

STUDENT GOVERNOR

Appointment details: April 2024



Welcome

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in this key role at Oxford Brookes University. Oxford Brookes is one of the UK's leading modern universities and enjoys an international reputation for innovation as well as strong links to business and industry.

We are looking for a Student Governor with a demonstrable commitment to the values and objectives of Oxford Brookes University.

Oxford Brookes is at an exciting phase in its development and is an ambitious community which welcomes talented individuals who share our ambition. I look forward to engaging with you as part of the recruitment process.

PROFESSOR ALISTAIR FITT
VICE-CHANCELLOR



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 internationally recognised or higher in the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021).

- Among the world's top universities in 19 individual subject areas (*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023*)
- One of the UK's top 50 institutions (*Complete University Guide 2024*)
- 16 years of success with our Associate College Partnership; partnering with eight Further Education colleges across the region to offer alternative ways to gain qualifications
- 90% of full-time undergraduates are in employment and/or further study within six months of graduating (*HESA Graduate Outcomes Survey 2020/21 – published June 2023*)
- We have over 130,000 alumni in over 189 countries
- 10 National Teaching Fellowships for excellent learning and teaching (Higher Education Academy)
- 13 Olympic medals have been won by former students who were Oxford Brookes rowers
- The world's first Fairtrade university – providing fair terms of trade for workers in the developing world
- Top tier university in renewable energy (*Uswitch Renewable University Report 2020*)
- Athena Swan Bronze Award in recognition of our advancement in gender equality, representation and progression



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, mind-set, and attributes required to face new challenges and thrive in a complex, uncertain world. We inspire and drive collective progress through individual endeavour. Our inclusive and friendly community is our greatest asset. We embrace supportive challenge as a catalyst for change. 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.

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 STRATEGIC GOALS

This strategy sets out our focus and priorities for the next 15 years. We have worked closely with our students, staff, local community and other stakeholders to create a new strategy for Oxford Brookes University for 2020/2021 and beyond. As part of this work we have 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 in order to achieve this vision.

In defining and delivering our strategy, both medium and long term, the University identifies the elements of its character as being:

- **Ambition and aspiration**
Providing an environment where we identify and help develop the ambitions and aspirations of our staff, students and partners.
- **Agility**
Ensuring that our staff, students and partners are equipped to respond to current and emerging challenges in society.
- **Endeavour**
Through collective efforts and support structures, we become a confident, resilient community enabling potential to be realised and ambition fulfilled.
- **Impact**
Ensuring that we positively impact upon society – locally, nationally and globally – in order to have a transformative influence on society.
- **Valuing people**
Enhancing our commitment to engaging, developing and retaining necessary talent to achieve our strategic goals through our continued commitment to inclusivity, equality and diversity.



[Read our 2035 vision](#)



Our students

There are approximately 17,000 students at Oxford Brookes University. 83% are from the UK, 17% are from the EU and the rest of the world.

Our students and graduates are known for their employability. They benefit from the strong links we have with businesses and employers both locally and internationally, from local schools and hospitals to organisations such as Oxfam, BMW, KPMG, Ferrari and Microsoft.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

At Oxford Brookes we are passionate about our students' learning experience. Our lecturers have received 10 National Teaching Fellowships for outstanding teaching, amongst other awards.

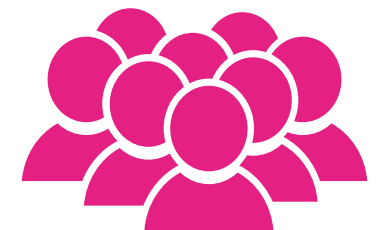
Oxford Brookes holds a Silver award in the Teaching Excellence Framework 2023, the nationwide ranking for teaching excellence in UK universities and colleges.

The Silver rating recognises that 'the student experience and outcomes are typically very high quality, and there may be some outstanding features'.

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.

