



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

Expressions of interest to serve as a Member of the Governing Body of Technological University Dublin

1. Positions Available

The Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified candidates for consideration for nomination as Ministerial appointees to the Governing Body of Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin). The Minister intends making **3** Ministerial appointments to fill external member vacancies on the Governing Body as prescribed under Section 12 (1)(i) of the Technological Universities Act 2018, “3 external members nominated by the Minister”.

2. About TU Dublin

TU Dublin was established by Ministerial Order under Section 3 of the Technological Universities Act 2018, (Number 3 of 2018), on the appointed day of 1st January 2019. Building on a distinguished past, TU Dublin is proud to be Ireland’s first technological university – a modern, vibrant, and inspiring university where the arts, sciences, business, engineering and technology converge. The university’s ambitious 30,000 students, from apprenticeship through to PhD, learn in a practice-based environment; its impact-focused research aims to benefit communities, society and the economy; and innovation and enterprise are at the heart of everything it does. Deeply embedded in the region, TU Dublin has campuses in Dublin City Centre including its flagship campus at Grangegorman in Dublin’s north inner city, in Blanchardstown and in Tallaght and, through a major infrastructural development plan, is currently investing over €500 million in new, state-of-the-art, technology-enabled facilities to enhance the students’ experience.

The TU Dublin mission is the pursuit of:

- Excellence in student-centred learning supporting the growth of enterprising and socially responsible citizens with a global perspective.
- Practice-led, impact-focused research and deep discipline engagement that excites students and staff, and benefits communities, society and the economy.
- Co-creation of teaching, learning and research through dynamic collaboration and open engagement between students, the university and partners from industry, the professions, and civic society.

3. Legislative/Governance Provision for Technological Universities

3.1 Governing Body Legislation:

Governing Bodies of higher education institutions, such as Technological Universities, have statutory roles and the institutions which they govern have high levels of autonomy which makes the role of the Governing Authority even more important in terms of governance and accountability.

The Technological Universities Act 2018 defines the functions of a technological university under Section 9 and requires that these functions are delivered through a Governing Body as prescribed under Section 11. In that context, the Governing Body is the authority established by law to govern the university. The Governing Body must operate in accordance with Schedule 1, of the 2018 Act. The Act states that the total membership of the Governing Body shall not be fewer than 14 and not more than 22 members to include 3 external members nominated by the Minister. The Governing Body has established a number of Committees to assist it in performing specific aspects of its functions including:

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- Finance and Property Committee
- Nominations and Process Committee

The Governing Body and management of TU Dublin are accountable for the proper management of the organisation. The Chief Officer of TU Dublin is the President (Section 13 of the TU Act) who “shall carry on and manage, and control generally, the academic, administrative, and financial activities of the technological university, and matters relating to its staff” as defined further in Schedule 2 of the Act. The President is an ex-officio member of the Governing Body.

The governing legislation also provides for, inter alia, the appointment of the Governing Body and the Chairperson, for the approval of the layout of the annual report and financial statements, and for the furnishing of such information as the Minister may require.

Academic Council

In addition to the Governing Body, TU Dublin has an Academic Council (Section 17 of the Act) that “*shall control the academic affairs of the technological university, including the curriculum of, and instruction and education provided by, the technological university*”. The Academic Council is the statutory body charged with establishing and maintaining the academic standards and enhancing the quality of the student experience of the university.

