

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Co-opted lay member of Audit and Risk Committee

Vacancy available from Autumn 2025





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Welcome from Philippa Hird – Chair of the Board

I am delighted you are considering applying for the role of co-opted lay member of the Audit and Risk Committee at The University of Manchester. This is a valuable opportunity to contribute your expertise in audit, risk or finance in support of a globally ambitious, values-driven institution with a strong sense of civic purpose.

This appointment comes at an exciting time as we finalise our refreshed strategic vision, *Manchester 2035*, shaped through extensive engagement across our university and beyond. The strategy will guide us over the next decade as we seek to address some of the world's most complex and urgent challenges through our core goals of research and discovery, teaching and learning and social responsibility.

Our university has a remarkable heritage and bold aspirations. We are proud of our role in the UK's £1.5 billion innovation district, Sister, and our track record of transformative research – from building the first modern computer to the discovery of graphene by Nobel laureates Sir Andre Geim and Sir Kostya Novoselov. Our cultural institutions, including the Manchester Museum, the Whitworth, and Jodrell Bank Observatory, enrich both our

academic mission and our wider civic engagement.

The Audit and Risk Committee plays a critical role in assuring the effectiveness of the University's governance, internal control and risk management arrangements. As a co-opted member, you will bring independent scrutiny, professional insight and sound judgement to support the University in delivering on its strategic goals. This is a non-executive role that contributes to the University's integrity, resilience and long-term success.

We are looking for a candidate with experience in audit, finance or risk – ideally with a relevant qualification – who is committed to public service and excited by the opportunity to support a modern civic university of global reach and influence.

If this opportunity resonates, we would be delighted to hear from you.



About The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester is a global institution known for research excellence, teaching quality and a strong commitment to social responsibility. For more than 200 years we have advanced education, knowledge and wisdom for the good of society – a mission that is now more urgent than ever.

Our history and present

Formed in 2004 through the merger of the Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST, The University of Manchester builds on a rich heritage of civic innovation. Our foundations trace back to 1824 and include the Manchester Mechanics' Institute and Manchester Royal School of Medicine – part of a wider movement to provide education for working people.

26 Nobel laureates have since studied or worked here, including Ernest Rutherford, Arthur Lewis, Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov, whose work on graphene continues to shape global innovation. In 2024, alumnus Professor Simon Johnson won the Nobel Prize in Economics for his groundbreaking research on 'how institutions are formed and affect prosperity'.

Today, the University is one of the UK's largest single-site universities, with a turnover of more than £1.4 billion, more than 46,000 students, nearly 13,000 staff and 585,000 alumni around the world.

Global rankings and reputation

The University of Manchester is recognised globally for its pioneering research, outstanding teaching and learning, and commitment to social responsibility.

- Part of the Russell Group, we're ranked 35th in the QS World University Rankings, 2026 (7th in the UK) and 46th in the Academic Ranking of World Universities, 2025.
- The power of our social and environmental impact has been recognised on a global scale as the only university in the top ten in both the QS World University Sustainability Rankings and Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, for our contribution towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- We were ranked fifth for research power – the quality and scale of research and impact – in the Research Excellence Framework (REF), 2021.

Manchester and the region

Manchester is the original modern city – birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, trade unionism, the cooperative movement and the suffragette struggle. That spirit of innovation, inclusion and challenge continues to define the city and the University today.

We work closely with partners across Greater Manchester through our Civic University Agreement, signed with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and fellow universities in the region. Together, we are driving change in areas including health inequalities, digital inclusion and place-based regeneration.

The city is regularly ranked among the world's best cities to live and visit – according to The New York Times, Lonely Planet and The Economist – and offers a rich mix of cultural life, including the Hallé Orchestra, Aviva Studios, HOME and a thriving independent arts and food scene. The University is a key contributor to this cultural ecosystem through the Manchester Museum, The Whitworth, and the John Rylands Research Institute and Library.

Innovation and economic growth

Innovation is central to our mission. Our North Campus redevelopment, Sister (formerly ID Manchester), is a £1.5 billion project to create one of the UK's leading innovation districts – expected to support 10,000+ jobs and transform the regional economy.