STAYING AHEAD

We aim to continue providing our students with a stimulating learning experience, including opportunities to develop skills both inside and outside their studies, with co-curricular projects to fuel their enthusiasm and hone their abilities.



Research and innovation

Our portfolio of research excellence builds on our distinctive disciplinary base, fosters interdisciplinary and collaborative working, and delivers transformational social, cultural and economic benefit for our communities both locally and globally.

We will strengthen our inclusive and connected research community, increase our collaborations with regional and global partners and enhance our capacity to drive forward sustainable innovation, knowledge exchange and enterprise.

We will advance opportunities to lead and contribute to local, national and international initiatives using our expertise and facilities.

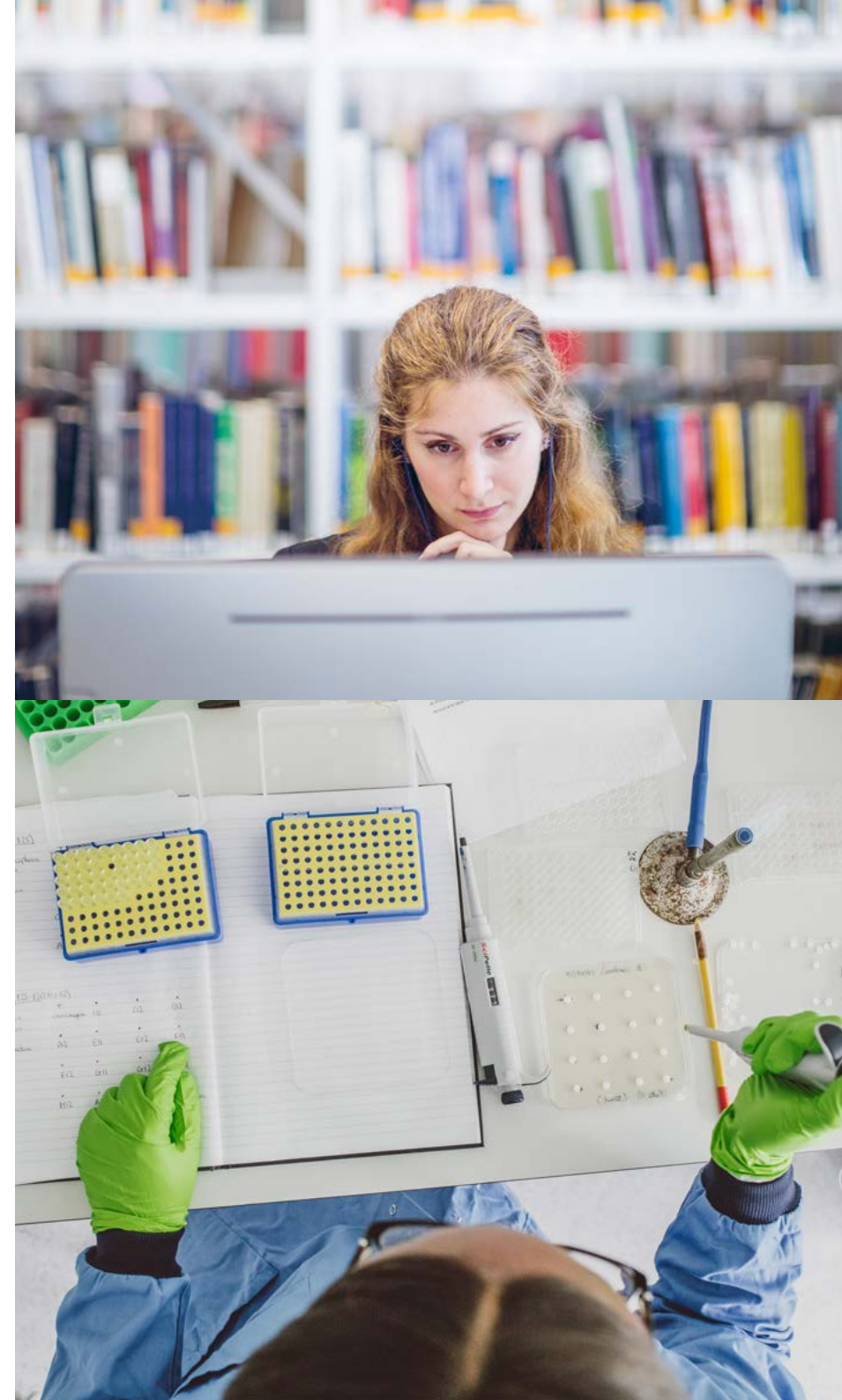
We will do this by:

- Continuing to increase the quality and global impact of our research. This is crucial to our growth as an entrepreneurial university. We will invest in growing our academic community, in creating innovative spaces and facilities, and providing a collegiate, inclusive environment in which our researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs can flourish and excel.
- Characterising our research and knowledge exchange portfolio with globally recognised research centres and collaborative, interdisciplinary networks, which address societal needs, support sustainable economic development and promote health and wellbeing.

- Creating an inclusive and vibrant community of researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs that fosters collaborative ways of working and equips staff and students, at all career stages, with the skills and confidence to contribute across academic, commercial, public and voluntary sectors.
- Supporting research and innovation through the creation of a Research, Innovation and Enterprise Office. This will also facilitate the impact and reach of our research through increased engagement and co-creation activities within our local and regional communities, national initiatives and global partners.
- Fostering research-inspired and inquiry-led teaching by aligning our research and education strategies, thus providing opportunities for our students to get involved in research, knowledge exchange and a wide range of enterprise projects.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Oxford Brookes University is proud to work in partnership with other institutions around the world, from China to Greece and the Cayman Islands. Our arrangements include franchise, dual degrees and distance learning programmes. We are committed to broadening access to Oxford Brookes degrees across the globe and remain open to exploring new opportunities from interested partners.





Brookes People Awards 2022

Our people and culture

Oxford Brookes University employs 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 which 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, and a commitment to creating the conditions for a positive work experience, underpinned by our Guiding Principles. We have also put in place numerous initiatives to improve wellbeing. These include university-wide events such as feelgood festivals and wellbeing weeks. We also run Brookes Active, a collection of activities, events and campaigns to help colleagues enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle with Oxford Brookes.

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.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

These are defined as:

Inclusivity

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

Exemplar Behaviours:

- Critically examining our own biases and behaviours both through self-reflection and feedback from others
- Listening with an open mind to understand different points of view.

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.

Exemplar Behaviours:

- Being open, honest and reliable
- Being generous with our knowledge and expertise to help others.

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.

Exemplar Behaviours:

- Stepping outside our comfort zone to learn, or achieve, something new
- Showing pride in our work and achievements and those of our colleagues.

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.

Exemplar Behaviours:

- Working in partnership with our global and local communities
- Keeping up to date with research, rules and models of best practice from a wide range and variety of sources.

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.

Exemplar Behaviours:

- Being innovative, flexible and open to change
- Working with, learning from, and sharing with others.



Our 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 contributing £1m per day to the UK economy, 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, widen access to those under-represented in higher education and to provide high-level consultancy to small and medium sized enterprises.

Tourism is a thriving economy in the city, generating more than £780m annually. In 2019 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 is available at www.experienceoxfordshire.org



Our campuses



Oxford Brookes University operates on three campuses in Oxford: Headington, Harcourt Hill and Wheatley, with a smaller campus in Swindon, focused on nursing education.

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 Gypsy 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. Brand new teaching spaces and industry-standard science laboratories also opened in 2017, alongside landscaping of external spaces, and the new Sir Kenneth Wheare Hall.

Harcourt Hill Campus is home to a range of humanities and sports teaching. The original Westminster College, founded in 1851, has had a home at Harcourt Hill since the 1950s and merged with Oxford Brookes University in 2000. The Westminster Hall student residence also sits on the campus, alongside sports facilities, including a swimming pool.

