent, will be the Chair Designate of the new, single Board of Governors for the Group; and [Craig McWilliam](#), Chair of the Governing Body, University of Greenwich, will be the Vice-Chair Designate.

Recruitment is underway to London and South East University Group's Board of Governors, ready for 1 August. The Board of Governors will be the Group's board of directors and trustees, responsible for the strategic direction of the Group, approving its strategy and ensuring that it is fulfilled. The Board of Governors will comprise up to 17 Governors, including the Vice-Chancellor, two selected Staff Governors, two Student Governors, and 12 Independent Governors. The Board will have committees dealing with Audit and Risk, Finance and Estates, People and Nominations, Honorary Degrees, and Remuneration, and an Academic Board.

We are seeking to fill 2-4 Independent Governor positions through external recruitment, with the remainder to be appointed internally from existing Independent Governors of Greenwich and Lay Council members of Kent. As they are appointed, Independent Governors Designate will join the Group's Board Designate, which is overseeing appointments, preparation for the completion of the merger and post-completion planning with the executive designate. All appointments to the Board are subject to formal confirmation on completion of the merger.

¹ The name 'London and South East University Group' is currently going through a formal consultation process led by the Office for Students, expected to conclude in the next few months"

The Role and Commitments

We are seeking Independent Governors who will bring their strategic insight and experience to bear to enable London and South East University Group to achieve its ambitions in a rapidly changing and challenging higher education environment.

Candidates should have the innovative thinking, commercial acumen and freshness of insight that will enable the Group to build on the strengths of its academic divisions, achieve its business plan, and thrive in a period of uncertainty and change.

Person specification

Essential

- Strong commitment to ensuring London and South East University Group's success and achieving the objectives in its business plan.
- Ability to take a strategic perspective on complex issues.
- A real interest in or empathy with the higher education sector.
- Ability to understand and absorb complex data and information and reach informed judgments.
- Ability to commit the time required by the role and to attend (normally in person) most Board of Governors meetings and committee meetings where they are a member.

- Independent Governors:
 - Executive-level experience and previous board experience in an executive or non-executive role, with relevant skills and experience in areas in the Board's skills matrix.
 - Strong strategic insight, excellent commercial acumen and judgement and strong financial skills and understanding.

All Governors are expected to demonstrate:

- An understanding of the importance of collective responsibility and confidentiality in the Board's decision making.
- The ability to work as an effective member of the Board of Governors and to build strong working relationships with other Governors and the executive.
- The ability to question intelligently and debate constructively.
- An understanding of the proper segregation between governance and executive management.
- A commitment to the vision and mission of London and South East University Group and to its values, which will resonate with those of the University of Kent and the University of Greenwich.

- A willingness to take an interest in and get involved in the life of the Group's academic divisions (e.g. in the case of Independent Governors, by being linked to a strategic area in the Independent Governor Engagement Framework).
- A high degree of personal integrity, with behaviour consistent with the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles), i.e. selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership; and the core values of integrity, sustainability, inclusivity, excellence, innovation and growth, and community, which the CUC Higher Education Code of Governance identifies as the basis for good governance.

Time commitment

The Board is expected to normally have around five scheduled business meetings and two half-day strategy sessions or one strategy day per academic year. Business meetings (typically 2 hours' duration) will be held at one of the Group's campuses, moving between them. Governors are expected to attend meetings in person where possible. Some Board meetings will be preceded by Development Sessions to develop Governors' understanding of a particular area, and other events including workshops, visits to the Group's academic divisions etc will be held over the course of the year. The frequency of meetings and time commitment are likely to be greater in the Group's first 1-2 years of operation.

Independent Governors will normally be appointed to at least one of the following Board committees: Finance and Estates; People and Nominations; Audit and Risk; Remuneration; and Honorary Degrees. The Group's Independent Governor Engagement Framework will provide an opportunity for Independent Governors to develop their understanding of London and South East University Group by informally linking Governors to a major strategic area.

Term

Independent Governors will be appointed for an initial term of three years and may be re-appointed by the Board of Governors for up to two further three-year terms. Special provisions in the Group's Articles of Association apply to Independent Governors who previously served on the Council of the University of Kent or the Governing Body of the University of Greenwich. An Independent Governor who has served their maximum period of office may be appointed to a further term of up to one year where that is in the best interests of the Group.

Remuneration

Membership of the Board of Governors will be unremunerated, although expenses reasonably incurred may be reclaimed, and London and South East University Group will fund relevant training and development activities. An annual review of the performance and development needs of Governors will be conducted with the Chair.

How to apply

Anderson Quigley is supporting the external search for new Independent Governors of London and South East University Group.

Applicants should submit a full CV and a covering letter of application addressed to the Chair Designate, Mark Preston, which addresses the competencies in the person specification and your interest in London and South East University Group. Please include details of two referees in either your CV or covering letter, though please note that we will not approach your referees without your prior consent and only should you be shortlisted.

For further information, including information on how to apply, please visit [Anderson Quigley](#). The closing date for applications is **10 April 2026**.

Informal enquiries regarding this opportunity are welcome and should be made to **Helene Usherwood**, Senior Partner at Anderson Quigley at helene.usherwood@andersonquigley.com or **07719 322 669**.

Anderson Quigley will conduct preliminary interviews via Teams. The final selection process will be held at the University of Greenwich and the University of Kent. It will be preceded by opportunities for shortlisted candidates to visit the universities and meet the Chair Designate, the Vice-Chancellor Designate and the University Secretary of Greenwich and Chief Operating Officer and University Secretary of Kent. Details will be updated on the Anderson Quigley website once confirmed.

Anderson Quigley will conduct preliminary interviews via Teams.

The final selection process will be held at the University of Greenwich and the University of

Kent. It will be preceded by opportunities for shortlisted candidates to visit the universities and meet the Chair Designate, the Vice-Chancellor Designate and the University Secretary of Greenwich and Chief Operating Officer and University Secretary of Kent. Details will be updated on the Anderson Quigley website once confirmed.

Process and timing

The recruitment process will be overseen by the Core Board Designate, five Greenwich and Kent governors whose appointment to the Board Designate has already been approved by both universities. These include the Chair Designate, the Vice-Chair Designate, the Vice-Chancellor Designate, [Murray Orr](#) (current Vice-Chair of Greenwich) and [Julie Kelly](#) (current Senior Independent Governor of Kent). Longlisting, shortlisting and final interviews will be conducted by a panel drawn from the Core Board Designate as well as the University Secretary of Greenwich and the Chief Operating Officer and University Secretary of Kent.

Once appointed, Independent Governors Designate will join the Board of Governors Designate. All appointments to London and South East University Group's Board of Governors will be subject to formal confirmation by the Governing Body of the University of Greenwich prior to completion of the merger and by the Group's Board of Governors after completion.

