



Technological University Dublin

Recruitment of Chair of Governing Body

Candidate Information Booklet

October 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 Appointment of Technological University Dublin Governing Body Chairperson

Since its establishment as Ireland's first Technological University in 2019, TU Dublin was built on a proud heritage of providing accessible pathways to high-quality careers, as well as advancing internationally recognised research and innovation with significant regional and global impact. Consisting of a vibrant community of approximately 27,000+ students and 3,000+ staff, our deep engagement with the sectors we serve has always been a distinguishing feature of our work. Hundreds, if not thousands, of stakeholders work with us on a daily basis to recruit young talent, to upskill staff and to access our research and innovation. TU Dublin holds the highest graduate employability rate among Dublin universities, and TU Dublin is currently the most applied-to University in Ireland. With some of the highest knowledge transfer rates in Ireland, demonstrating our relevance and value to enterprise, in its broadest sense, including enterprises in the arts and cultural, business, social, public, science, community and other sectors.

TU Dublin's core mission is to provide accessible pathways to high quality employment for learners from all backgrounds through our practice-based and employer-engaged education and research. A guiding principle is to consolidate TU Dublin's position as Ireland's leading university for enterprise talent and innovation across the breadth of our disciplines.

TU Dublin continues to be at a crucial stage of its development having navigated a uniquely difficult journey of establishment, merger and organisational design over the last seven years whilst responding to the challenges such lockdowns, campus migrations, an evolving policy landscape and impacts of geopolitical developments. In 2024, the Higher Education Authority mandated a programme of work to restore TU Dublin to financial sustainability and to make changes based on lessons learned. A strategy of balanced recovery and renewal has been adopted so that measures required to ensure financial recovery and governance renewal are undertaken in a way that positions the University for long term success.

The Governing Body is now seeking to appoint a non-executive Chair of the Governing Body. The appointee will be responsible for the overall leadership of the Governing Body. Through leadership of Governing Body, the Chair plays a central role in the effective governance and strategic oversight of the University. The successful candidate will have a proven track record of Chairing a board, experience of governance and leadership at a senior strategic level in a large, complex organisation and the capability to garner the trust and respect of members of the Governing Body as well as the University's staff, students and other key stakeholders.

On appointment, the Chair will receive a thorough induction and briefing on all aspects of TU Dublin's governance, finances, and strategy, and will be supported by the University Secretary in their role.

1.2 Tenure

In accordance with pertinent legislation, the appointment can be for a period of up to four years, and the appointee will be eligible for consideration for reappointment for a further term of up to four years.

1.3 Time Commitment

The likely overall time commitment required for the effective conduct of the duties of the post is expected to vary between seven to eight days per month. This will include preparation for, and attendance at, Governing Body and committee meetings, other engagements including ceremonial and external events, along with interactions with the President, University Secretary and other members of the University executive.

1.4 Remuneration and Expenses

This is a non-remunerated role, but reasonable expenses incurred in connection with attending Governing Body meetings and other similar University-required activities will be reimbursed in accordance with approved University policy.

2. Role Specification - Duties and Responsibilities

2.1 Key Duties

As Chair of the Governing Body, the appointee will:

- Provide leadership to the Governing Body, ensuring it is a driving force of the University's strategy and long-term success, and that it upholds the highest standards of governance.
- Ensure that the Governing Body clearly addresses its functions and delivers on its governance responsibilities in accordance with the requirements of legislation and relevant codes of governance, particularly the TU Act 2018 and the HEA Act 2022, and respecting the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Governing Body, President and Academic Council.

