

University of Strathclyde Glasgow

FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF

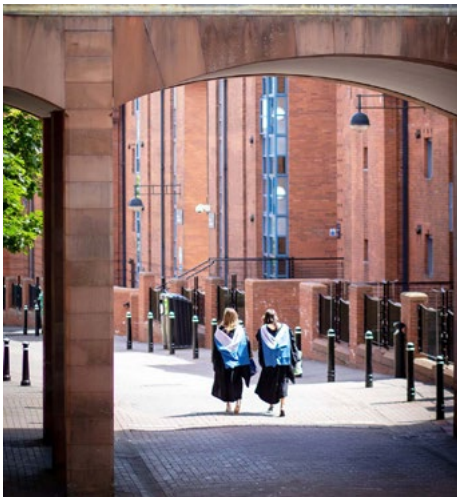
DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL AND INFORMATION SERVICES



University of Strathclyde Glasgow







UK RESEARCH UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2027
Daily Mail University Guide

UK UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2026
Daily Mail University Guide

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2026
The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide

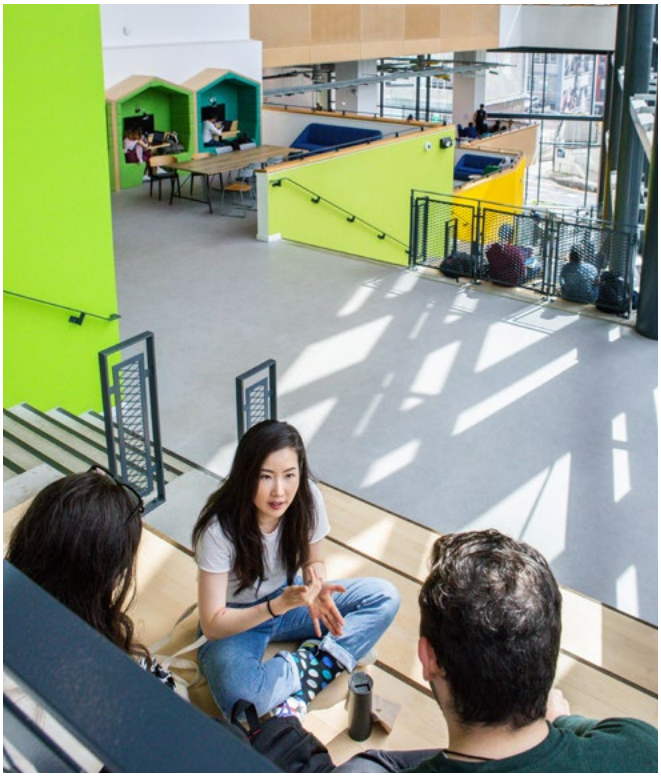
THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES 1996, 2019, 2021 & 2023
For Higher and Further Education

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THE UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE





The University of Strathclyde is one of the UK's leading technological universities: ambitious, socially progressive and deeply connected to the city, economy and communities it serves. Founded in 1796 as a "place of useful learning", Strathclyde has built a distinctive identity around education, research and innovation that deliver practical impact.

Today, the University educates more than 22,000 students, is supported by more than 4,000 staff across academic and professional services roles, and draws its community from over 100 countries. With annual income of more than £430 million and a substantial ongoing programme of investment in campus, digital and research infrastructure, it offers an environment in which academic excellence and public purpose are brought together with unusual clarity and confidence.

Guided by Strathclyde 2030, the University is pursuing an ambitious future shaped by outstanding education and student experience, world-leading research, transformative innovation and impact, global engagement and operational excellence. Its partnership model is a defining strength: Strathclyde works closely with business, industry, government and the public sector to turn ideas into application and research into real-world benefit. With major investment in campus, research and innovation capability, a powerful presence in Glasgow's innovation ecosystem and a reputation for combining entrepreneurial energy with institutional substance, Strathclyde offers an exceptional platform for a senior leader who wants to shape change at scale.

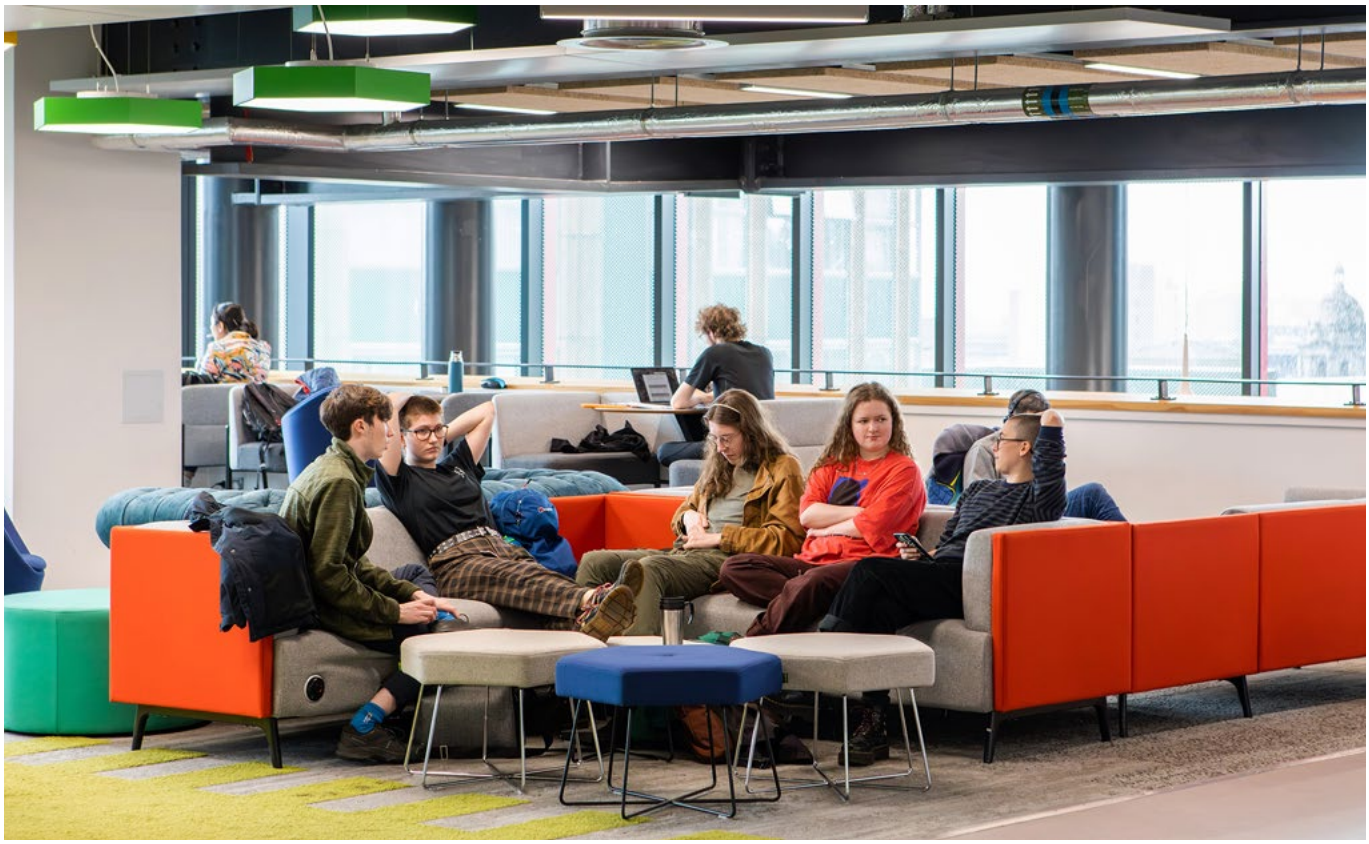


WHY THIS ROLE MATTERS NOW

Universities are operating in a period of significant change, rising expectations, rapid advances in artificial intelligence, increased demand for data-intensive research, expanding responsibilities for open research, growing cyber risk and the need for more joined-up, data-informed services are reshaping institutional priorities. For Strathclyde, this creates a significant leadership opportunity: to bring digital, data and technology together as a strategic enabler of the University's mission, to modernise services and platforms, to strengthen resilience and assurance, transform education and research practices and to help staff and students benefit from new capabilities in ways that are practical, responsible and high impact. The next Director of Digital and Information Services will therefore play a pivotal role in helping the University translate strategic ambition into institution-wide transformation.

Reporting to the Chief Commercial Officer, the Director of Digital and Information Services will provide strategic leadership for the University's digital, data and technology agenda, ensuring that information services and resources, cyber resilience, enterprise systems, data capabilities, open research infrastructure and emerging technologies are aligned to institutional priorities and deliver measurable impact. The role operates at significant institutional scale, supporting a large and diverse staff and student community across teaching, research and professional services, and leading a complex function spanning core IT and digital services, library, archives and special collections, and learning support, cyber resilience, enterprise systems, data capability, service improvement and transformation delivery.

The post-holder will be expected to shape priorities and oversee substantial operational and capital investment, ensuring that resources are directed to the areas of greatest institutional value and risk. The post-holder will lead the development and execution of a modern, secure and user-centred digital strategy that enhances the student and staff experience, strengthens research and teaching capability, modernises core platforms and processes, and supports agile, evidence-based decision-making across the University. The role will be expected to identify, govern and scale new digital solutions, including artificial intelligence, automation, cloud and data platforms, while ensuring robust cyber security, regulatory compliance, value for money and effective organisational change. The post-holder will also lead the delivery of key professional services across Information Services and Continuous Improvement, ensuring high-quality, resilient and value-adding services for the University community.



Reports to: Chief Commercial Officer
Location: Glasgow
Scale: Approximately 200 staff and a £22m annual operating budget, with additional capital investment
Salary/Band: Director grade

THE UNIVERSITY

- The University of Strathclyde is a technological university with a strong commitment to useful learning and practical impact. Its partnerships with industry, business, government and the public sector support education, research and innovation. Strathclyde 2030 sets the direction for the University's ambitions and the contribution of its digital and information services.

ROLE PURPOSE

- Provide strategic leadership for digital and information services across the University, ensuring that technology, data and knowledge resources improve education, research and the experience of students and staff. Lead a substantial service portfolio while delivering a prioritised programme of organisational and digital change.
- Build a confident, outward-looking directorate that combines deep institutional knowledge with curiosity about new approaches. Create an environment in which colleagues question established practice, learn from other organisations and take well-judged opportunities to improve services.
- The portfolio spans IT infrastructure and enterprise systems, cyber resilience, data and analytics, AI, Library services, archives and special collections, research computing and information resources. The Director will lead continuous improvement across the directorate and work with academic and professional services leaders to improve processes and ways of working across the University.

STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES

- Develop and deliver a university-wide digital, data and information services strategy aligned with Strathclyde 2030, shaped with academic and professional services leaders and informed by student and staff needs.
- Agree a deliverable programme of investment and improvement, making clear choices about sequencing, resources and the work that should stop, change or proceed. Balance institutional ambition with service resilience and financial sustainability.
- Establish shared ownership of change with the leaders of the services affected. Agree responsibilities for business decisions, delivery, adoption and benefits, supported by clear governance and proportionate reporting.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

- Lead and develop a multidisciplinary directorate, valuing professional expertise while encouraging constructive challenge, experimentation and learning from other sectors. Build confidence in what the team can achieve and translate ideas into improvements.
- Set clear expectations for service quality, collaboration and accountability. Develop leadership capability, address skills and succession needs and align workforce capacity with agreed priorities.

SERVICE DELIVERY AND TECHNOLOGY RENEWAL

- Ensure reliable, accessible and responsive services for students and staff. Use feedback and performance evidence to improve the user experience, resolve recurring problems and maintain service continuity through change.
- Lead the renewal and integration of core systems and infrastructure. Make informed choices about existing platforms, new investment, cloud services and in-house development, taking account of architecture, dependencies, support needs and whole-life cost.
- Oversee the delivery of digital programmes and projects, ensuring credible business cases, realistic resource plans and effective management of suppliers, risks and benefits. Work with service owners to redesign processes and support adoption.

DATA AND RESPONSIBILE INNOVATION

- Develop trusted data and analytics capabilities in partnership with institutional data owners. Establish clear responsibilities for data quality, access and use so that information supports planning, student success, research and service improvement.

