

# MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND POLICY ON TERMS OF OFFICE

#### 1 Introduction

An appropriate balance of skills, experience, diverse backgrounds, independence and knowledge to make informed decisions are all important factors contributing to an effective Board of Governors. This document provides information about the composition of Manchester Metropolitan University's Board of Governors and the University's policy on terms of office.

#### 2 Composition of the Board

The University's Instrument of Government sets out requirements for the composition of the Board. Apart from the Vice-Chancellor, there are three categories of Governor - independent, co-opted and nominee members. Half of the Governors are required to be independent members and the Instrument of Government stipulates that they must have experience in industry, commerce, the professions or employment matters. The composition of the Board, determined by the Board in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Instrument, is as follows:

Membership Category	Agreed Membership Numbers
Independent	13
Co-opted	7
Academic Board Nominee	1
Student Nominees	2
Vice-Chancellor	1
Total	24

An employee or a full-time student of the University or an elected member of any local authority is not allowed to be an independent governor but can be appointed as a co-opted member.

The co-opted members must have experience in the provision of education. Up to three of the co-opted places are reserved for members of staff, of whom at least one should be academic staff and at least one should be professional services staff.

The nominee members are:

- A member of teaching staff nominated by the Academic Board
- Students' Union President
- Students' Union Education Officer.

#### 3 Approval of Appointments and Reappointments

All Board and Committee appointments and reappointments require approval by the Board of Governors. This usually follows a recommendation by the

Nominations and Governance Committee, which is responsible for advising the Board on Governor and Committee appointments.

## **4 Terms of Office**

### **4.1 CUC Higher Education Code of Governance**

As part of its commitment to good governance, the University complies with the CUC Higher Education Code of Governance, which states:

*In making decisions about terms of office, the governing body needs to ensure that there is a planned and progressive refreshing of membership – this includes evaluating the performance of governing body members. The terms of office for governing body members should not be more than nine years (either two terms of four years or three terms of three years) unless there is exceptional justification. This is in line with other Codes and recommended practice.*

### **4.2 Current Practice at Manchester Metropolitan University**

At Manchester Metropolitan University, Governors, other than the Vice-Chancellor and Student Governors, are usually initially appointed for a three-year term of office and do not usually serve more than two terms (six years) unless there are circumstances which would justify reappointment for a third term of office (maximum nine years).

Appointments and reappointments can also be made for shorter periods of time than three years, e.g. one or two years, if that is considered useful, providing that a Governor does not exceed the overall limit of nine years unless there are exceptional circumstances agreed by the Board.

Examples of occasions where a shorter term of office might be useful are when a Governor is unable to commit to a full three-year term of office due to other commitments or where a number of Governors are all due to leave the Board at the same time and it might be helpful to stagger leaving dates to avoid losing a number of experienced Governors at the same time.

However, Initial appointments are usually made for three years to provide a reasonable amount of time for new Governors to become fully effective in their role and to familiarise themselves with the University and their governance responsibilities.

When considering reappointments, to help to ensure that the Board is as effective as it can be, consideration is given to the Board's current skills mix and diversity profile, effectiveness of individual contributions and evolving future priorities.