Relevant legislative provisions can be found at the link below:-

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/act/3/section/12/enacted/en/html#sec12>

3.2 Functions of a Governing Body for a Technological University:

Under Section 9 of the Technological Universities Act 2018, a technological university shall have a governing body to perform the functions of the technological university outlined under this Act, and as outlined below:

- (a) provide teaching and facilitate learning,
- (b) provide programmes of education and training that reflect the needs of individuals, business, enterprise, the professions, the community, local interests and other stakeholders in the region in which the campuses of the technological university are located and facilitate learning by flexible means,
- (c) provide for the broad education, intellectual and personal development of students, for the purpose of enabling them, as graduates, to excel in their chosen careers and to contribute responsibly to social, civic and economic life in innovative and adaptable ways,
- (d) provide opportunities for staff and students,
- (e) collaborate with institutions that provide higher education inside and outside the State, including on joint research projects and provision of programmes of education and training,
- (f) support a body of research that includes research relevant at regional, national and international levels and pursue excellence in the conduct of that research,
- (g) support entrepreneurship, enterprise development and innovation in business, enterprise and the professions through teaching and the conduct of research and through effective transfer to those and other sectors of knowledge arising from that research,

- (h) collaborate with business, enterprise, the professions, the community, local interests and related stakeholders in the region in which the campuses of the technological university are located,
- (i) to promote the involvement of those stakeholders in the design and delivery of programmes of education and training,
- (j) support the mobility of staff and students of the technological university into and out of the labour force through collaboration with business, enterprise, the professions and related stakeholders in the region in which the campuses of the technological university are located,
- (k) serve the community and public interest,
- (l) promote access to the technological university and the education it provides, by economically or socially disadvantaged persons, by persons who have a disability and by persons from sections of society in the region in which the campuses of the technological university are located who are significantly under-represented in its student body,
- (m) undertake assessment of students, and award degrees and other qualifications,
- (n) make best use of its expertise and resources, whether or not on a commercial basis, for the purposes of its functions under this Act,
- (o) provide directly, or in collaboration with other providers of programmes of education and training, facilities for all levels of higher education within the Framework, including technological and professional education, and for research,
- (p) collaborate with persons or bodies inside and outside the State for the purpose of its functions under this Act, and
- (q) promote the attainment of gender balance and equality of opportunity among the students and staff of the technological university.

3.3 Code of Governance for Technological University Dublin:

Members of the Governing Body will be required to comply with the provisions of the Code of Governance for TU Dublin which is available to view/ download here:

<https://www.tudublin.ie/media/website/explore/about-the-university/governance/documents/Code-of-Governance-for-TU-Dublin-10th-April-2019.pdf>

4. Persons Sought

Expressions of interest are sought from suitably qualified candidates for consideration for the membership of the Governing Body of TU Dublin. Candidates **should** have a career history at a sufficiently senior level in a complex organisation of scale and equivalent business experience of relevance to Governing Body membership, in one or more of the following areas:

- **Higher Education/Public Sector**
Experience and expertise of higher education/public sector systems. Experience and knowledge relevant to the successful operation of a large, diverse and complex organisation within the higher education/public sector.
- **Organisational Transformation and Change Management**
Experience of organisation re-structuring and successful change management in an organisation of comparable scale and complexity.
- **Marketing and Communications**
Expertise and experience in marketing and communications, including delivery of strategic marketing and communications and establishing a new brand on a comparable scale.
- **Legal**
Professional expertise, knowledge and practice in legal and regulatory functions, corporate governance and compliance in an organisation of comparable scale.

In addition to demonstrable experience of relevance to Governing Body membership in one or more of the areas outlined above, TU Dublin has indicated that experience of relevance in one or more of the following areas would also be **desirable**:

- A strong commitment to higher education and the role of Technological Universities.
- An understanding of TU Dublin's culture, vision and values.
- Experience as a board member of a charitable organisation(s) and full awareness of the responsibilities associated with such roles.
- Interest in current challenges facing higher education, and Technological Universities in particular in Ireland.
- Strong appreciation of the national and regional economic, social and political dynamics and priorities.

5. Remuneration

All of the positions advertised are unremunerated. Members of the Governing Body of TU Dublin may claim travel and subsistence expenses in respect of journeys undertaken to attend meetings of the Governing Body and to transact its business. All expenses are paid in accordance with approved public sector rates or in line with relevant policy for external members of the Governing Body.

