

# Technological University Dublin

## I<sup>st</sup> Governing Body

### CANDIDATE BRIEF

### External Governing Body Members

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# 1. Background

## 1.1 Introduction

Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) was established by Ministerial Order under Section 36 of the Technological Universities Act 2018, (*Number 3 of 2018*), on the appointed day of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. TU Dublin is Ireland’s first Technological University and the first university to avail of the legislative provisions in the TU Act (2018), and shall have a Governing Body to perform the functions of the University. The Governing Body is, therefore, the authority established by law to govern the University.

## 1.2 Technological University Dublin

The creation of TU Dublin is one of the most exciting and important landmarks in Irish higher education in decades. The new University – formed by a merger of Dublin Institute of Technology, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and Institute of Technology Tallaght – is positioned at the convergence of science, technology, engineering, arts and business. TU Dublin is Ireland’s eighth university, Dublin’s fourth university and one of an international family of Technological Universities.

With a student population of over 28,000, more than 3,000 staff, an annual budget of in excess of €200 million, the University is located on campuses spanning three large centres of population in Dublin and the Greater Dublin Region – Dublin City, Blanchardstown and Tallaght.

TU Dublin not only accesses the zone of Ireland’s greatest population concentration – accounting for about 40 per cent of the state’s total population – but also the zone of the greatest population growth, inward migration and economic opportunity. The University will have the capacity to operate at a significant scale of activity and ambition in terms of its educational, research, social and economic strategy.

Offering pathways to graduation from apprenticeship to PhD level, the University provides multidisciplinary education; is pedagogically innovative, offering an open, inclusive and digital learning environment; is research intensive, focusing on key strategic priority areas and engaged with its communities. Through an active programme of innovation, knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship TU Dublin will drive transformative educational and public engagement programme locally, nationally and internationally.

# 2. Governing Body Composition and Responsibilities

## 2.3 Functions of the Governing Body

The functions of the Governing Body are set out under *Section 9, Functions of Technological University, TU Act (2018)*. To assist the Governing Body in carrying out its functions there will be a number of Governing Body Committees to oversee specific aspects of the business of the organisation.

## 2.4 Membership<sup>1</sup>

The total membership of the Governing Body shall not be fewer than 14 and not more than 22 members, of which at least 3 but not more than 8 are external members to be nominated by a Committee of the Governing Body.

## 2.3 Operation, duties and responsibilities

The Governing Body must operate in accordance with Schedule 1, Governing Body of Technological University, TU Act (2018).

# 3. Role Specification

## 3.1 Duties and responsibilities

Members of the Governing Body perform key roles in relation to the direction, strategy, and corporate governance of the University. Members take collective responsibility for the long-term sustainability of the University, working with the Chair of the Governing Body, the President and the executive management team to ensure that the University is managed and developed in line with legal and policy parameters and accepted standards of best practice. Governing Body members should bring an independent judgment and objective scrutiny to the oversight of the University, be prepared to be challenging when necessary while being supportive to the delivery of the University's mission, standards and values. There is a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities between the Governing Body and the Executive.

An early task for the new Governing Body will be the adoption of a Governance Framework for TU Dublin. In advance of that, applicants are referred to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016<sup>2</sup> which provides a framework for the application of best practice in corporate governance by both commercial and non-commercial State bodies.

Candidates for these roles should be able to work in the University's interests nationally and, where required internationally and be prepared to commit sufficient time to undertake the role successfully. These positions are non-executive and non-remunerated, although appropriate expenses will be covered in line with University policy for external members of the Governing Body. Candidates must not have any conflicts of interest likely to interfere with their ability to assume the role of a Governing Body external member. Candidates must not be employees of the University and all appointments shall be subject to the procedures set down in the TU Act 2018.

The University invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified individuals interested in serving as an external member on the TU Dublin Governing Body, with eight vacancies being filled at this time. Candidates are asked to demonstrate evidence of at least one of the competency fields listed under '*Person Specification*' in their expression of interest.

