SHAPE OUR SUCCESS

JOIN OUR REMARKABLE COMMUNITY AS HEAD OF SCHOOL – HUMANITIES
FOREWORD

Thank you for your interest in the position of Head of School – Humanities at the University of Southampton.

We are one of the world’s leading universities with an international reputation for excellence in research, teaching, and a deep commitment to knowledge exchange. With an ambition to become one of the top research universities in the world we are investing in the people and infrastructure to achieve this.

Our aim is to change the world for the better. Bringing together realms of research, creativity, and knowledge, we are focused on truly collaborative, immersive, and groundbreaking impact. We care about the challenges that humanity is facing, and work to support others on both a local and global scale. Join us in this work, and you will have the opportunity to bring your ideas to life and make a tangible difference to future generations.

We are known as a founding member of both the UK’s prestigious Russell Group of leading research-intensive universities and the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). With campus operations in Malaysia and China, as well as major partnerships across the world, we have a global outlook that attracts the most talented staff and students from around the world.

The University’s Triple Helix Strategy places people at its heart and delivers exceptional interconnected education, research, and enterprise in order to nurture and transform lives. The post holder will be a key member of the Faculty Leadership Team and will contribute to bold ambitions both across and beyond the Faculty, positioning the Humanities at the core of the University’s mission and at the forefront of its international reputation.

The Head of School will provide inspirational leadership to staff, students, and partners, enabling the enhancement of its constituent units. They will work closely and collaboratively with our sister School, The Winchester School of Art. They will have a deep commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion, and will ensure there is a vibrant current and future pipeline of talent.

Driven by curiosity, innovative thinking, and passion, the successful candidate will possess a strong record of academic achievement and a significant record of leadership. They will articulate a clear and inspiring vision for the continued development of the School. With a good understanding of the UK higher education sector, they will also bring commercial acumen, a commitment to creativity, and the ability to represent the School internally and externally at the highest level with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

It is important that we find the right person for this role, whatever their circumstances. We will be as flexible as possible in considering individual requirements and circumstances to find the optimum solution for the successful applicant.

If you want to take your career to new heights, and believe you have the skills, experience, and drive to lead the School of Humanities, we want to hear from you.

Please see page 8 for more information on equality, diversity and inclusion.
Partners visiting from China performed a concert for our university community. Impressively, the pieces were rehearsed virtually and performed as a Southampton and Zhezhang Music Conservatoire collaboration.

The School of Humanities is a rich, multicultural community that celebrates diversity. The different backgrounds and experiences of our people form new perspectives and innovative solutions to solve complex real-world problems facing society. The School of Humanities is committed to making a positive social impact and improving social mobility, transforming lives and enhancing prosperity across the globe.

Our research, teaching and knowledge exchange and enterprise are international in outlook and our alliances and collaborations have a global reach. We aim to facilitate educational experiences that will help Southampton graduates to understand different perspectives and develop the skills that they will need to flourish in the global workplace.

We are actively working to raise the international reputation and reach of the School, in line with the University’s International Strategy, and are committed to the growth and diversification of our international student population at all levels. In order to strengthen the School’s existing network of international partnerships, we are focusing on the development of strategic research and education partnerships, encouraging and facilitating international collaboration through our research centres, and exploring a range of opportunities for TNE delivery as part of University-wide projects. Supporting the provision of an excellent international student experience, the School houses the Academic Centre for International Students delivering both pre-sessional and sessional English Language programmes. We’re also proud to have the University’s highest percentage of outwardly mobile students and are committed to the creation of further, accessible opportunities for students across all departments.

TOGETHER WE ADVANCE
Together we can make a real impact on the future.

Our University community is committed to the highest quality in everything we do. We have a global reputation for our passion and ability to work collaboratively to deliver world-class education, research and innovation that makes a real impact on society’s biggest challenges.

To meet those challenges head-on, we must have a team that is reflective of society and our students. We strive for greater inclusivity in our community. Diversity is a strength and makes us more creative, accelerating our impact on society. We celebrate an equal and respectful environment in which people from all walks of life and backgrounds are welcome to join us.

Our people inspire and empower one another to share and apply their knowledge to transform lives. They bring to that work, and who we are. Working collaboratively and fostering a culture of transformational leadership are two of our five core values. These values form part of our University Strategy and are there to help us achieve our overall purpose; to inspire excellence, to achieve the remarkable, and build an inclusive world. Find out more about our values on page six.

Our people are our University, which is why our Strategy and all of our activities focus on the communities that make up our institution. We are made up of brilliant minds, motivated leaders and passionate changemakers. By working collaboratively, we can achieve incredible things.

