

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Vacancy ref: BMH-029997

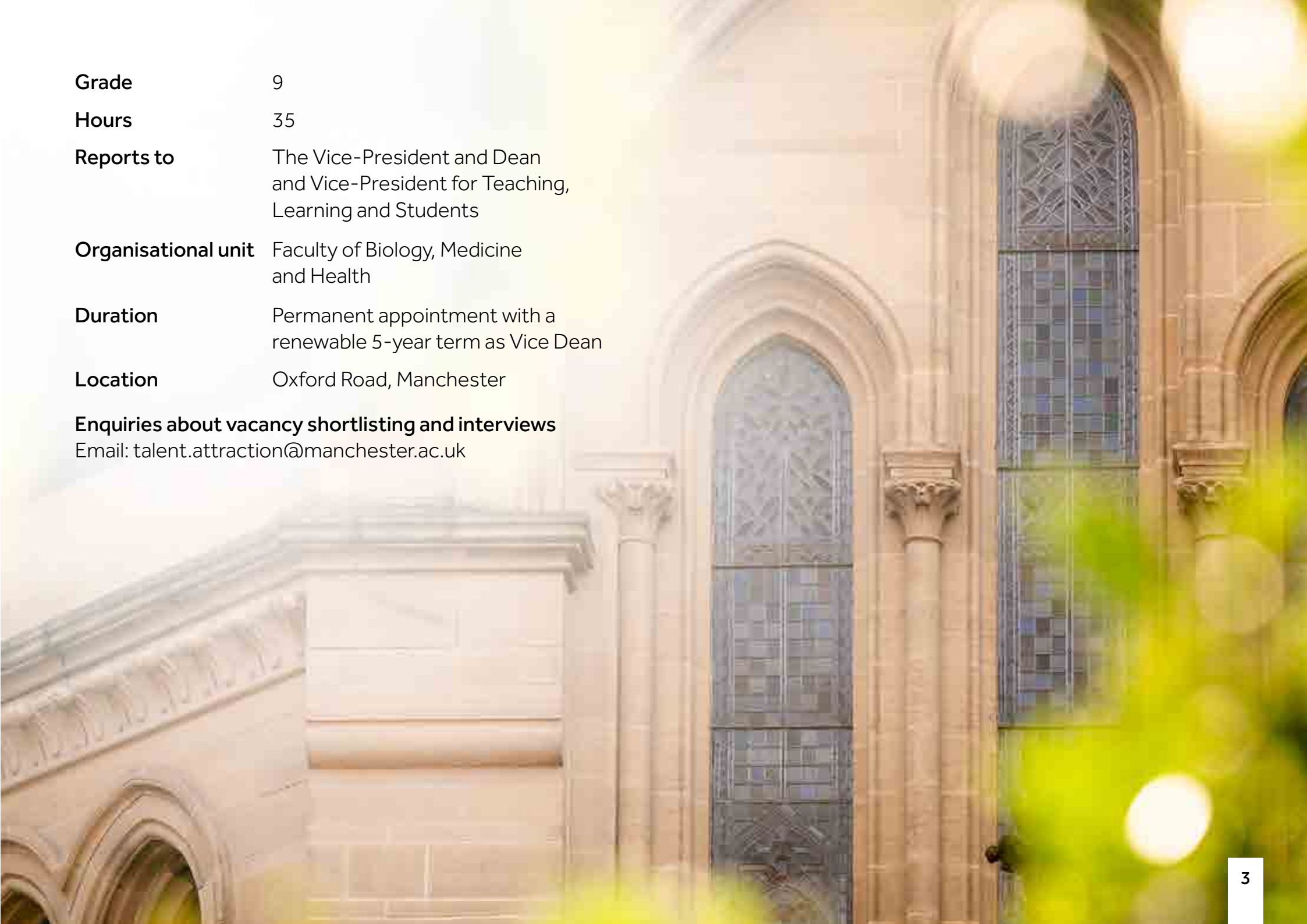
Particulars of appointment
Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

