OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

APPOINTMENT OF PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH AND INNOVATION)

October 2026



next ›



Information pack

Message from the Vice-Chancellor	3
About Oxford Brookes	5
Success at Oxford Brookes	6
Our University community	8
Our strategy	10
Our students	11
Our people, culture and values	13
Research and innovation	16
Global outlook	17
Our estate, our Oxford	19
Leadership, governance and finances	22
Role description	24
How to apply	27



Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Dear Candidate,

I'm delighted that you're considering an application for the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) at Oxford Brookes University.

I joined the University in August 2025 and, during my first year, I've been struck by the engagement, generosity and commitment of colleagues across Brookes. This is a University with deep pride in what it does, a strong belief in the value of its mission and a real appetite to promote, celebrate and build on its work. I've also seen the scale of the opportunity here: in our people, our students, our academic strengths, our partnerships, our location and our contribution to the region and beyond.

Our Roadmap to 2030 builds on the vision, mission and guiding principles of the University, and the framework of our Strategy 2035. Our newly agreed research strategy is central to this work. It gives us an opportunity to build on our distinctive strengths, focus our investment and extend the impact of our research and knowledge exchange.

We're now looking for a Pro Vice-Chancellor who will lead the next phase of our development in research and innovation. Preparing for REF 2029 and beyond will be a major priority, alongside strengthening research income, supporting our research community and developing partnerships that turn excellent research into benefits for society.

continued ›

The successful candidate will bring academic credibility, a strong personal record of research and experience of leading research and innovation across a university. They'll understand how to support excellence across different disciplines, make choices about priorities and investment, and lead a successful REF submission. We're looking for someone who can translate strategy into progress while earning the confidence of academic and professional services colleagues.

This is a role with a substantial external dimension. Oxford Brookes has strong links with business, industry and public services, and sits within a region with exceptional strengths in research and innovation. Our next Pro Vice-Chancellor will help us develop these relationships, create opportunities for knowledge exchange and commercialisation, and strengthen our national and international research profile.

Just as important is the environment we create for our researchers. You'll work with colleagues to support doctoral training, the development of research staff and students, and collaboration across disciplines. Working closely with the Director of Research, Innovation and Enterprise, you'll ensure that researchers have the support they need to secure funding, deliver their work and extend its impact.

While I recognise the challenges we face as a sector, I remain profoundly positive about the role universities play in contributing to regional, national and international progress and wellbeing. Brookes has an important part to play in that future. I'm looking for a colleague who will help us make the most of our research strengths and opportunities, and play a central role in the next chapter of Oxford Brookes.

I look forward to meeting applicants and to our conversations about the University.

Professor Helen Laville
Vice-Chancellor



About Oxford Brookes

Our founder, John Henry Brookes, believed that everyone should have access to education. That's why he created the college that we were founded upon. And it's why our University exists today.

Since becoming Oxford Brookes University in 1992, we have grown into a large and thriving modern higher education institution, committed to helping our students and staff achieve their full potential, and to making the world a better and fairer place through our knowledge and research.

As part of the University Alliance, we specialise in working with industry and employers to drive innovation and growth. We give the healthcare professionals, teachers, architects, planners, engineers, creatives, lawyers, athletes, entrepreneurs and business leaders of the future the skills, confidence and connected outlook that will enable them to shape the world for the better. Our expertise and research helps to drive industry and the communities we serve to thrive, evolve and meet the challenges of the future.

We are a key stakeholder in the Oxford region, and proud of our civic and regional impact. We are active and valued partners with local government, with our local communities, and with business and industry, and our graduates are an important resource for the knowledge-led and innovation-rich regional economy. At the same time we are global in outlook and ambition. Over 2,700 international students from around 140 countries choose to come to Oxford Brookes to study each year, and we have global links and teaching partnerships across multiple continents and countries.

Our aim is to inspire and drive collective progress through individual endeavour. We equip people with the skills, knowledge, mindset and attributes they need to thrive in a complex and changing world. We support and challenge our staff and students to be agents of positive change, and our inclusive, open and friendly community is our greatest asset.

Success at Oxford Brookes

Oxford Brookes is one of the UK's leading modern universities and enjoys an international reputation for teaching excellence and innovation as well as strong links with business and industry. We also have significant research strengths – 97% of Oxford Brookes research was found to be of internationally recognised quality or higher in the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021), and 70% to be of 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' quality.