2.2 Key Responsibilities

The Chair of the Governing Body will ensure compliance with the requirements of the TU Act 2018 and other relevant legislation in relation to meetings and responsibilities of the Governing Body, such as:

- Chairing meetings of Governing Body, holding at least six meetings in every 12-month period and convening additional meetings of the Governing Body as may be deemed necessary.
- Assisting in maintaining solid and productive relationships with the University's key national stakeholders including the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) and the Higher Education Authority.
- Ensuring the University meets its financial and other reporting requirements in a full and timely manner, that financial forecasting is performed to a high professional standard, and that the University's financial and allied functions are appropriately resourced and highly functioning.
- Acting as an ambassador and advocate for TU Dublin's vision and values, forging connections with community, business and government/public stakeholders.
- Promoting effective and efficient operation of the Governing Body enabling collective engagement and confidence in the conduct of the business of the Governing Body.
- Working with the TU Dublin President and University Executive to ensure the Governing Body has the information, context and reports needed to discharge its responsibilities.
- Representing the Governing Body and the University at relevant events and engagements.
- Ensuring that the Governing Body's Committees are effectively populated with members with the appropriate competencies and experience, aligned to the remit of each Committee.
- Promoting a culture of openness and transparency at the Governing Body meetings, encouraging members to debate constructively and challenge rigorously and respectfully.

3. Person Specification

Expressions of interest are sought for consideration for the role of Chair of TU Dublin Governing Body. The University welcomes expressions of interest from candidates in all sectors – academia, business, professional, public service etc. who meet the following requirements and are motivated by the University's mission. Ideally, candidates will demonstrate relevant evidence of the following:

Essential

1. Experience of chairing high-level, strategic, board and committee meetings and of bringing complex and sensitive matters to a satisfactory conclusion.
2. Leadership experience and expertise, at a senior level, in a large, diverse and complex organisation.
3. Strong interpersonal skills, with an ability to establish a constructive working relationship with Governing Body members, the President and the Executive, and key external stakeholders such as the Higher Education Authority.
4. Demonstrable commercial & financial acumen, governance, risk management and strategic planning and leadership experience.
5. Demonstrable ability to champion inclusion, equality and diversity.
6. An understanding of, and empathy for, TU Dublin's culture, vision and values.
7. Knowledge of the current challenges facing Higher Education, and Technological Universities in particular, in Ireland.
8. Experience of reputation management in a complex and challenging environment.

Desirable

1. A strong personal commitment to Higher Education and to the role of Technological Universities.
2. Experience as a board member of a public sector, or charitable, or similar, organisation and full awareness of the duties associated with such a role.
3. Ability and skills in one or more of the following areas:
 - a) Legal,
 - b) Finance,
 - c) Human Resource,
 - d) Organisational Transformation and Change Management,
 - e) Strategic Development and Sustainability,
 - f) Marketing and Communications,
 - g) Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, or
 - h) International Higher Education.
4. Ability to engender and model a culture of mutual respect, transparency, accountability and constructive advice-giving within the Governing Body and Executive, and between same.
5. Ability to lead succession planning and development of the Governing Body, including briefing and mentoring new members, particularly ensuring awareness of the governance requirements placed on them.
6. Strong relationship-building and partnership focus - experience of promoting positive culture, engagement and influencing corporate affairs across a diverse and wide range of stakeholders.
7. Strong appreciation of national and regional economic and societal priorities.



4. Appointment Process

4.1 Selection and Appointment Process

Governing Body will be supported in the appointment process by its Chair Selection Committee who will manage the selection process on its behalf to review, consider and recommend the preferred candidate for appointment by Governing Body.

Expressions of interest, including a detailed cover letter and detailed CV, will be considered and assessed having regard to the stated requirements in the Person Specification. The selection process may include a short-listing process followed by an interview process. Such shortlisting will be based on the information provided in the Expression of interest received as against the stated requirements in the Person Specification. It is therefore essential that the Expression of interest demonstrates and provides evidence of how these requirements are met by the candidate.

4.2 Conflict of Interest / Declaration of Interests and Ensuring Public Confidence

In order to qualify for appointment a candidate must not have any conflicts of interest likely to interfere with their ability to assume the role as an External Member of TU Dublin Governing Body. Candidates should declare any potential conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest that may exist and address this in their cover letter.

Candidates are also asked to provide details in their cover letter of anything in their personal or professional history which, if brought into the public domain, may raise questions about a conflict of interest in the event of that candidate being appointed. The Selection Committee may decide, based on any perceived level of conflict, to eliminate a candidate on this basis. Particular attention is drawn to the requirement for candidates to declare any private interests which may, or may be perceived to, conflict with the role and responsibilities as an External Member of the Governing Body, including any business interests and positions of authority outside of the role of External Member of Governing Body.