Vice-Dean for Teaching,
Learning and Students

Contents

Page numbers	Sections
4	Foreword from Professor Ashley Blom
5	About The University of Manchester
6	Our history and present
7	Global rankings and reputation
7	Manchester and the region
8	From Manchester for the world
8	Equality, diversity and inclusion
8	Freedom of speech and academic freedom
9	Particulars of appointment
10	Role purpose
11	Key duties/responsibilities
13	About you
14	Person specification
16	Personal qualities
17	Job description
18	How to apply
19	Enquiries





Grade 9

Hours 35

Reports to The Vice-President and Dean
and Vice-President for Teaching,
Learning and Students

Organisational unit Faculty of Biology, Medicine
and Health

Duration Permanent appointment with a
renewable 5-year term as Vice Dean

Location Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about vacancy shortlisting and interviews
Email: talent.attraction@manchester.ac.uk

Foreword from Professor Ashley Blom

Thank you for you expressing your interest in the role of Vice-Dean for Teaching, Learning and Students within the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health at The University of Manchester.

Seldom do opportunities arise to be part of a defining moment in an organisation's history, and it is truly an extraordinary time to be joining our University. With the launch of our new strategy to 2035, we are redefining what a 21st-century higher education experience looks and feels like.

We will be the first organisation in the UK to roll out Microsoft Copilot to all our students by the summer, so they can go into the world fully equipped with the AI skills needed to thrive and innovate.

The traditional educational paradigm is being challenged like never before, and we firmly believe our role is to provide our students with an experience that gives them the agility and, above all, curiosity to go into a world transforming at an unimaginable pace. This presents wonderful opportunities for not just rethinking how we deliver our

programmes, including through online provision and advanced simulation technologies, but smashing disciplinary boundaries to unleash the power of learning without borders.

As a civic university, our roots go deep. We work incredibly closely with our NHS and health partners across the Greater Manchester region, including with the largest Trust in the UK. Innovation in healthcare is moving at pace and we are committed to working with our partners in building the health and biomedical workforce of the future, recognising that the emphasis on lifelong learning has never been stronger.

We are enormously proud of our students and the value they add to improving the lives of our communities within Manchester and across the globe. Our students are our purpose.

If you have the vision, drive and mindset to think innovatively in the delivery of an educational experience like no other, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Best wishes,

Ashley



About The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester is a global institution committed to teaching and research excellence, and innovation with impact, with social responsibility at the heart of our mission. Our purpose is to advance education, knowledge and wisdom for the good of society – a mission as urgent today as at any point in our history.

In 2025, we set out a clear strategic ambition to be a great civic university for the 21st century.

Our new strategy to 2035, *From Manchester for the world*, is rooted in Manchester and the North, creating knowledge, innovation and solutions that bring local benefits and scale globally.



Our history and present

Formed in 2004 through the merger of the Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST, our University 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.

We have a long tradition of attracting brilliant minds. 26 Nobel laureates have studied or worked here, including Ernest Rutherford, Arthur Lewis, and 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 of Manchester is one of the UK's largest single-site universities, with more than 46,000 students, nearly 13,000 colleagues and 585,000 alumni around the world, and a turnover of more than £1.4 billion.

We are a founding member of the Russell Group, with a broad disciplinary base across STEM, humanities and the social sciences. We are also the second most popular UK university for undergraduate applications via UCAS and home to one of the UK's largest international student communities.

We combine global research leadership with a strong civic ethos. Our students are attracted by our academic reputation, diverse course offering and commitment to real-world impact – and by Manchester's distinctive energy, culture and character.





Global rankings and reputation

The University enjoys a global reputation for excellence in research, teaching and civic engagement:

- 35th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2026).
- 93% of our research is rated 'world-leading' (4*) or 'internationally excellent' (3*) (Research Excellence Framework 2021).
- 1st in the UK and Europe and 2nd in the world for social and environmental impact (*Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025*). We are the only university to rank consistently in the global top 10 since the rankings began.