Our exceptional students share in the journeys of discovery and become confident thinkers who can realise their full potential. We attract high-quality students from over 130 countries, and educate students through University of Southampton Malaysia and collaborations with prestigious partners globally.

As our students become graduates of the University, they join our wider global community of over 257,000 alumni, with access to a network that can provide further opportunities across the world.

As a forward-thinking institution, we will strengthen our reputation, increasing our national and international rankings to secure a position in the top 100 in the UK and strengthen our position in the top 100 internationally.

Our strong research partnerships, public engagement and achievements in entrepreneurial activities have been recognised in our very strong all-round performance in the first and second Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) exercises.

Collaborate with us: together we advance.

Find out more
The University Strategy

The University Strategy
Our values provide the lens through which we make decisions, guiding our actions, collective behaviours and systems. They are integral to our purpose of building an inclusive community that makes positive change.

We are ambitious, both personally and institutionally, which requires us to be collaborative and collegial. As a community of talented individuals, our systems need to enable and empower us. Our community upholds academic freedom and develops through constructive, civil debate.

Ensuring different views are heard allows us to make the best decisions. Our annual Vice-Chancellor’s Awards recognise and celebrate the exceptional contributions made by our staff during the academic year.

People are at the core of our Triple Helix

Our highly-ranked education, research and knowledge exchange and enterprise (KEE) are already distinctively intertwined.

By strengthening and increasing these links, our Triple Helix approach will achieve greater impact and accelerate new ways to tackle the world’s most complex problems.

This scaling up is a challenging goal we commit to achieve; its reach and ambition sets us apart.
EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

It matters to us in all that we do.

At the University of Southampton, we believe that we can only truly play our part in supporting society if we are reflective of society. We are therefore passionate about creating a working environment in which you are free to bring your whole self to work.

We are focused on creating supportive workplaces for all where discrimination has no place. The way in which you choose to live your life has no bearing on your ability to do your job. Likewise, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, social background, ethnicity or any other identifying factor will never be a consideration here. Instead, we are determined to always treat our staff equally, fairly and with respect.

We welcome people from all walks of life, and as such, we champion a uniquely diverse working environment in which every colleague is able to excel, regardless of their background or their life choices. Quite simply, we want to attract likeminded people to our team – people who care about the world, and who share our passion for creating an innovative and forward-thinking learning and research environment.

We are proud to support many staff and student networks, and we encourage these groups to get involved in helping us create a forward-thinking and desirable workplace. We are a Stonewall Diversity Champion and we are immensely proud to have been awarded an institutional Athena SWAN silver award, which underpins our pledge to improve equality for women. We are also delighted to have received the Race Equality Charter bronze award from Advance HE, which recognises that we have a solid foundation for eliminating racial inequalities and developing an inclusive culture that values all staff and students.

We also support flexible working and are proud of our open and supportive working environment, with options such as job shares available, we ensure opportunities are equal and focused on the needs of our colleagues. We know that change and improvement is a continual process, and our community is a big part of this, so we always want to hear from our staff about how we can create the best possible working experience.

Find out more

Creating an inclusive community
The School of Humanities comprises eight departments: the Academic Centre for International Students, responsible for our successful Pre-sessional and In-sessional English language programmes; Archaeology, English, Film Studies, History, Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, Music and Philosophy. The School is also home to Digital Humanities - a team who takes digital and computational approaches to Humanities research, teaching and enterprise across disciplines. Humanities is one of the two high performing schools within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Collaborating closely with Winchester School of Art, and drawing together a wide range of disciplines, our community is a diverse, globally-facing and locally-connected centre of excellence for research, teaching, outreach and enterprise.

OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE

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With around 100 taught programmes in the School, our dynamic and innovative curriculum is built upon a shared passion for our subjects and an active engagement in the debates and challenges of the modern world.

Our aim is to provide an environment in which our students can flourish and support them as they develop as independent, creative and critical thinkers who can make positive, varied and meaningful contributions to society. The School has recently undertaken a major curriculum revalidation exercise. A key part of your role will be guiding the new programme offer to market, but also looking ahead to the experience of the students on these programmes, including how we embed digital skills and criticality, resilience and well-being, and a genuine sense of belonging and purpose in our wider student experience. You will be at the forefront of motivating staff to deliver on these.

The School is currently home to over 2,500 students, including 200 PGRs, and we have ambitious plans to substantially increase our student numbers by 2027.