6. Term of Office

In line with Section 12 (3) (a) of the Technological Universities Act 2018, the term of office for Governing Body members will be for a period of **4 years** and a member may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms of office. See link below:

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/act/3/section/12/enacted/en/html#sec12>

7. Governing Body Member Meeting Requirements

Members are required to devote as much time to duties of the Governing Body as is necessary for the proper and efficient discharge of their duties. The Governing Body of TU Dublin meets a minimum of six times per year with meetings typically of three hours duration (from 08.00am to 11.00am). Preparation time for scheduled meetings would usually be in the order of 3-4 hours. Meetings are typically held at TU Dublin, Grangegorman, Dublin 7 but some will be held on the Tallaght and Blanchardstown campuses.

Members of the Governing Body may be appointed to one or more of the Governing Body's Committees, with each typically entailing four meetings per annum, requiring 2-3 hours preparation time.

Potential Governing Body members should expect to devote 50 hours per annum to their role as a member.

8. How to Apply

To be considered for nomination as a Ministerial appointee to the Governing Body outlined in this booklet, please submit by email the attached completed application form, a cover letter and a curriculum vitae, by 5pm on **Wednesday, 28th April 2021**, to boardvacancies@dfheris.gov.ie

Applicants will receive an acknowledgement on receipt of their application. Any applicants who do not receive an acknowledgement with regard to their application should contact boardvacancies@dfheris.gov.ie.

Please note the following important points:

- Please take care when submitting your expression of interest as the Assessment Panel will generally make its recommendation(s) to the Minister based on consideration of the documentation which you submit. It is therefore most important that you ensure your cover letter (and supporting CV) clearly specifies how your particular background and

experience meets the requirements of the Governing Body as specified in this booklet. This will help ensure that the Assessment Panel is as informed as possible as to the basis and suitability of your candidature.

- You must also confirm that you do not have any conflicts of interest or legal impediment which would be likely to interfere with your ability to play a full part on the Governing Body of TU Dublin. You must also confirm that you can make yourself available to attend meetings and to carry out the duties of a Governing Body member.
- The selection process may include a short-listing process dependent on the numbers of applications received.
- In making nominations, and in line with best practice as set out in the Guidelines on Appointments to State Boards, it should be noted that it is open to the Minister to consider suitable nominees other than those identified through this process, provided his preferred nominee meets the specified criteria.
- The Minister shall have regard to the desirability for gender balance on the Governing Body as the Minister considers appropriate and determines from time to time when making appointments.

9. Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts, 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquires, applications and all aspects of the proceedings are treated as strictly confidential and are not disclosed to anyone, outside those directly involved in that aspect of the process.

Certain items of information, not specific to any individual, may be extracted from computer records for general statistical purposes.

10. Data Protection

The Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science is committed to protecting your personal data and takes the security of your information very seriously, adhering to the principles of transparency, accountability and security of the General Data Protection Regulation.

If your application is assessed and you are considered to be suitable for consideration for appointment your curriculum vitae and cover letter (and any supplementary information requested as part of the application process), will be retained for up to one year following the appointments. In the event that you are not successful on this occasion, your data may be

retained for a period of up to one year and used in considering your suitability for other similar vacancies/roles that may arise within that period.

Additional information on the General Data Protection Regulation is available at the following [link](#).

Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
April 2021

APPLICATION FORM

Part One: Contact details

Full Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Part Two: Conflict of Interest:

Do you confirm that you do not have any conflicts of interest or legal impediment which would be likely to interfere with your ability to play a full part on the Governing Body of TU Dublin? (Please circle)

Yes / No

Part Three: Meeting attendance:

Do you confirm that you can make yourself available to attend meetings and to carry out the duties of a Governing Body member? (Please circle)

Yes / No

Part Three: Retention of Data:

Do you consent to your data being retained by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for a period of up to one year from date of application to be used in considering your suitability for other similar vacancies/roles that may arise within that period? (Please circle)

Yes / No

Signature of applicant:

Date:
