

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ACADEMIC ASSURANCE & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

2025/26

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Board of Governors has established a standing committee of the Board of Governors to be known as the Academic Assurance and Partnerships Committee ('the Committee').
- 1.2 The purpose of the Committee is to consider on behalf of the Board of Governors matters concerning academic assurance and educational partnerships and to provide assurance, advice and make recommendations to the Board of Governors as appropriate. The Committee will also consider and scrutinise the assurance provided by Academic Board.
- 1.3 The Committee shall have delegated authority to approve such matters within its remit on behalf of the Board of Governors as specified by the Board of Governors.

2. Terms of Reference

- 2.1 The Terms of Reference are to:

Educational Strategy and Performance

- 2.1.1 Monitor and oversee educational strategy, including educational partnerships and make recommendations to the Board of Governors.
- 2.1.2 Oversee the effective monitoring of performance against key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to academic assurance and partnership provision, including actions identified as a result of internal and external reviews.
- 2.1.3 Make recommendations to the Board of Governors regarding the framework for partnership approvals and in relation to decisions under the framework requiring Board of Governors approval.
- 2.1.4 Receive and consider updates from Academic Board on academic

governance and its implementation across all University provision including educational partnerships.

- 2.1.5 Receive assurance on the effectiveness of mechanisms for engaging and receiving feedback from students.
- 2.1.6 Commission independent external assurance or review on areas within its remit where the Committee considers it to be necessary and report outcomes to the Board of Governors. The Committee will consult with the Chair of Audit and Risk Assurance Committee as this is in addition to coverage under the Internal Audit Plan.
- 2.1.7 Provide regular reporting to the Board of Governors, including an Annual Report on academic assurance.

Regulatory Compliance

- 2.1.8 Oversee compliance with the regulatory expectations of the OfS on quality, standards and positive outcomes for all students (B conditions of registration) and with required thresholds for quality assurance through monitoring performance and student outcomes data for all academic provision, including educational partners.
- 2.1.9 Monitor and provide assurance to the Board of Governors that any strategic risks within its remit are fully reported within the strategic risk register.
- 2.1.10 Receive reporting and assurance on all educational partnerships, including risk assessments for each partner and assurance that partnership related risks are identified and effectively managed.
- 2.1.11 Oversee compliance with the regulatory expectations of the OfS on access and participation (A conditions of registration) by monitoring the progress of the Access and Participation Plan (APP), including performance against targets.
- 2.1.12 Oversee compliance with the regulatory expectations of the OfS on ensuring the wellbeing of students and protections against harassment and sexual misconduct (E6 condition of registration).
- 2.1.13 Oversee compliance with the regulatory expectations of the OfS on protecting the interests of all students (C2 and C3 conditions of registration) by considering and recommending the Student Protection Plan (SPP) to the Board of Governors for approval and monitoring trends in student complaints and appeals.
- 2.1.14 The Chair of the Committee shall liaise with other Committee Chairs, as appropriate, to ensure Committee responsibilities are aligned.

3. Membership

- 3.1 The Committee shall normally consist of up to six independent members of the Board

of Governors (one of whom shall be the Chair of the Board of Governors), the Vice-Chancellor and the President of the Students' Union.

3.2 The Chair of the Committee shall be an independent member of the Board of Governors.

3.3 Additional persons may be co-opted by the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Nominations and Governance Committee in consultation with the Chair of the Academic Assurance and Partnerships Committee to address skills, experience or diversity needs.

4. Attendance

4.1 In attendance at the Committee shall be:

- the Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
- the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Partnership Strategy);
- the University Secretary;
- the Deputy University Secretary;
- the Head of Academic Governance and Quality;
- other officers as required for agenda items.

5. Quorum

5.1 The quorum necessary for the transaction of business shall be three members, at least two of whom must be independent members of the Board of Governors.

6. Frequency of meetings

6.1 The Committee will usually meet three times a year, in the spring, summer and autumn.

7. Reporting

7.1 The Committee shall submit its minutes to the Board of Governors for receipt and where decisions require Board approval, written or oral reports shall be made to the Board of Governors at an appropriate meeting.

8. Committee Effectiveness

8.1 The Committee shall review its own performance periodically and, at least annually, review its Terms of Reference to ensure it is operating effectively, and recommend any changes to the Board of Governors.

9. Secretariat

9.1 The Secretary to the Committee shall be the Deputy University Secretary. The Committee Officer shall be the Governance and Assurance Manager, or such other person designated by the Deputy University Secretary.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 10 DECEMBER 2025