If appointed, the successful candidate will also be required to declare these interests which will be entered into a register operated by the Governing Body, and which may be made available to the public. Failure to disclose such information could result in an appointment being terminated.

5. Submitting your Expression of Interest

5.1 How to Apply

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified individuals who wish to apply for the role of TU Dublin Governing Body Chair. Candidates are encouraged to ensure the information in their submission clearly and fully describes how they satisfy the Person Specification requirements as set out above. The University is not responsible for any expenses incurred by candidates as part of the recruitment process.

The **closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest is 12 noon (Irish Time), Monday, 9th November 2026**. As part of your submission please **UPLOAD** the following documents and information via the following link:

www.forvismazars.com/ie/en/executiverecruitment

A) Upload a cover letter outlining your suitability for the role with reference to the requirements set out in the Person Specification. The cover letter should describe briefly:

- How you meet the requirements outlined in the Person Specification.
- Why the appointment is of interest to you.
- What you believe you can bring to the role.
- Conflict of interest declaration, if applicable.

B) Upload a brief Curriculum Vitae to include the following;

- Full name, title, home address, contact details (email and telephone) on which you are happy to be contacted.
- Experience, employment history and relevant achievements. Brief details of your current or most recent post and the dates you occupied this role.
- Demonstrate evidence of how you meet the requirements in the Person Specification.
- Details of past or present Board appointments and/or National roles.
- Contact details for two referees who will support your application. One referee should be the person to whom you are/were accountable in your current/most recent appointment or position of employment. Please indicate the relationship of each referee to you. References may be requested for short-listed candidates prior to interview or other interactions (subject to permission from the candidate).

5.2 Closing Date

The **closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest is 12 noon (Irish Time), Monday, 9th November 2026**

Expressions of Interest will not be accepted after the closing date/time, although the Chair Selection Committee reserves the right to extend the said closing date.

An acknowledgement email will be issued for all submissions received. If you do not receive acknowledgement of your submission within 24 hours of submission, please contact the Forvis Mazars Executive Recruitment Team by email (execrecruit@mazars.ie) to ensure your submission has been received.

5.3 Contact for further information

If you require further information regarding the role of Governing Body and the role of the Chair, or the application process please direct all enquiries in confidence to the Forvis Mazars Executive Recruitment team through email at execrecruit@mazars.ie or on telephone at 01 449 4400.

5.4 Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts, 2014, applications will be treated in strict confidence. All enquiries, 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.

5.5 Interviews

Candidates will be notified of any interview details or other requested interactions with the Committee at the earliest convenience. Candidates should ensure that the contact details specified on their cover letter/cv are correct.

5.6 Reasonable accommodations

TU Dublin places a strong emphasis on diversity, inclusion and equality at all levels of the organisation. Any candidate who requires reasonable accommodations at any stage of the selection competition should indicate their requirements. Any queries in relation to any disability or other issue which may be addressed through making such reasonable accommodations, can be addressed to execrecruit@mazars.ie or telephone to +353 (1) 4494400.

5.7 Deeming of candidature to be withdrawn

Candidates who do not complete and submit any requirements or requests or applications before the specified date or do not attend/undertake any stage of the selection process as requested or do not furnish such evidence as requested in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature will have no further claim to consideration.

5.8 Data Protection

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25th of May 2018, replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive. The personal information (data) collected on the application form, including any attachments, (which may include the collection of sensitive personal data) is collected for the purpose of processing this application and any data collected is subject to the regulations.

5.9 Standards in Public Life/Indemnity

The Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001 will apply to this post. Further information is accessible through the Standards in Public Office Commission at <https://www.sipo.ie>. Indemnity applies to members of the Governing Body and is given on the basis that it only applies to the official duties undertaken by members in their work on Governing Body or Governing Body Committees and that they carry out their duties in a bona fide manner.