In 2024, we also launched Unit M, a specialist function that strengthens startups, scale-ups and industry collaborations. These initiatives reflect our focus on commercialisation, skills development and regional growth.




Manchester 2035

Our institutional strategy, *Manchester 2035*, is being finalised following extensive consultation. This revised vision will guide the University's direction for the next decade – setting out bold missions around equity, innovation, sustainability, research impact and civic partnership. It will play a key role in shaping how we manage opportunity, risk and long-term impact.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

Equity, diversity and inclusion are central to the University's values and strategic direction. From our founding, we've worked to break down barriers and improve lives. Today, we continue that ambition by investing in inclusive leadership, robust data and meaningful engagement – helping to ensure an inclusive culture and equitable outcomes for all staff, students and partners.

We share the University's progress in our annual [Equality Information Report](#).

A wide-angle photograph of a university campus. In the background, a large, historic stone building with a prominent red-tiled roof and a tall, ornate tower with a blue roof and red spire. The building is surrounded by lush green trees with yellowing autumn leaves. A paved walkway leads towards the building, with many people walking. To the left, a modern glass-fronted building is partially visible. The scene is bright and sunny, with long shadows cast on the ground.

Particulars of appointment

Co-opted lay member of Audit and Risk Committee

Purpose of post

The University is seeking to recruit a co-opted member of Audit and Risk Committee.

The Audit and Risk Committee has an important function in expressing opinions and giving assurances to the Board of Governors on the effectiveness of the University's arrangements for risk management, control and governance. The risk management element of this role includes the review of the processes which lead to the statement on internal control in the financial statements.

As part of its remit, the Audit and Risk Committee oversees the work of internal audit including, whenever appropriate, seeking explicit confirmation to report to the Board that specific action plans are being implemented to remedy any significant failings or weaknesses identified. In this context, the Strategic Risk Register is a significant driver of the internal audit programme approved by the Audit and Risk Committee.

Further information is available within the Committee's [Terms of Reference and Membership](#).

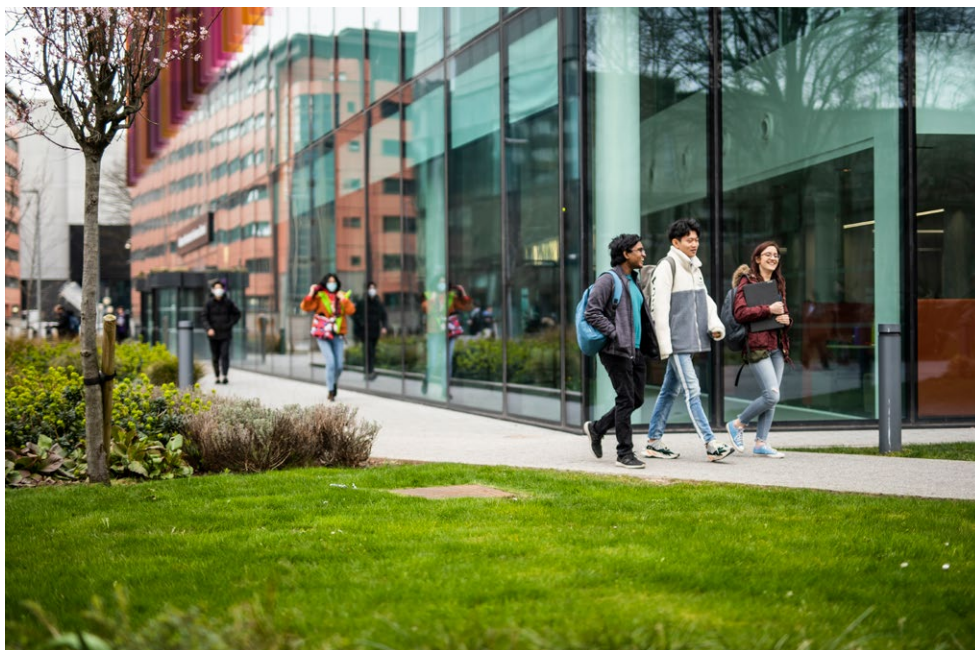
Key responsibilities

Along with Board members, committee members are expected to perform their duties efficiently and diligently to a standard commensurate with their personal capabilities and should have regard to:

- i. the University's values of knowledge, wisdom, humanity, academic freedom, courage and pioneering spirit as set out in the University's vision and strategic plan, [Our Future](#). (A refreshed strategy, *Manchester 2035*, is in development and is expected to be approved by the Board of Governors in October 2025.)