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 are proud to be an anchor institution, deeply embedded in the region's economy, culture and communities. 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 places 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 our own world-class venues, such as Manchester Museum, the Whitworth, and the John Rylands Research Institute and Library.

From Manchester for the world

Our strategy to 2035 focuses on five areas to go further and faster, driving innovation, skills and good jobs in the region and country, while also addressing global challenges from climate change and growing political polarisation, to social inequalities.

They are:

- Flexible, personalised and digitally enabled learning – more personalised, applied and digitally enabled study that fits diverse lives.
- Accelerating the path from research excellence to impact – faster routes from discovery to policy, practice and industry.
- A powerhouse of innovation – translating strengths into start-ups and scale-ups to create inclusive growth.
- The university to partner with – easier routes for partners to work with the University on collaborations that focus on making a difference.
- Digital inside and out – modern, data-driven and AI-enabled services and systems that make studying and collaborating with Manchester simpler.

These priorities build on firm foundations – we remain committed to excellence in teaching and research, values-led social responsibility, our deep civic roots with global reach, and a culture with equity, diversity and inclusion at its heart.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

From our earliest days, we've worked to break down barriers and improve lives. Today, we are committed to building a truly inclusive University – where equity, access and belonging shape how we work and what we achieve.

Freedom of speech and academic freedom

We are an open place of enquiry and challenge. We embrace and celebrate difference, diversity and debate, and we pride ourselves on being a place of education, learning and community where we are able, within the law, to question and test received wisdom, express new ideas and explore controversial or unpopular topics and opinions. Find out more from our [Freedom of Speech Policy](#).





Particulars of appointment

Vice-Dean for Teaching, Learning and Students

Role purpose

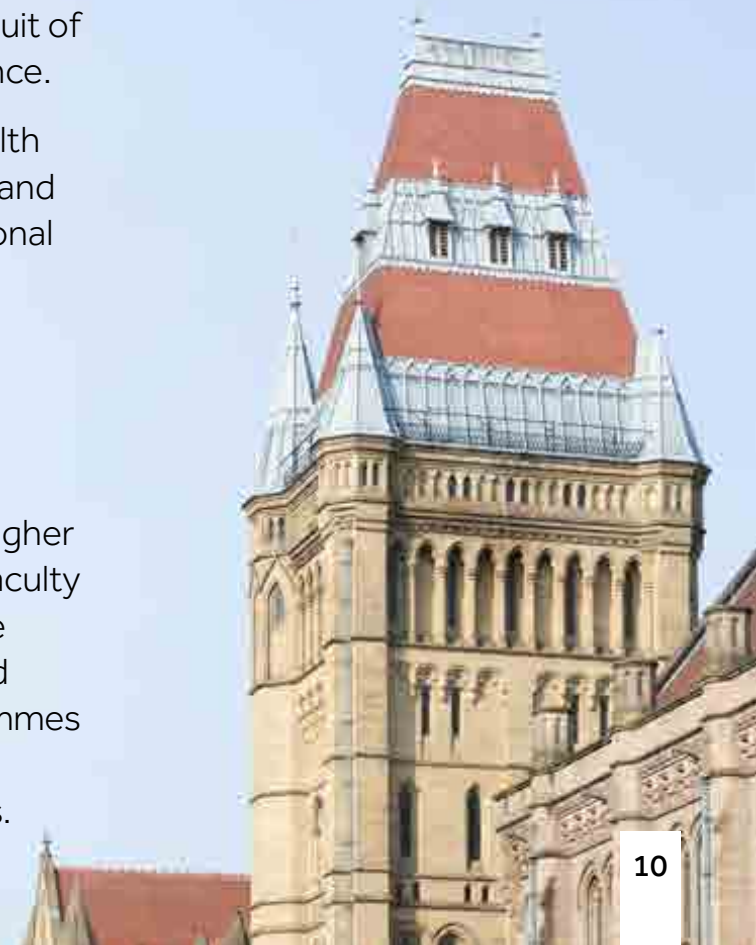
As part of the University's extended leadership team, the Vice-Dean for Teaching, Learning and Students is a strategically critical role in pursuit of the Manchester 2035 ten-year strategic plan at both a Faculty and University level. Working in partnership with our students, the post holder provides the academic strategic leadership and management to ensure the Faculty makes a full contribution towards the objectives of the University, delivering on a world-leading student experience defined by a demand-led portfolio of programmes, cutting-edge and digitally-informed pedagogy, and research-informed curricula. As a member of the Faculty Leadership Team and the University's Teaching, Learning and Students Committee, the role interacts extensively with other leaders within the Faculty and across the University, as well as developing networks externally.

