

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE NEXT STUDENT GOVERNOR?

Tell me more

The University of Portsmouth is one of the foremost educational institutions in the UK with strengths in teaching, research, innovation and business engagement. It combines a strong local and regional presence with an international outlook.

Our Governors play a key part in driving us forward and strategically planning our future development. The Board normally comprises of between 16 and 21 Governors. 10 to 15 are appointed from outside the University and six are appointed from within the University community, including an UPSU Elected Officer (ex-officio) and one Student Governor.

There is a vacancy for a Student Governor to begin the role from 1 August 2025. Any student who will be enrolled during the 2025/2026 year is eligible to apply. If you feel you have the necessary skills, interest and time to spare then this is your chance to be part of the Governing body. An insight into the range of topics discussed and the decisions made by the Board can be found by reading the information on the [Board webpages](#).

Interested?

All applications are welcomed from registered students of the University of Portsmouth: undergraduate or postgraduate.

The role is classed as voluntary work and so a Right to Work check will need to be carried out prior to the student volunteer taking up the post.

The Board encourages diversity and welcomes nominations from all sections of the community. An application form can be downloaded [here](#).

Please note that this is an unpaid post but travel expenses will be reimbursed.

Process

The process of appointment is the same as that used to recruit External Governors. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview to ascertain who has the best skills fit for the Board at this time. A one-year or two-year term of appointment is usually appropriate, and the term of appointment will be considered on a case by case basis, depending on individual circumstances.

Deadline for applications

Applications must be received by midnight on 18 May 2025.

More information

For more information, please contact please contact corporate-governance@port.ac.uk and a colleague in Corporate Governance will contact you.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

STUDENT GOVERNOR – Role and Responsibilities

Information for Prospective Student Governor Applicants

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT	
Length of appointment	A two-year term of appointment would be appropriate where possible, but the term of appointment will be considered on a case by case basis, depending on individual circumstances.
Time commitment	<p>On average, 1 or 2 meetings per month.</p> <p>Per annum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board Meetings: 5 x half day - Committee Meetings: 6 x half day - Annual workshop: 1 day <p>There is also a time commitment for reading in preparation for those meetings.</p> <p>Note: some Governors choose to take up opportunities to be on more than one committee and/or attend invitations and functions at the University - but this very much depends on the individual capacity/time availability of those Governors.</p>
Remuneration	Unpaid
Expenses	Expenses for travel and subsistence and training in relation to duties undertaken as a consequence of Board membership.
Exclusions	<p>In line with the Instrument of Government, some people may be excluded from holding office if they have been declared bankrupt or have certain criminal convictions. For more details, refer to the Executive Director of Corporate Governance.</p> <p>You must be a registered student of the University to be appointed to this role and your appointment will terminate if you cease to be a registered student of the University.</p>
ROLE SPECIFICATION	
<p>Our governors play a key part in driving the University forward and strategically planning our future development. Our external governors are individuals with skills, knowledge, experience and reputation in industry, commerce, the public sector, the practice of a profession, or equivalent, with a capacity to inquire, challenge and enhance. The Board wishes to appoint a student governor from the student body at large, to bring a student viewpoint and perspective to the Board's work. All applications are welcomed, but from time to time we may specify experience in particular fields in order to complement the existing profile of the Board membership.</p>	

Responsibilities of Governors:

- 1) To carry out the responsibilities of members set out in the [Committee of University Chairs \(CUC\) Code](#) including proper conduct of public business, strategic planning, monitoring performance, finance, audit, estate management, charitable status, staffing, Students' Union and Health and Safety,
- 2) To serve on one or more committees of the Board and/ or on other bodies on behalf of the Board,
- 3) To participate fully in the life of the University community by attending ceremonial, artistic and public events and lectures and taking an active interest in the work of the University community,
- 4) To promote the University in the wider community,
- 5) To observe the seven [Principles of Public Life](#) as set out in the first and second reports of the Committee of Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Committee) and abide by the [Code of Conduct](#)
- 6) To undertake such training and induction as required to carry out the role of a member of the Board.

Person specification:

A Student Governor should:

- 1) From their experience, particularly as a Student, bring real insight to the proceedings of the Board,
- 2) Understand the distinction between governance and management,
- 3) Ability to demonstrate an interest in and commitment to higher education and to public service,
- 4) Ability to demonstrate the ability to exercise their responsibilities with independence and discretion,
- 5) Ability to attend, on average, one or two meetings a month at the University,
- 6) Able to work as part of a team: the Board of Governors exercises its responsibilities in a collective and corporate manner, with all of the members acting as a body.

Helpful information:

Further information on the Board of Governors including Committee work and previous minutes can be found on the website at:

<https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/our-people/board-of-governors>