Wheatley Campus became part of the then Oxford Polytechnic in 1975. Over recent years, the campus has seen investment in engineering spaces and in 2017 saw further investment in key student and staff areas, including the creation of a new gym.

Swindon Campus opened the refurbished Joel Joffe building in August 2016, almost two decades after the University first had a presence in the town. The Joel Joffe building provides clinical skills labs in a modern teaching location.

Our future plans

At Oxford Brookes we are continually investing in our campuses. We are planning to create further inspiring spaces for our staff and students with a significant programme of refurbishment and new build which will see some of our academic and professional services activity moving to a different campus.

We're moving activity from Wheatley Campus to exciting new buildings on the Headington Hill site, opening for the 2024-25 academic year. The two state-of-the-art buildings will be the new home for Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment activity currently based at Wheatley.

It is our intention to move all teaching from Harcourt Hill to Headington Campus for the start of the 2025/26 academic year. We will keep everyone informed of the changes by posting the latest updates at

www.brookes.ac.uk/estates-development



Our leadership, governance and finances

The Vice-Chancellor reports to the Board of Governors and is supported by the Vice-Chancellor's Group (VCG) which comprises:

- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Global Partnerships)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor/Deans of the Faculties (four)
- Registrar and Chief Operating Officer
- Academic Registrar and Director of Academic and Student Administration
- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief People Officer

The actor Paterson Joseph is our Chancellor.

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 at www.brookes.ac.uk/about-brookes/structure-and-governance/policies-and-financial-statements/

The University's financial plans focus on strong operating cash and robust surpluses, in order to achieve an excellent student experience and provide and attract investment in research and commercial activity.



Our structure – our Faculties

OXFORD BROOKES BUSINESS SCHOOL	FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES	FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY, DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENT
Business School	Department of Biological and Medical Sciences	School of Education, Humanities and Languages	School of Architecture
Oxford School of Hospitality Management	Department of Psychology, Health and Professional Development	School of Law and Social Sciences	School of Arts
Centre for Diversity Policy Research and Practice	Department of Sport, Health Sciences and Social Work	Institute of Public Care	School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics
	Oxford School of Nursing and Midwifery		School of the Built Environment

Our structure – our Directorates

DIRECTORATE OF ACADEMIC AND STUDENT ADMINISTRATION	DIRECTORATE OF MARKETING, RECRUITMENT & 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
Registry	Communications	Estates Services	Financial Services	Organisation Effectiveness and Development	Library	Office of the Chief Information Officer	Research Support and Governance
Academic Policy and Regulations	Strategic Marketing	Campus Services	Legal Services	Centre for Academic Enhancement and Development	Learning Technology	Customer Services	Innovation
Student Services	Alumni Engagement and Development	Projects Team	Procurement	People Management, Operations and Systems	Media	Information Services	Enterprise
Strategic and Business Planning Office	Oxford Brookes Global	Space Planning Team	Research and Business Development	University Safety Team		IT Planning and Relationships	
Strategic Change and Programme Governance Office	UK Recruitment and Partnerships	Brookes Sport	Risk and Resilience	Occupational Health Team		Information Security Management	
	Operations	Central Admin and Finance		University Nursery			
	Admissions	Commercial Services (Oxford Brookes Venues, Catering and Residential)					

Job description

Title of post:

Student Governor

Experience required for post:

The University is seeking a Student Governor with a demonstrable commitment to the values and objectives of Oxford Brookes University. The Student Governor will sit as a co-opted member of the University's Board of Governors, joining the President of the Students' Union as the second student member of the Board. Enrolled students at Oxford Brookes University are eligible to apply for a term of one year with optional extension to two years, depending on individual circumstances. The appointed Student Governor must be a registered student for the duration of their term on the Board.