One of the UK's top 50 institutions

Complete University Guide 2026



Among the world's top universities in 24 individual subject areas

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026



Nine National Teaching Fellowships for excellent learning and teaching

Higher Education Academy



Through our Associate College Partnership, we work with five further education colleges across the region to provide alternative ways to gaining qualifications



87% of full-time undergraduates are in work or further study 15 months after graduating

HESA Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022/23 – published July 2025



Ranked 55th in the Guardian University Guide 2026



Ranked in the top 10 of English universities for commercialisation of intellectual property (KEF 4)



Ranked 9th in Europe, Middle East & Africa for our Global MBA

QS Online MBA Rankings 2026

continued ›

Holder of a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF 2023) Silver award in recognition of ‘very high quality’ student experience and student outcomes



We have over 190,000 alumni in over 177 countries



28 Olympic and Paralympic rowing medalists from Oxford Brookes University Boat Club since 2000



The world’s first Fairtrade university – providing fair terms of trade for workers in the developing world



Institutional Athena Swan Bronze Award in recognition of our advancement of gender equality, representation and progression



Our University community

Oxford Brookes is a medium-sized teaching and research institution with a broad disciplinary base. Our University community is made up of around 2,800 academic and professional services staff and 17,500 students (72% undergraduate, 19% international), across two Faculties and 12 Schools. Total income in 2022/23 was £238m, including over £8m in research grants and contracts and over £19m in commercialisation and knowledge exchange income. The University is based at its central Headington Campus – together with a campus in Swindon focused on healthcare programmes.

Teaching and research at Oxford Brookes spans a wide range of disciplines, from social sciences, arts, humanities and business studies to education, health and life sciences, engineering, computer science, architecture and the built environment. Many of our courses are PSRB-accredited, and we have strong links with established and growing sectors such as life sciences, motorsport and high-performance engineering, technology businesses, biotech, the creative industries, and low carbon solutions.

Our people are the foundation of our success. We value and celebrate diversity, and strive to create an inclusive, open and supportive culture, where each individual student and staff member feels that they belong. As such, we are committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in all areas of our work. The University holds an institutional Athena Swan award recognising its work to advance gender equality, representation and progression across all disciplines and roles. At Oxford Brookes, women hold 65.8% of senior academic positions, and 48.8% of our professors are female, compared to a sector average of 29.7% (2023 data). Overall, 60.3% of staff and 58.5% of students are women; 41% of students and 16.3% of salaried staff identify as from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds; 7.7% of students and 6.3% identify as LGB+; and 19.6% of students and 7.4% of staff identify as disabled.

Our **EDI Strategy** for 2024-29 and our annual **Equality Reports** document the many impactful EDI initiatives and the high levels of commitment to EDI across the University.

continued ›

Alumni and fundraising

We are proud to be a truly global community, and our graduates form an international network of over 190,000 alumni across most of the world's countries. Our alumni support our students by engaging with our events, giving their time for mentoring and coaching, providing placements and internship opportunities, and by donations and gifts to the University. Their support helps us to ensure that our students have the best possible experience, with equal opportunities for all, regardless of background or financial circumstances. It also helps us to provide world-leading infrastructure for teaching and research, giving both students and researchers the opportunity to benefit from cutting edge facilities like the new specialist teaching and workshop buildings at our Headington Campus. Our developing fundraising strategy is built around these transformational priorities for student success and research and innovation, and is a key area of focus.

Structure

The University is organised into two overarching Faculties, each consisting of a number of schools. Each Faculty is led by a Pro Vice-Chancellor who is a member of the Senior Leadership Team, the University's senior executive team. The University's Professional Services work in close partnership with academic colleagues in support of the University's academic mission, and are organised into nine Directorates under the leadership of the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer.