The post holder leads the development and delivery of the Faculty's strategy for Teaching, Learning and Students (TL&S), working collaboratively with students, Heads of School, Vice-Dean

for International, Executive Director of Faculty Operations and wider Faculty Leadership team to ensure academic and Professional Services priorities are aligned with the Faculty's and overall University's strategy. This is a critical leadership role that brings together a community of practice across the Faculty and the University more broadly, ensuring pedagogical research, innovation and applied practice is recognised in pursuit of an outstanding student learning experience.

The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health has as its mission for Teaching, Learning and Students: to deliver high-quality educational programmes that inspire, prepare and transform future generations of leaders, healthcare professionals, innovators, educators and researchers, all with student experience at their heart.

To meet the ongoing challenges of the higher education environment, it is critical the Faculty has the agility to adapt its portfolio as the market demands, bringing innovation and foresight into the development of programmes and curricula, and positioning itself at the cutting-edge of pedagogical approaches.



Key duties/responsibilities

The key duties and responsibilities of the Vice-Dean for Teaching, Learning and Student Experience include:

Leadership

Accountability for the Faculty Teaching, Learning and Students Portfolio

- Provide the strategic vision to lead the Faculty's response to the priorities of Manchester 2035, ensuring the Faculty's priorities are aligned to the strategy.
- Provide leadership and accountability for an innovative, interdisciplinary and demand-led portfolio, which employs cutting-edge pedagogy, drawing on interdisciplinary expertise from across the University to prepare students for the life of work in the 21st century.
- In the context of The University of Manchester's strategy to 2035, define the Faculty's teaching, learning and student objectives and priorities, leading a team of academic and PS leaders to agree and own on the delivery of these priorities.
- Working with external stakeholders in the provision of a globally competitive teaching portfolio, including the NHS, the commercial sector, the local region, and global organisations for which we deliver on workforce objectives.
- Lead in collaboration with the Vice-Dean for International on the Faculty's global strategy as it relates to teaching, learning and students, ensuring the Faculty is maximising international recruitment opportunities and its reputation globally is upheld.
- Work in partnership with the Heads of School and Directors of Education to embed routine portfolio review and principles, assessing against changing market demand and opportunities, as well as sector risk.
- Lead on quality assurance and peer review of teaching and learning activities across the Faculty and ensure University procedures are appropriately followed and processes aligned.
- Oversee the management of taught student appeals, complaints, discipline and fitness to practice.
- Ensure all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes are devised and delivered locally in a manner that accords with the University's academic regulatory framework and, where appropriate, the requirements of professional, statutory and regulatory bodies.
- Lead the delivery of the University's Access and Progression Plan as it relates to the Faculty, in the context of our broader Widening Participation strategy.

Leading for and with others

- Working closely with the Vice-Deans, Heads of School and the Heads of Divisions in workforce planning for the future.
- Take visible leadership in the celebration of teaching and scholarship colleagues, ensuring there is full recognition of the contribution of teaching and scholarship colleagues in academic promotions and reward pathways.