The School of Humanities has a world-class reputation for research, with the majority of our departments ranked in the top 10 in their fields in REF 2021. Our vibrant interdisciplinary research ranges from blue skies projects to research that addresses the world’s greatest challenges. Humanities also has particular strengths in knowledge exchange and enterprise, and we are building on existing work as well as growing in this area. In addition to departmental activity, we have ten research centres that reflect particular thematic research clusters within the School. Humanities also plays a leading role in the Faculty’s Southampton Institute for Arts and Humanities which supports proof of concept research projects and cross-disciplinary events, as well as facilitating partnerships and innovative approaches to knowledge exchange.

Humanities is also a home to The Parkes Institute, a world-leading centre for the study of Jewish and non-Jewish relations across the ages. The University’s Parkes Library consists of over 20,000 printed items and is supplemented by one of the largest collections of Jewish archives in Europe. The Institute places particular emphasis on innovative interdisciplinary approaches and strong global collaboration. Public engagement is at the heart of its mission and it has a vibrant programme of outreach activities.

How to apply

The University of Southampton has engaged Minerva (www.minervasearch.com) to assist with the recruitment of the Head of School of Humanities.

For more information including how to apply, please visit Minerva at https://www.minervasearch.com/current-opportunities/southampton/.

The closing date for receipt of applications is midnight (GMT) on Monday 27th May 2024.

Following a longlist meeting of the Search Committee, successful candidates will be invited to attend an Engagement Day on Thursday 13th June 2024.

Interviews are scheduled to take place in person on Monday 24th June 2024.
ROLE OF HEAD OF SCHOOL – HUMANITIES

Job purpose
The Head of School is a key leadership role within the University and is responsible and accountable for:

• Developing and delivering a shared vision and strategy for the School such that it aligns with the University and Faculty strategic priorities, objectives and values.
• Providing strong, creative, academic leadership, as well as human, physical resources and financial management of the School.
• Creating and maintaining a positive, collegiate environment that encourages and supports excellence in research, education, enterprise and knowledge exchange.
• Representing the School within the Faculty, University and the wider public.

Key accountabilities/primary responsibilities

Strategic leadership

• Work in conjunction with Faculty colleagues

• Strategic leadership

• Key accountabilities/primary responsibilities

• Representing the School within the Faculty, and University and in accordance with the agreed timetable.
• Providing strong, creative, academic leadership, and in accordance with the agreed timetable.
• Developing and delivering a shared vision within the University and is responsible and accountable for.

• Workload and performance:
In conjunction with the Head of Departments (HDs) and colleagues within the Faculty ensure accountability for an effective line management structure, ensure that all staff in the School are allocated duties, workload equitably and are clear about their responsibilities and that they are adequately managed, mentored and monitored.

• Staff appointment: in collaboration with the relevant HDs, Deputy Heads of School, Associate Deans and the Dean take leading role and responsibility for business cases for School funded appointments ensuring they are aligned with Faculty and University strategy.

Staff development: ensure the provision of an environment conducive to the development of staff and students including the Concordat for Early Career Researchers.

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• Quality Assurance responsibilities:
In conjunction with the relevant Associate Deans and Deputy Heads of School (Education & Research) to be accountable for efficient and effective processes and structures for the conduct of research and for academic standards in education.

• In particular in the delivery of an excellent student centred, research led learning experience for all students and ensuring appropriate access to robust student support mechanisms.

• New Income Identification: Work with the relevant Associate Deans and Deputy Heads of School (Education & Research) to ensure the identification of new education, research and enterprise opportunities and the diversification of income streams.

• Enterprise: in conjunction with the Associate Dean (Research & Enterprise) and Associate Deans (International) champion innovation in enterprise activities and contribute to the University national and international policy.

Line management and performance responsibilities

Managing People:

• Managing People: Manage and support your people’s work productivity, performance, wellbeing and development to maximise their contributions and enable personal growth.

• Financial decisions:
Make informed and timely financial decisions to strategic income generation and smart investments, applying sound business sense and good working knowledge of finance in the HE sector, taking into consideration the impact of these decisions on the financial sustainability of the wider Faculty and University.

Managing Compliance:

• Responsibility for ensuring you and your teams understand and apply the relevant policies and guidelines to maintain operational compliance.

Managing Risk:

• Responsibility for managing risks effectively and ensuring plans are put in place to mitigate risk or maximise potential where appropriate.

Embedding Collegiality:

• Champion the development of “Southampton Behaviours” and work with colleagues to embed them as a way of working within the Faculty.

• Champion the development of constructive working relationships between the School and colleagues in other parts of the University, in order to facilitate mutual understanding and effective joint working.

Internal and external relationships

• Responsible to The Dean of Faculty, ADs, members of the Vice-Chancellors Office, Collaborative relationships in research, enterprise and innovation and teaching with University and Faculty academic staff, elsewhere in the University, nationally and internationally.

Close collaboration and mutual cooperation with Faculty Operating Staff, Faculty Manager, Head of Faculty Finance as well as Vice-President Operations and related Professional Services.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Qualifications, knowledge and experience

• A proven track record of credible academic leadership.
• A PhD and/or extensive professional success and achievement.
• Comprehensive understanding of humanities in a 21st Century University.
• Significant skills and experience in education/research/enterprise programme delivery.
• Well-established national and international reputation in subject area relevant to the Faculty and a significant track record of achievement in relevant subject area.
• Good working knowledge of the NSS, TEF, REF and KF processes.

Planning and organising

• Excellent organisational skills.
• Ability to achieve maximum added value in coordinated strategic partnerships and academic education and/or research and/or enterprise as appropriate.
• Proven ability to successfully lead and manage change in a complex organisation.

Problem solving and initiative

• Exceptional ability to solve problems and critically analyse situations.
• Proven ability to demonstrate independent and distinctive thinking.

Management and teamwork

• Strong leadership abilities, including the ability to motivate, influence and persuade others - internally and externally.
• Apply and actively promote equality, diversity and inclusion principles to the responsibilities of the role and demonstrate specific experience of embedding measures to develop an inclusive culture.
• Ability to work cooperatively, influentially and effectively with the other Schools in the Faculty, across the University and with other Universities and partners to deliver the University and Faculty priorities.
• Ability to manage individuals from diverse professional backgrounds.
• Ability to shape a positive culture of management, leadership and engagement at all levels of the School through exceptional leadership and by personal example.

Communicating and influencing

• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, able to persuade and negotiate to help in developing and maintaining strong relationships with staff and key partners.
• Ability to inspire and empower colleagues, staff and peers and embed a team ethos geared toward delivery of the University and Faculty priorities.
• Track record of embedding measures to ensure transparency and fairness in decision-making.
• Good listening skills and use of plain language.

Other skills and behaviours

• Ability to demonstrate alignment with the University’s core values e.g. regarding equality and diversity, in all areas of work, champion those behaviours in the School.
• As the Head of School role model the “Southampton Behaviours” and work with the management team to embed them as a way of working within the institute.
• Commitment to maintain compliance with relevant Health & Safety policies and to sustain a working environment sensitive to the wellbeing of University employees.

Special requirements

• Ability to attend national and international meetings as appropriate.
The Pathways to Health Through Cultures of Neighbourhoods project led by Joanna Sofaer, Professor of Archaeology and Co-director of the Southampton Institute for Arts and Humanities (SIAH), has been awarded a UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) grant as part of the Mobilising Community Assets to Tackle Health Inequalities programme. The project aims to understand what culture means to young people from deprived communities in Southampton and identify ways they can use the arts and culture for self-care to reduce future health challenges. It brings together academics, civic leaders, health professionals, non-governmental organisations, and cultural organisations.

Southampton is ranked 81st in the world.

- 92% of our research has been classed as world leading or internationally excellent.
- Engaged in research with over 700 overseas partners.
- A founding member of the Russell Group of 24 major research-intensive universities in the UK.
- We attract high-quality students from over 130 countries.

We have over 24,500 students, including more than 9,000 international students.

- £114.7m in research grant and contracts income in 2021/22.
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- We employ over 6,500 staff.

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- We have over 280,000 alumni community spans over 185 countries.

Very strong performance in the first KEF exercise.

1. QS World University Rankings, 2024
3. Research Excellence Framework, 2021
4. The Complete University Guide, 2024
5. Performing at or above the cluster average across every perspective
6. The economic and social impact of the University of Southampton, London Economics, 2022

The University creates and underpins employment in other organisations, amounting to over 16,000 jobs across the UK.

At any one time we are working with over 1,000 external organisations around the globe.
Our Campuses

We have six campuses in Southampton, one in Winchester and one in Malaysia. Each has its own personality, world-leading facilities and specialisms.

Highfield Campus

Our main campus, Highfield, is the largest of our campuses, and the heart of the University. It is home to many of our state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities, and combines a lively and exciting atmosphere with calm, green surroundings.

With cafes, shops, concert halls, gyms and even a student cinema alongside academic facilities, Highfield is a hub of activity.

This is also where we are planning significant improvements to our student sports facilities, including a major expansion of the popular Jubilee Sports Centre.