- Identify, evaluate and scale useful applications of AI, automation and emerging technology. Ensure that innovation addresses clear needs and is supported by appropriate ethical, security, accessibility and information governance arrangements.
- Build digital, data and AI confidence across the University, working with colleagues to provide the support and skills needed to adopt new services and working practices.

CYBER SECURITY AND ASSURANCE

- Provide senior leadership for cyber security, digital resilience and information assurance. Maintain effective arrangements for identity and access, monitoring, incident response, recovery and supplier risk, with clear accountability and escalation.
- Ensure that technology and information services meet relevant legal, regulatory and institutional requirements. Explain material risks and investment choices clearly to senior leaders and relevant governance bodies and maintain tested continuity and recovery arrangements.

LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

- Champion the Library's contribution to education, research and civic engagement. Support its professional leaders to develop inclusive physical and digital services, learning resources, archives and special collections.
- Provide strategic oversight of open research, research information infrastructure, research computing, digital preservation and access to knowledge. Ensure effective stewardship of information resources and appropriate governance of copyright, licensing, open access and research data obligations.

RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Manage operational budgets, capital investment, workforce planning and procurement within agreed delegations. Demonstrate value for money through sound business cases, whole-life costing, effective contracts and benefits evaluation.
- Build trusted relationships with academic leaders, professional services, students, external partners and suppliers. Bring relevant developments and practice from other organisations into the University and represent its interests in appropriate professional and sector networks.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Candidates may come from higher education, the wider public sector or the private sector. Selection will focus on the scale and complexity of their responsibilities, their personal contribution and evidence of sustained results.

ESSENTIAL

- A degree or equivalent professional experience and a commitment to continuing development.
- Substantial senior leadership experience in a large, complex organisation, with responsibility for technology or information services, multidisciplinary teams and significant budgets. Evidence of balancing reliable operations with a programme of change.
- A record of delivering organisation-wide digital and service change, with demonstrable improvements in user experience, efficiency, resilience or organisational performance. Experience of securing adoption and sustaining benefits after implementation.
- Experience of developing strategy and translating it into a prioritised, affordable programme. Ability to evaluate business cases, manage dependencies and make difficult decisions about legacy systems, investment and resources.
- A substantial understanding of enterprise systems, integration, infrastructure, cloud services, data and emerging technologies, including AI. Ability to challenge and support specialists, assess options and make informed decisions about value and risk.
- Experience of senior accountability for digital risk and resilience, with the ability to oversee security, recovery and information governance arrangements and communicate risks clearly to executive leaders.
- Evidence of building an open, curious and accountable team culture. Ability to enable experienced colleagues to challenge assumptions, develop their capabilities and deliver improvements, while valuing their knowledge and professional contribution.
- Strong communication and relationship-building skills, with evidence of securing agreement across organisational boundaries. Ability to work with autonomous professional groups, establish shared ownership and address resistance constructively.

- Substantial experience of budget management, procurement, supplier relationships and contracts. Evidence of securing value for money and delivering sustainable services within resource constraints.
- Ability to lead specialist information, knowledge, learning or research support services through their professional leaders, providing effective sponsorship, advocacy and challenge. A clear commitment to accessible, inclusive and user-centred services.

HOW TO APPLY

Anderson Quigley is acting as an advisor to the University of Strathclyde. An executive search process is being carried out by Anderson Quigley in addition to the public advertisement.

Should you wish to discuss the role in strict confidence, please contact Sophie Rees on +44 (0)7719 313 982, sophie.rees@andersonquigley.com or Ed Pritchard on +44 (0)7980 817 927, ed.pritchard@andersonquigley.com

The closing date for applications is **noon on Monday 23 November 2026.**

Applications should consist of:

- A full CV;
- A covering letter (maximum of two pages) outlining how you meet the points under the person specification;
- Please include details of two referees, though please note that we will not approach referees without your prior consent and only should you be shortlisted.

Completed applications should be uploaded at www.andersonquigley.com/job/AQ3791

- About the University
- The University Court
- University's Strategic Plan: Strathclyde 2030

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DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE

Further information on the Data Protection Privacy Notice can be found on the University website at:
www.strath.ac.uk/whystrathclyde/universitygovernance/accesstoinformation/dataprotection/privacynotices/

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