The mission of TU Dublin addresses community-wide needs and interests in a life-long learning context and the University is keen to reflect a diversity of backgrounds and experience in the composition and thinking processes of its Governing Body. All expressions of interest will be welcomed and evaluated against the stated-criteria under '*Person Specification*', while also respecting the need for balance and diversity.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 6.1 (TU Act 2018 - Section 12 and 55 – Membership of Governing Body of Technological University)

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 6.2

## 4. Person Specification

### 4.1 General requirements

Ideally candidates will have some or all of the following capabilities

- Critical thinking, good judgment and independence
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work constructively with others
- Commitment to education as a public good
- Record of personal achievement
- Governance experience

### 4.2 Individual requirements

Candidates are asked in their expression of interest to demonstrate their ability and skills with evidence of commitment to public good in one or more of the following areas:

- [Positive health and student well-being](#)  
Knowledge of challenges in the student experience and understanding of positive interventions and successful approaches to well-being in a higher education environment.
- [Social, Creative and Cultural](#)  
Involvement with social, creative or cultural dimensions in the greater Dublin region, nationally or internationally.
- [Marketing and Communications](#)  
Knowledge of marketing and communications. Demonstrate ability to deliver strategic marketing and communications with experience in establishing a new brand on a comparable scale.
- [Strategic Development and Sustainability](#)  
Understanding of the dynamics, key relationships, trends and developments in higher education, which inform programmes related to international and cultural opportunities.
- [Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#)  
Knowledge of the research-innovation-start-up cycle and related challenges or experience of innovation-based business expansion
- [Finance](#)  
Experience of the corporate finance function in an organisation of comparable scale. Knowledge of alternative funding sources including philanthropy, financial sustainability, strategy, risk management and regulatory environment.
- [Organisational Transformation and Change Management](#)  
Experience of organisation re-structuring and successful change management in an organisation of comparable scale and complexity.
- [Technology and Society](#)  
Thought leader on *'technology and society'* and/or the future *'world of work'*.
- [International Higher Education Expertise](#)  
Expertise in standards and practice in higher education outside the state.

## 5. Appointment Process

### 5.1 Term of appointment

The appointment(s) once made shall be for the remainder of the current Governing Body's term of office, which will expire on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. It is intended the appointee(s) will take office from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The term of office for an external member of the Governing Body shall not exceed 4 years and such a member may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms of office.

A Governing Body member shall cease to be a member of the Board if he or she is nominated as a member of Seanad Éireann, is elected as a member of either House of the Oireachtas or as a representative in the European Parliament.

In order to qualify for appointment a person must not have any conflicts of interest likely to interfere with their ability to assume the role of a member of the TU Dublin Governing Body. Candidates should give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may exist and address this in their covering letter. The Assessment Panel may decide, based on any perceived level of conflict to eliminate a candidate on this basis.

### 5.2 Appointment process

As prescribed in the TU Act 2018, the Governing Body has appointed a Nominations Committee consisting of the Chair and two external members of the Governing Body appointed by the Minister of Education and Skills to manage this appointment process on its behalf.

Expressions of interest will be considered and assessed having regard to the stated criteria, gender balance and a desire for balance and diversity more broadly, when a shortlist of suitable candidates is presented to the Governing Body for appointment.

### 5.3 How to apply

The University invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified individuals interested in serving as an external member on the TU Dublin Governing Body, with eight vacancies being filled at this time.

Please submit a CV and cover letter outlining your suitability for the role with reference to the selection criteria set out in the Person Specification. The CV should detail academic and professional qualifications, experience, employment history and relevant achievements, and also demonstrate evidence of how you meet the stated criteria. The covering letter should describe briefly how you meet the stated criteria, why the appointment is of interest and what you believe you can bring to the role.

The Governing Body is not responsible for any expenses incurred by candidates as part of the selection process. Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts, 2014, and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018, enquiries and expressions of interest will be treated in the strictest confidence.

- Please direct all enquiries and expressions of interest, in confidence to [governingbody@tudublin.ie](mailto:governingbody@tudublin.ie)
- Closing date for receipt of expressions of interest is 12.00 Noon, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.

## Appendices

### 6.1 Technological Universities Act 2018 (*Number 3 of 2018*)

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/act/3/enacted/en/pdf>

### 6.2 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016

<https://govacc.per.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/Code-of-Practice-for-the-Governance-of-State-Bodies.pdf>

### 6.3 Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001

All persons who have obligations under the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001 are obliged to act in accordance with the guidelines and any advice given by the Standards Commission, unless by so doing they would be contravening another provision of the legislation.

<https://www.sipo.ie/en/>