University Hospital Campus

University Hospital Southampton is the main site for the study of medicine and healthcare. It hosts a purpose-built research hub, and is also home to the University’s dedicated Centre for Cancer Immunology – the first of its kind in the UK. This site will soon see the development of a new medical health research building.

Boldrewood Innovation Campus

Boldrewood is the base for engineering studies and research. Facilities include laboratories for studying unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), fluid dynamics and high-performance sports, a driving simulator, flight simulators, design studios, a 138m towing tank and our £48m National Infrastructure Laboratory (NIL). The NIL houses five new engineering laboratories, including a 30m x 15m large structures testing laboratory and a cutting-edge geotechnical centrifuge.

Waterfront Campus

Based at the National Oceanography Centre Southampton is one of the world’s leading research centres for the study of ocean and Earth science, with facilities including the Coral Reef Laboratory, a multi-use research aquarium, our 19.75m purpose-built catamaran and the National Oceanographic Library.

With 200m of access to the waterfront, the Campus is also the operational base for the Natural Environment Research Council’s (NERC) UK fleet of deep-sea research vessels, giving us unique access to research cruises all over the world.

Avenue Campus

Just a few minutes’ walk from Highfield, and on the edge of Southampton Common, Avenue Campus is the base for our humanities subjects. Avenue has its own lecture theatres and catering facilities, plus a purpose-built £3m archaeology building and a new interactive digital humanities hub.

City Centre Campus

In the heart of the Cultural Quarter in the city centre, our Sir James Matthews Building offers updated teaching and learning spaces alongside facilities for meeting local and regional civic partners. The Building also includes a student enterprise zone and an artisan cafe.

A short walk across Guildhall Square from the Sir James Matthews Building is the University’s John Hansard Gallery, one of the UK’s leading contemporary art galleries, which plays a dynamic role in the cultural life of Southampton and the region.

Winchester Campus

Based in the historic city of Winchester, our specialist arts campus, Winchester School of Art is home to a vibrant community of over 1,300 art and design students. With creative ambition at its core, WSA offers cutting-edge resources and facilities including specialist computer suites, photography studios, laser cutting, 3D printing and more.

The University is planning to expand its presence in Winchester, with an exciting opportunity from Winchester City Council.

University of Southampton Malaysia

In 2021, we relocated our campus in Malaysia to a brand new estate with state-of-the-art laboratories, upgraded facilities, and improved learning and recreational spaces.
THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS REGION

Our foundations and heritage make the University a gateway to the world and our Strategy emphasises our commitment to ‘place’ and being a civic university. We are deeply committed to Southampton as a city of culture and across the region will further develop our civic role of making a positive impact.

Being a civic university allows us to rethink how we contribute to our region, so that civic engagement can become hardwired into institutional culture.

Articulation of the benefit the University brings to the region through the productive relationships we have with local and regional government, will help mobilise a community of supporters to benefit all communities. Over 50 per cent of our UK-based alumni (over 80,000 people) live within 50 miles of the University along with ‘friends’ who support us philanthropically and through collaboration.

Underpinned by the four pillars of the Civic Charter – Place, People, Partnerships and Impact – we will work together with our friends and civic partnerships to improve the lives and environment of people across diverse communities in a just and responsible way. The University will become a truly integrated part of its local communities.

Southampton

Southampton is a fantastic place in which to live, work and socialise. Regardless of what life stage you are at, you will find a dynamic and vibrant city that caters for all. With an enviable location on the coast, yet just over an hour from London, the region combines incredible natural beauty with a thriving social scene – making it a desirable place to live! As an ethnically rich city that is growing rapidly, Southampton is benefiting from considerable investments in the region.

The city centre is currently thriving thanks to over £600m of regeneration plans and projects, including the historic Bargate Quarter, with new hotels, homes and transport links. This is a city of growth and transformation, and it is an exciting time to be here.

There is something for everyone in Southampton and the surrounding areas. For outdoor enthusiasts, water sports, sailing and ocean racing are easily available, while the beautiful New Forest National Park is just 30 minutes away. With many excellent local schools and nurseries, families will find a fantastic quality of life, while there’s a thriving LGBTQ+ social scene. Multiple faiths are celebrated in the city, and the rich cultural heritage of Winchester is just on our doorstep.

Winchester

On the edge of the South Downs National Park, England’s ancient capital, Winchester, is steeped in history and is complemented by a lively atmosphere and a wide variety of pubs and restaurants, museums, theatres and galleries.

With direct rail links to London, our Winchester School of Art campus is one of the UK’s leading art and design institutions.

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