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

- School of Arts
- School of Education, Humanities and Languages
- Oxford Brookes Law School
- School of Social Sciences
- Oxford Brookes Business School

Faculty of Health, Science and Technology

- School of Biological and Medical Sciences
- School of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health
- School of Sport, Nutrition and Allied Health Professions
- Oxford School of Nursing and Midwifery
- School of Architecture
- School of the Built Environment
- School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics

Professional Services

- Directorate of Academic and Student Administration
- Directorate of Marketing, Recruitment and Engagement
- Directorate of Estates and Campus Services
- Directorate of Finance and Legal Services
- People Directorate
- Directorate of Learning Resources
- IT Services
- Directorate of Research, Innovation and Enterprise
- Directorate of Sport and Active Wellness



Our strategy

We are internationally respected for our bold leadership and innovation in education; for helping organisations to develop sustainably; and for impactful research that is changing the world. We equip people with the skills, knowledge, mindset, and attributes required to face new challenges and thrive in a complex, uncertain world. Through the open exchange of knowledge and ideas, by prioritising the progression of equality, diversity and inclusion and seeking out the new, we shape tomorrow.

We worked closely with our students, staff, local community and other stakeholders to create and launch a new strategy for Oxford Brookes University in 2020/21. As part of this work we articulated our bold and ambitious 2035 Vision Statement as an expression of the kind of institution we want to be in 2035 and the steps we will take to ensure that we achieve this. We have now reviewed our goals and commitments at the end of the first five-year Strategy period and look forward to launching the refreshed strategy later in 2026.

Our vision statement

Oxford Brookes University is distinctive in nature. It is a modern, forward-thinking institution rooted in and connected to a city with a rich history of culture and learning. Through our excellence in teaching, research and knowledge exchange we make the world a better and fairer place.

Our guiding principles

Our Strategy sets out the guiding principles that shape everything we do as a University:

- **Inclusivity**
- **Confidence**
- **Enterprising Creativity**
- **Connectedness**
- **Generosity of Spirit**

Our strategic goals

Our Strategy sets out our focus and priorities for the next decade across our four strategic pillars:

- **Education and Enterprise**
- **Research and Innovation**
- **People and Culture**
- **Partnerships and Place**

View our Strategy 2035.



Our students

There are around 17,500 students at Oxford Brookes. 81% are from the UK and 19% are from the EU and the rest of the world. 72% are undergraduates and 28% are postgraduates.

Our ambition is for Oxford Brookes to be a fully inclusive institution that reflects society at large, and provides a breadth of opportunities, an excellent student experience and successful outcomes for all our students irrespective of their background. We seek to provide a globally relevant and purposeful educational experience that empowers students from around the world with the skills and confidence they need to make a positive difference in their lives and in their careers. We don't just teach – we work with our students to understand how to challenge and support them in exactly the right way, so that they can develop the skills, knowledge and personal qualities they will need to become successful, confident, resilient and socially engaged citizens. These are the principles that inform the offer set out in our new undergraduate proposition and in our emerging postgraduate proposition, which emphasise flexible and accessible learning opportunities and individualised support to help students make a meaningful impact in their chosen field.

continued ›





Teaching excellence

High-quality teaching lies at the heart of Oxford Brookes, and we are passionate about our students' learning experience. Our lecturers have received 9 National Teaching Fellowships for outstanding teaching, among other awards and accolades.

Our academic framework emphasises programme-level progression, peer interaction and learning, and progressive, level-appropriate stretch to challenge and develop our students. It is underpinned by our IDEAS curriculum model, designed to enhance and tailor inclusive teaching, feedback and assessment practices, and supported by an exceptional physical and digital learning environment for teaching and learning centring on our state-of-the art Brookes Library. The effectiveness of our approach is reflected in our very high quality student continuation, completion and progression outcomes.

Staying ahead

Employer engagement and professional practice are central to our education and enterprise strategy. We aim to provide our students with a stimulating and relevant learning experience, including opportunities to develop skills both inside and outside their studies. Our programmes are informed by employers and industry, are widely accredited by professional bodies, and have opportunities for placements, networking, and professional insights built into them.

Our students and graduates are known for their employability. They benefit from our strong links with businesses and employers both locally and internationally, from local schools and hospitals to organisations such as Oxfam, BMW, KPMG, Ferrari and Microsoft. 35% of our 118 undergraduate programmes have accreditation from around 40 professional, regulatory and statutory bodies (PSRBs), reflecting the strong vocational and professional orientation of our portfolio, and providing rigorous external benchmarking of the relevance, credibility and currency of our programmes and expertise. The most recent inspection of our degree apprenticeships rated our provision 'good' across all aspects and 'outstanding' in our foundation art and design programme.

« ‹ back next ›







Our people, culture and values

Oxford Brookes University employs around 2,800 motivated and passionate staff. We recognise that our people are key to our continuing success as a university and we are committed to creating a vibrant and inclusive working environment that supports colleagues to flourish and enjoy what they do. We want colleagues to feel valued, empowered, challenged, stimulated, involved, appreciated and trusted.

We provide comprehensive and progressive employment conditions, including flexible and hybrid working, opportunities for development and career progression, support for health and wellbeing, and a commitment to creating the conditions for a positive work experience, underpinned by our Guiding Principles.

Community and involvement are important features of our culture. We encourage discussion, participation and open communication amongst colleagues at all levels of the institution with colleagues contributing to key decisions and senior staff appointments.

We celebrate success including activities such as the Brookes People Awards, an event which recognises outstanding colleagues who exemplify our Guiding Principles. We value diversity and inclusion and are committed to ensuring that everyone in our community can flourish in a culture of respect and support, where we celebrate difference and thrive on each other's success.

continued ›





Our guiding principles



Inclusivity

We take positive steps to create an environment in which we celebrate, value, and provide equal opportunity to all.



Confidence

We have confidence in our staff and students, and we know that we prepare our graduates well for a fulfilling and valuable life. Through their success, we continue to earn our outstanding reputation.



Enterprising creativity

We're adaptable and flexible, and consider a fresh approach in everything we do – because we know our sustainability depends on a pioneering spirit.



Generosity of spirit

We believe people flourish in a culture of respect and support, where we celebrate difference and thrive on each other's success. Our students manifest a generosity of spirit as they progress in the world.



Connectedness

Our academic excellence is underpinned by a history of learning by doing. Our connections and our Oxford roots are fundamental to our students' experiences and our successful future.

continued ›

Our people and culture vision

Our excellence in teaching, research and knowledge exchange depends on the engagement, capability and wellbeing of our people. To deliver transformational, student-centred education necessitates a culture characterised by inclusivity, confidence, generosity of spirit, enterprising creativity and connectedness. Our personal and collective skills, knowledge and commitment will lead to success for individuals, teams and the whole University. Equally important are the relationships we build, and the ways we work together to ensure we all contribute to our common purpose – making the world a better and a fairer place. Brookes will be a place where people want to work and study. We will create an inclusive and supportive community distinguished by collaboration and mutual respect between academics from different disciplines, and academics, professional staff and students. Everyone will have the opportunity to develop, progress and thrive. In a fast-paced, changing world, we will achieve collective success by being innovative, agile and able to adapt to meet changing needs and circumstances, both internal and external.

View our People and Culture Strategy.

« ‹ back next ›







Research and innovation

Our research portfolio builds on our distinctive disciplinary base, fosters interdisciplinary and collaborative working, and delivers transformational social, cultural and economic benefits for our communities both locally and globally. Our research strengths span a range of disciplines, from social sciences, arts, humanities and business studies to education, health and life sciences, engineering, computer science, architecture and the built environment. In the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021), 97% of our overall research activity was evaluated as of internationally recognised quality or higher, with 50% judged of 'internationally excellent' and 20% of 'world-leading' quality.

Our strategy for research concentrates on providing a vibrant and sustainable research environment and culture, investing in our strengths, developing capacity and capability in emerging areas, stimulating and supporting collaborative and interdisciplinary research, and facilitating the societal and economic impact of our research.

As an entrepreneurial university, support for impact is embedded throughout our research structures, and we have developed a highly effective infrastructure for commercialisation, knowledge exchange and enterprise activity. Our Enterprise Centre and BioInnovation Hub foster links between academia and industry for the benefit of students, researchers, and companies. Since 2016 the hub has generated 17 new business starts and around 90 new jobs, and companies starting at the hub have raised around £60m in investment.

Our annual research, innovation and knowledge-exchange income streams have grown steadily. In 2021/22 we generated over £8.5m in research grants and contracts and over £19m in commercialisation and knowledge exchange income. Our Strategy aims to double the total income contribution of these activities by 2035.

Over that period we aim to strengthen our inclusive and connected research community, increase our collaborations with regional and global partners, and enhance our capacity to contribute to local, national and international priorities through sustainable innovation, knowledge exchange and enterprise.