Key duties/responsibilities (continued)

- To work with leaders across the University to ensure there is a comprehensive development offer in place for teaching and scholarship colleagues, teaching technicians and those who contribute to team education.
- Contribute fully as a collaborative member of the Faculty Leadership Team, the University Teaching, Learning and Students Executive, and in partnership with our students and counterparts across the University to deliver against the University's overall strategic ambition for Manchester 2035 and its implementation.
- Provide visible leadership in building an equitable and inclusive teaching environment.

- Work in partnership with the Faculty Professional Services teams to provide a proactive, inclusive and supportive environment for teaching and learning activity, partnering with the Executive Director of Faculty Operations to ensure alignment between academic decision-making and operational implementation of strategy, policy and processes.

Leading change

- In partnership with students, the Executive Director of Faculty Operations and senior Professional Services leaders, support the delivery of major institutional change projects at a University and Faculty level as they relate to teaching and learning.
- Adopt a generous and compassionate leadership approach to change, aligned to the University's Delivery Handbook.
- Lead and set the standard for the wellbeing of all staff working to deliver the strategy for Teaching, Learning and Students.

Leading for the future

- Be a visible leader with respect to pedagogical research and applied practice, maintaining a national and international profile in this field.
- Maintain an awareness of, and contribute to, developments in national higher education policy and practice, especially with relevance to teaching, learning and student experience activities, promoting the interests of the Faculty both within the University and externally.

About you

Our university is a complex and dynamic environment and working with a 'One University' approach will be fundamental to our success. This includes building strong internal relationships and external strategic partnerships.

Creating a mindset of collaboration across organisational boundaries, both internal and external, is one element of the cultural shifts this role will drive, alongside innovation, agility and high performance, helping us to harness the power of data, digital and AI.

We are values-led and committed to embedding social responsibility across everything we do. At the heart of our strategy is every colleague feeling that they matter – that the University is a place where they can flourish.

We aim to be a consistently high-performing organisation, which means continually improving and becoming more efficient and effective. Your role is key in helping the Faculty team achieve this through a relentless focus on delivering excellence and refining systems and processes.

This role-holder will be part of 'The 200' leadership group: a forward-thinking community of leaders from across our

university, committed to bringing our ten-year strategy to life and creating a great 21st century university. As a senior leader, we expect you to lift others up, giving your time to actively enable, support and empower people as we take our university and our wider community with courage and creativity to realise our 2035 vision for a world-class, inclusive and innovative institution.

More specifically, as Vice-Dean for Teaching, Learning and Students, the post-holder will demonstrate leadership capabilities for delivery of a world-leading, student-centre education offer. We are looking for someone who:

- Has a track record on innovating; both changing practice at scale and able to create a high trust environment for others to innovate.
- Brings commercial and financial acumen and uses this to challenge our current practices and deliver new approaches.
- Influences and builds coalitions; works credibly across disciplines and professional services, and with external partners (such as the NHS and industry), to align interests, secure commitment and deliver shared outcomes.

- Is agile and responsive; uses market, student and performance insight to inform and adapt our approach to teaching, learning and student experience.
- Puts the student experience at the heart of decisions; champions co-creation with students and recognises the importance of inclusive practices that support success for all students.
- Combines strategic leadership with operational delivery; can remove barriers, set and manage performance expectations, and drive continuous improvement through metrics, assurance and accountability.
- Takes colleagues on the journey of change, listening to the ideas of their colleagues and adapting their approach in response to feedback; translates our strategy into clear long-term priorities and explains why it matters.
- Takes a person-centred, collaborative and inclusive approach to leadership. Willingly gives their time to enable, develop and empower colleagues.

Person specification

Candidates must be able to demonstrate that they meet the requirements of this person specification to be considered for the role.

Experience

- Doctorate in a field relevant to the Faculty or in an applied area.
- Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy or international equivalent.
- Evidence of Continued Professional Development in leadership practice.
- Knowledge of the UK health education and regulatory landscape.