Purpose and duties:

1. Engage with, and advise on, University character and strategy, so that the University continues to flourish and succeed in a fast moving, competitive environment. This requires agility, change orientation and continuous development.
2. As members of the Board of Governors, work with the Vice-Chancellor's Group (VCG) to review and update the strategy and hold the VCG to account for delivery. This will, in particular, pursue the University's ambition to deliver an exceptional student-centred experience which produces confident citizens characterised by their generosity of spirit.
3. Work collaboratively as a member of the Board of Governors to achieve a strong sense of shared vision, ambition and collective purpose. Exercise collective responsibility, contribute their skills and expertise as appropriate and contribute to high quality discussion and decision making.

4. Contribute effectively to the Board of Governors exercising control over the strategic direction of the University, ensuring an effective planning process is in place and executed, and that the performance of the University is adequately assessed against the objectives which the Board of Governors has approved.
5. Be powerful advocates on behalf of the University in presenting its achievements and ambitions.
6. To attend meetings and other events throughout the year.

NOTE

The expectations of a University Board of Governors are currently set out in the 'Higher Education Code of Governance' (2020) produced by the Committee of University Chairs (CUC), the public interest governance principles as articulated by the Office for Students (OfS) in the 'Regulatory framework for higher education in England', and in such other forms of guidance produced by the CUC, OfS and other relevant bodies. The specific requirements relating to the operation of the University Board of Governors are set out in our Articles of Government and Standing Orders.

Role of Governors

The role of governors is to bring the full range of their knowledge and expertise to bear on the work of the University and its Committees. Co-opted members of the Board are identified to provide their advice, insight and expertise to the University, but do not hold voting rights.

Terms of Appointment

The role of Student Governor is not remunerated, but reasonable travelling and similar expenses incurred in the course of University business may be claimed. The term of office is for an initial term of one year, with the possibility of reappointment for up to one further year term, giving maximum service of two years.

Time Commitment

There are three elements to the time commitment of this role:

- a) The core commitment is to be available to attend meetings of Board of Governors, chair or attend certain committees of Board of Governors, and undertake the formal business of the Board of Governors. Members of the Board are expected to contribute approximately 10-14 days per year depending on allocated subcommittees and other University events such as graduation ceremonies. There is also a time commitment in preparation for meetings.
- b) University business is likely to require telephone conversations, reading in preparation for meetings, and being available for consultation and advice without needing to be present in the University.
- c) Being present within the University and our wider community, engaging with the life of the University and contributing to our local profile. This is a more discretionary element, depending, in part, on the individual's interests and availability, and the complementary roles of the Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellors, Chair of Board of Governors and Vice-Chancellor.

Person specification

Specification	Essential	Desirable
Education/Training		
Relevant experience		
Training and Specialist Skills	<p>Effective people and communication skills</p> <p>Ability to contribute to effective debate and effective decision-making</p> <p>Ability to analyse and understand complex information</p> <p>Personal integrity and high ethical standards</p>	
Special requirements	<p>Demonstrate a strong commitment to Higher Education and the values, aims and guiding principles of Oxford Brookes University</p> <p>A personal commitment to optimising the transformative power of a university</p> <p>Able to attend the University and participate in activities for at least 10-14 days a year</p> <p>A proven commitment to equality, diversity openness and transparency</p>	
Other		



How to apply

All enquiries, in the first instance, should be directed to: **vco-secretariat@brookes.ac.uk**

The closing date for applications is **Friday 19 April 2024.**

Interviews **week commencing 29 April 2024.**

Application is by submission of a brief curriculum vitae (max. 2 A4 sides) and a brief covering letter of application (max. 1 A4 side) to **vco-secretariat@brookes.ac.uk**, addressing the job description and person specification, and including suitable daytime and evening telephone contact details.

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, sex, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age. Applications are particularly welcome from candidates from Black or other minority ethnic backgrounds as we wish to increase the diversity of the Board.

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