Global outlook

Oxford Brookes is a university with a global reputation. We believe that everyone should have access to an education and that the work of our University community should be focused on making a difference in the world.

Our place within the vibrant and globally recognised innovation ecosystem that is Oxford, and the quality and prestige of our courses, attracts a diverse community of students and staff from across the UK and the world. Our global presence is growing all the time as we extend our teaching, research, knowledge exchange and impact through sustainable and equitable partnerships with colleges, education partners, businesses and third-sector organisations around the world. We believe that working together across borders and boundaries in mutually beneficial and equitable partnerships is key to meeting the challenges that the global community faces. Our Global Engagement Strategy articulates our aim to equip all of our staff and students with a global outlook, together with the skills, knowledge, mindset, and attributes required to face new challenges and respond to them. It is underpinned by a set of fundamental commitments to our students, staff and partners:

Our global commitments – education

We will offer all of our students, no matter where they are in the world, an opportunity to be part of the Oxford Brookes community. All of our students will have the opportunity for a truly global experience.

Our global commitments – research and knowledge exchange

We are committed to working collaboratively across countries and disciplines. By enabling our research and innovation community to collaborate internationally, we will lead in advancing knowledge and promoting positive influence on policy and practice to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges.

continued ›

Our global commitments – colleagues

We value the benefits that having a truly diverse community of colleagues brings to our university. We will strive to ensure we welcome talent from across the world, supporting all colleagues to thrive no matter their area of contribution.

Our global commitments – partners

We believe that collaboration is essential for addressing global challenges and we have a broad range of partnerships that support our research and enterprise, as well as our TNE, progression and mobility work. Our partners are diverse in nature and location, and we aim to broaden the range and depth of our global partnerships, with a shared sense of values and strategic vision.

International students

Over 2,700 students from around 140 countries choose to make Oxford Brookes their home. Our students flourish in the stimulating, supportive community we provide. They benefit from our excellent teaching and we value the academic and cultural contributions they make to the university. **Hear directly from our international students** what they value about Oxford Brookes and the city of Oxford.

Global partnerships

Through teaching partnerships, we extend the delivery of our programmes beyond our campuses, as well as enabling the development of new franchise, distance learning or dual degree programmes. We are proud to work in partnership with other institutions across multiple continents and countries, from China, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, to Kenya, Gibraltar and the Cayman Islands, to Germany and Greece.

« ‹ back next ›







Our estate, our Oxford

At Oxford Brookes we are continually renewing our campuses and our facilities. We have invested £91m in our halls and £88m in our estate over the last five years. This includes two new cutting-edge, sustainable teaching buildings and the redevelopment of Clive Booth Student Village. Our campuses reflect our forward-thinking character: we invest in our place, ensuring that our buildings are sustainable and stimulating for all, and in our digital estate, ensuring that more students than ever before, both in the UK and internationally, can benefit from an Oxford Brookes education.

Oxford campus vision

Oxford Brookes is committed to building an environment that supports our students, staff and partners to excel. Importantly, our campus spaces need to respond to the evolving needs of the University's community and the rapidly changing world of education. The University currently operates on two campuses in Oxford – Headington and Harcourt Hill – with a campus in Swindon focused on healthcare programmes. Over the coming years, all Oxford-based activity will be based at Headington. We believe our future Oxford environment will inspire a vibrant, connected and diverse student community to achieve their potential. Two state-of-the-art sustainable buildings – an innovative new teaching building, and a specialist purpose-built workshop – opened in the 2024/25 academic year. The award-winning facilities allow our students, staff and researchers to flourish, boost local collaboration and help meet the needs of industry. We are also improving outdoor spaces across the Headington site, and redeveloping our Clive Booth Student Village to provide an increased number of high-quality, affordable rooms for students within the University's central estate. This will help to reduce the number of students living in private rented accommodation and support efforts to manage local housing demand.

continued ›

Headington Campus comprises three sites. The Headington Hill site is set in mature parkland and home to Headington Hill Hall, a 19th century former manor house. A 15-minute walk away, the Marston Road site is a hub for healthcare teaching on the campus.