Leadership

- Proven experience of leading for others, with evidence of providing the support environment in which others can thrive and succeed.
- Evidence of developing and leading high performing teams that unite around a common vision and are committed to ensuring the best possible experience for students.
- Proven ability to set an ambitious strategic vision within education, engaging colleagues at all levels of an organisation in the delivery of that vision
- Proven senior leadership capability in leading complex, multidisciplinary areas, including people leadership, financial management and operational oversight.



Person specification (continued)

Innovation

- Evidence of being a leader in your field of scholarship, with a national and international profile for educational innovation.
- Evidence of fostering a robust scholarship environment and facilitating collaboration across teams, with proven success of publications and investment.
- Strong evidence of portfolio innovation in the design and delivery of higher education, with the ability to be futurist in mindset.
- Strong experience of digital and pedagogical innovation, with a high awareness and engagement with emerging technologies such as AI, XR and VR, and the implications for the University academic workforce and the professions for which we are preparing students.

- Strong evidence of using market data and insights to inform business decisions on the size and shape of the portfolio, including experience of curriculum reform.
- Strong evidence of initiating and leading teams through change.

Partnership and relationship management

- Evidence of being obsessive about the quality of the student experience, working in partnership with students themselves to continuously improve and innovate in the design and delivery of that experience.
- Strong evidence of partnership working with the NHS or an equivalent health system in the development and delivery of education to meet national and regional workforce needs.

- Proven experience of developing relationships and partnerships with other industries with employer engagement in curriculum design and delivery.
- Proven experience of developing global partnerships within education, with a good understand of the regulatory framework for global education.

Personal qualities

- A strategic thinker, who values consultation and collegiality.
- Honest, open and values-led with a high level of personal integrity, able to build trust and effective working relationships at all levels and with students within the University.
- An effective communicator, both spoken and written, a listener, negotiator and influencer.
- Someone who takes pleasure in the achievements of others.
- An open, consultative management style.
- Someone with the confidence and courage to take on challenges and be accountable for any decisions/risks taken.
- Firm but fair, consistent and transparent in tackling difficult management issues.
- Commitment to own personal development and the development of colleagues at all levels to enable them to reach their full potential.

Job description

Key behaviours

- **One University:** A 'One University' approach, whereby we break down silos and work collaboratively towards furthering the University's strategic goals, vision and values.
- **Freedom of speech and academic freedom:** Support the University's commitment to securing and actively promoting the importance of free speech and academic freedom within our community.
- **Service excellence:** Committed to prioritising service excellence and high performance to deliver great people-centred experiences.
- **Agility:** Demonstrate a commitment to agility and continuous improvement by embracing change, championing innovation and being flexible and forward thinking to adapt.
- **Sustainability:** A sustainable approach that safeguards the University of the future by championing environmental practices, advancing digital capability, and supporting financial stability and philanthropic initiatives.
- **Inclusion:** Support the University's ambition to create an inclusive place to work where every person matters, demonstrating a commitment to non-discriminatory conduct and respect for others, and fostering a University where people feel deeply connected to each other, to Manchester, and to the wider world.
- **Social responsibility:** Promote and champion the University's social responsibility ambitions to advance social inclusion, prosperous communities, better health, and cultural engagement.



How to apply

Candidates should apply for this role via the job advert on the University website, reference BMH-029997.

For informal enquiries please contact talent.attraction@manchester.ac.uk

In accordance with GDPR guidelines*, we are only able to process your sensitive personal data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life or sexual orientation) with your express consent.

**GDPR personal data notice – please do not include any sensitive personal data, including the contact details of your chosen referees (without prior agreement), within your CV and covering letter. Your completed 'equal opportunities monitoring and consent form' will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. We are committed to further enhancing the diversity of our University Executive and particularly welcome applications from women, Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority candidates, candidates with disabilities and candidates with other protected characteristics.*

We are an open place of enquiry and challenge. We embrace and celebrate difference, diversity and debate, and we pride ourselves on being a place of education, learning and community where we are able, within the law, to question and test received wisdom, express new ideas and explore controversial or unpopular topics and opinions. Find out more from our [Policy on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom](#).



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