Members should:

- Scrutinise and constructively challenge the performance of management in meeting agreed goals and objectives and monitor the reporting of performance. This will include relevant reports from external organisations.
- Investigate the integrity of both financial and non-financial information, ensuring accuracy, reliability, and transparency in reporting. Evaluate the robustness of and financial and other controls and risk management, confirming they are defensible, robust, and incorporate both preventative and mitigating actions.
- Monitor the academic governance framework, in collaboration with the University Senate, to ensure the quality of learning, teaching, and research is effectively managed.



- Devote time to developing and refreshing their knowledge and skills.
- Uphold high standards of integrity and probity and support the Chair and the other committee members in instilling the appropriate culture, values and behaviours in the committee room and beyond.



Standards

- Members of Board committees are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with accepted standards of behaviour in public life (see references to the [Nolan Principles](#) and [CUC Code](#) as outlined above).
- As the University is an educational charity, candidates should have not been disqualified from acting as trustees and will be asked to confirm in writing that this is the case. Candidates will also be asked to consider and declare any existing or potential conflicts of interest.
- Since the University is both a charity and chartered body, committee members will be collectively responsible for providing assurance to the Board that it is exercising efficient and effective use of the resources of the University for the furtherance of its charitable purposes (including assurances that proper mechanisms exist to ensure financial control and for the prevention of fraud).

Time commitment

Committee members will be expected to devote such time as is necessary for the proper performance of their role. For this role, the appointed candidate should expect to spend approximately five days per year on University work after the induction phase. This is based on preparation for and attendance at five committee meetings per year.

Person specification

Committee members will have the proven ability to contribute to the work of the Committee and support the governance model that the Board of Governors has fostered. Curiosity and willingness to learn about the University and its strategic ambitions, and the broader higher education sector are essential.

Skills and experience sought

Key skills

- Proven interpersonal, communication and people skills, including critical listening, the ability to question intelligently and debate constructively.
- The ability to demonstrate sound judgement and integrity.
- The ability to participate effectively in meetings and confidence to challenge and hold to account the University's Executive and representatives of internal and external audit.
- The ability to work within a framework of collective decision-making in the best interests of the University and within the terms of reference of the Audit and Risk Committee.
- Understanding of the need to balance conflicting factors and make objective decisions.
- Appreciation of the importance of confidentiality.
- Excellent analytical skills and the ability to interrogate and interpret complex information.
- An understanding of the higher education sector and related policy environment.

Experience

- An accounting/auditing qualification.
- Experience in audit, finance, or risk management and/or audit and risk committee experience in either the public or private sector.

We would particularly welcome and encourage applications from women, Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority candidates, candidates with disabilities and candidates with other characteristics that would further enhance the diversity of the Committee.

Term of Office

Appointments are normally made for an initial period of a maximum of three years and appointees will be eligible for consideration for reappointment for a further term of three years.

Expenses

Members of the audit and risk Committee will receive no remuneration for their position; however, they may claim all reasonable travel and subsistence expenses for attending meetings and any related activity.



A photograph of a large, historic stone building at the University of Manchester, heavily covered in green ivy. The building features a prominent central tower with a spire. In the foreground, there is a green lawn, a paved path, and a large tree on the right. A wooden bench is visible in the lower right corner. The sky is clear and blue.

Enquiries about vacancy shortlisting and interviews

Email: deputysecretary@manchester.ac.uk

Candidates should apply for this role by emailing a CV and covering letter (no more than two sides of A4) to: laymemberrecruitment@manchester.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is Tuesday, 30 September 2025 at 11pm. Upon receipt of your CV and cover letter, we will issue an 'equal opportunities monitoring and consent form'.