The flagship £132m John Henry Brookes Building opened on the Gipsy Lane site in 2014. Winning a number of awards, it transformed the experience of students and the wider University community. It houses the main central services at Headington, including the library, social study space, student support services, catering facilities and Brookes Union. The Business School relocated to refurbished premises at the end of 2017. New teaching spaces and industry-standard science laboratories also opened in 2017, alongside landscaping of external spaces, and the Sir Kenneth Wheare Hall. The campus also benefits from excellent sports and fitness facilities, including Oxfordshire's premier climbing centre.

Sustainability

We have strong sustainability commitments as part of our overarching Social Responsibility Framework, and have repeatedly been recognised in national awards for our sustainability credentials. We recognise the important role we play in delivering sustainable operations, in our development programmes, and in the global reach of our research and teaching programmes, and sustainability is identified as a key enabler in our University Strategy. We are a signatory to the Zero Carbon Oxford pledge, supporting the city's aspiration to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040. All our building projects are guided by our internal Sustainable Design Criteria, and we have targeted a 68% reduction of scope 1 & 2 emissions (those relating predominantly to our buildings and infrastructure) from 2010 levels by 2030. In 2022, we completed the installation of a pioneering geo-exchange heating system on our Headington Campus, capable of providing near zero carbon heating in the long term as the National Grid decarbonises.

continued ›





The City of Oxford

Oxford is a beautiful city with a rich cultural history. The city is famous for education and architecture, museums and green spaces. It has a population of 152,450 and is currently the 12th fastest growing city with one-third of the population aged 18-29.

There are 4,730 businesses in Oxford providing 118,000 jobs. Key sectors of industry are health, education, research, technology, tourism, car manufacturing and publishing. Oxfordshire is amongst the top five technology innovation ecosystems in the world and home to over 1,500 high tech companies employing around 43,000 people.

Oxford Brookes is proud of its home in Oxford and proud to make a significant economic, social and cultural contribution to the city; from our substantial direct economic footprint, through our links with the high-skill regional economy, to the expertise of our nurses and teachers in local hospitals and schools.

We partner up to raise aspirations in schools, to widen access to those under represented in higher education and to provide expert consultancy to small and medium sized enterprises. Tourism is a thriving economy in the city, generating more than £780m annually. In 2022 Oxford was the ninth most visited city in the UK for overnight visits.

Oxford is only an hour from London by train and many placements and field trips make the most of this easy access. The University is well served by a regular coach service to central London and to Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

More information about the city of Oxford and the surrounding area

« ‹ back next ›







Our leadership, governance and finances

The University's structure is designed to facilitate swift and effective decision-making, enabling us to respond boldly and decisively to challenges and opportunities as they arise.

Responsibility for the day-to-day running of Oxford Brookes University rests with the Vice-Chancellor, supported by the **Senior Leadership Team (SLT).** SLT is the senior executive decision-making body of the University, meeting weekly for the purposes of regular updates, discussion on immediate issues, and higher-level strategic work. It comprises the following role-holders:

- Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Educational Partnerships)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology
- Registrar and Chief Operating Officer
- Academic Registrar and Director of Academic and Student Administration
- Director of Marketing, Recruitment and Engagement
- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief People Officer

continued ›

The Vice-Chancellor reports to the Board of Governors, the University's governing body. The Board of Governors is responsible for determining the overall mission and setting the educational character of the University. It approves the University's strategic plans, and is responsible for monitoring the performance of the University. The Board currently comprises 18 members. The Chair and 12 others are independent of the University, while the Vice-Chancellor, two selected staff members, the President of Brookes Union, and an additional co-opted student governor take the other seats.

There are eight senior Committees that report to the Board of Governors:

- Finance and Resources Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee
- People Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Remuneration Committee
- SLT Remuneration Committee
- Academic Assurance Committee
- Honorary Conferments Committee.

Our finances

Oxford Brookes University has a good track record of meeting or exceeding budget targets and achieving strong financial performance against sector KPIs. Our **annual financial statements** can be found on our website.

The University's financial plans focus on strong operating cash and delivering a surplus position, in order to achieve an excellent student experience and ensure capacity for investment in support of delivering the University Strategy and the Roadmap to 2030.

Role description

Salary	£155,352 (national pay award pending)
Reports to	Vice-Chancellor
Location	Headington campus
Hours	Full-time
Contract	Permanent
Staff managed	Personal Assistant; Director of Research, Innovation and Enterprise

Purpose of role

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) will lead the next phase of the University's development in research, innovation and knowledge exchange. The post holder will play a key leadership role in enabling the University to prepare for REF 2029 and beyond. They will have a key role in implementing the University's Roadmap to 2030 and its newly agreed research strategy. This will include elements of focus and selectivity to enhance our research profile and income, and will seek to position the University to achieve its ambitions for continued progress in the delivery of externally-recognised world-leading research.

The postholder will be expected to offer an influential and authoritative face for the University externally, as well as strong and authoritative leadership of the research community internally. They will work closely with other members of the Senior Leadership Team and with Faculties and Directorates to deliver the University's strategic goals, particularly those which relate to the further development of the University's research, innovation and knowledge exchange strategies.

Key responsibilities

A leadership role in driving the implementation of the University's Roadmap to 2030 and its Research Strategy (one of the four pillars of Strategy 2035), working closely with the Senior Leadership Team.

Research, innovation, impact and knowledge exchange

- Formulating and implementing a strategy to optimise the University's return in the next REF
- The development and regular review of research priorities and initiatives
- Allocation and monitoring of the research and KE budgets (QR and HEIF)

continued ›

Research, innovation, impact and knowledge exchange (continued)

- Facilitating and supporting research events and activities
- Bringing together and working with research leaders to inform best practice
- Overseeing the development of doctoral training programmes, as well as the career development of research staff and students
- Developing initiatives to maximise research income and knowledge exchange activities
- Supporting the development of inter and multi-disciplinary research
- Increasing opportunities for the commercialisation of research
- Working with the PVC (Recruitment and Partnerships) to identify and secure international joint research activities and funding opportunities.
- Working with the Director for Research, Innovation & Enterprise to ensure high quality support for research excellence and impact, grant capture and post-award activities, enterprise and knowledge exchange, innovation and commercialisation of research and researcher development at all levels.

Graduate School

Strategic oversight of the Graduate School, providing support for the Research Degrees Team, research tutors and students

External research profile

- Supporting others within the University in developing their external research profile
- Developing initiatives for showcasing the University's research and knowledge exchange activities
- Undertaking personal research which is internationally excellent and world leading
- Taking a leading role within their discipline nationally and internationally
- Attending and contributing to national and international research leadership events, research groups and committees.

continued ›

Person specification

Education and training (essential)

- PhD or equivalent professional qualification

Relevant experience (essential)

- Experience in leading and driving research and innovation activities within an HE context including managing and delivering successful REF submissions.
- Experience in the development and delivery of University research strategies which deliver positive external impact for the outcomes of the research, as part of the University's Senior Leadership Team.
- A strong academic background with extensive experience of teaching at postgraduate level and of supervision of research students
- Personal engagement in research: a substantial record of research funding, high quality publications and/or successful knowledge exchange activity
- Experience of developing and leading policies for improving research performance at institutional and sub-institutional level
- Proven qualities of leadership and successful policy formulation and implementation in an HE context
- A good track record of working successfully with colleagues and with external stakeholders in relation to knowledge exchange activities
- Experience of working in a senior position in the HE sector
- An excellent understanding of the contemporary policy issues in HE, in particular in relation to the Research Excellence Framework and wider government/HEFCE policies relating to research, impact and knowledge exchange

Relevant skills and aptitudes (essential)

- Excellent interpersonal skills; an assured and confident communicator
- The ability to operate effectively as part of the Senior Management Team
- An inspirational and authoritative leadership style which motivates colleagues and gains their trust and respect
- Sound judgement and practical problem-solving skills
- The ability and willingness to maintain focus, take difficult decisions, and to deliver
- High levels of personal motivation and resilience, diplomacy and tact
- A commitment to the University's values, aims and objectives, and an enthusiasm for what it is seeking to achieve

« < back

How to apply

Anderson Quigley is acting as an advisor to Oxford Brookes University. 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 Imogen Wilde on 07511 607522, imogen.wilde@andersonquigley.com or Ed Pritchard on +44 (0)7980 817927, ed.pritchard@andersonquigley.com

The closing date for applications is **noon on Monday 2 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;
- 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/candidates** using the reference number AQ3769.

« ‹ back

OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

www.brookes.ac.uk