Appointment of

Head of Learning and Teaching Enhancement

February 2017
Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Thank you for expressing an interest in the role of Head of Learning and Teaching Enhancement at our University. We are an ambitious and robust organisation with the agility, ability and flexibility to take advantage of the ever-changing higher education landscape both at home and overseas. We are currently at an exciting phase of our development and are looking to appoint an exceptional individual to help us realise the ambitions outlined in our new Strategic Plan 2016-2021. Here at Sunderland we place the student at the heart of everything we do, through providing life-changing opportunities for our diverse and vibrant learning community. Our widening participation record is testimony to the work we do in raising aspirations and promoting social inclusion within our region. Our student support and research-informed curriculum enable learners to develop the skills and flexibility required by employers and also the behaviours and values that contribute towards social responsibility and citizenship.

Our teaching is greatly enriched and informed by the quality of our research. The University submitted 13 academic areas to the Research Excellence Framework in 2014, all of which were classified as ‘internationally excellent’. Ten of these areas were also rated as ‘world leading’.

The University’s strategic engagement in the civic, educational, cultural and economic development of the North East is tangible. The impact we have in the region is illustrated by a recent economic impact assessment, which indicated that we are delivering a 20:1 return on investment for every £1 of public investment in the University, generating over £560m Gross Value Added for the UK economy and supporting 7,800 jobs.

We are also internationally connected with 18 educational partners in 12 countries. Almost a third of our students study for a Sunderland degree offshore in their own country and we are regarded as a pioneer in transnational education.

Following this very successful period of growth, we are defining our ambitions for the next period of our development 2016 - 2021. During the autumn of 2015 we embarked upon a wide consultation exercise with students, staff and other stakeholders, the outcomes of which helped shape a compelling, ambitious and distinctive Strategic Plan, which was launched in July 2016.

We are looking for an exceptional candidate to take on the new role of Head of Learning and Teaching Enhancement, who will work with the Senior Executive Team to drive forward a curriculum which is student-centred, research-informed and employer-led.

Sunderland is a successful institution with a proud history and stretching ambitions for the future. This is an opportunity for an outstanding individual who shares our ambition for the University of Sunderland to be recognised as a high-quality, modern university that is an exemplar in the creation of knowledge, skills and learning relevant to the 21st Century.

If you feel that you have the experience, commitment and ambition that will help us achieve our goals we would be delighted to hear from you.

Shirley Atkinson
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

About Us

With a long, distinguished history, and a record of adaptability and agility, the University of Sunderland is recognised as one of the great, modern, civic universities.

The University of Sunderland’s modern roots lie with Sunderland Technical College which opened in 1901. The role of this institution was to develop high-quality vocational programmes to support the regional skills needs for the 20th Century. Pharmacy, a flagship area for the University was introduced in 1921, and in 1934 Sunderland Technical College was recognised for its exemplary Bachelor of Engineering programme, the first in the country to offer placements as an integral part of the curriculum. By 1959 ambitious plans for expansion were underway and in 1969 The Technical College, The School of Art, and Sunderland Teacher Training College were brought together and became Sunderland Polytechnic. In 1992 the Polytechnic was awarded university status and became the University of Sunderland.

The University operates from two campuses in Sunderland - one on the banks of the River Wear and another in the centre of the city. Over the past five years a £75m capital investment programme has transformed the City Campus. This includes CitySpace, a sports and social facility, and a new Sciences Complex supporting areas such as Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Science and Sports Sciences. The refurbishment of Priestman Building has provided excellent facilities for Fine Arts and Culture.

The University’s award-winning Sir Tom Cowie Campus at St Peter’s, on the banks of the River Wear, is adjacent to St Peter’s Church - a seat of learning since 674AD. The campus has seen a £2.2m refurbishment of National Glass Centre, a national visitor attraction and home to the University’s Glass and Ceramic programmes.

At the University of Sunderland in London over £4m has been invested to ensure students have an excellent experience. This expansion in the UK follows several years of sustained growth in international markets. The University is acknowledged as one of the UK’s top providers of Transnational Education with over 6,000 students studying for University of Sunderland academic awards with quality-assured partners in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Trinidad, Uzbekistan, and Tashkent.
Our Current Position

Sunderland's civic role is best seen through its work in offering life-changing opportunities to those with talent regardless of background. Student recruitment is strong both on campus and with partners at home and abroad. Major investments in both the City Campus and the Sir Tom Cowie Campus at St Peter's have provided state-of-the-art facilities so the University can continue to deliver an excellent student experience. High-quality teaching is informed by research and engagement with employers to ensure students are equipped with the skills required to succeed in a highly competitive graduate jobs market. Recent developments include the refurbished National Glass Centre on the north bank of the River Wear where our Glass and Ceramic Arts students have access to the best facilities in Europe. Another is the development of our University's presence in London at Canary Wharf in the heart of the City's business and financial district.

Current capital investments include the Hope Street Exchange, a centre for enterprise and innovation that will provide a focus for engagement with employers and investors, and be a catalyst for building an entrepreneurial culture amongst university staff and students. The Centre will ultimately be the home for the University's FabLab, the first in the region which provides access to equipment, support and advice for the prototyping and design of new products.

The Sciences Complex Phase 2 development was completed in July 2016. The Centre provides the latest health and science provision, including the Living Lab, a unique, purpose-built, environment using advanced hi-fidelity simulation equipment to deliver integrated working between university researchers, staff, students and healthcare and life sciences partners. Here they can test, monitor and collaborate in new technologies, treatments and services in real world settings, raising the quality of care and improving patient safety.

The University is also a lead partner in the development of a University Technical College (UTC) in South Durham along with Hitachi Rail Europe and Gestamp Tallent which opened in September 2016, and is the University partner in the Northern Futures UTC in Newcastle.

The University has a sustainable and robust financial plan and is well placed to take advantage of investment opportunities that will improve its offer for learners and partners, while enhancing the University's standing within its community, the North-East region, nationally, and as a global player.

Our Vision and Mission

In 2015 the University embarked upon a consultation exercise with students, staff, employers and a wide range of stakeholders to revisit the mission and vision set out in the previous Corporate Plan 2013 – 2016. The extensive, thoughtful and compelling feedback informed the new Strategic Plan, which sets out the University’s vision, ambitions and objectives up to 2021.

The University remains wedded to its ethos, which is to be “innovative, accessible, inspirational and outward looking; with global influence and remarkable local impact”, and will continue to provide life-changing opportunities to those who will benefit regardless of their background. The University is recognised as an exemplar in aspiration building and the promotion of social mobility both at home and overseas.

A distinctive new vision is set out in the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021:

To be bold and inspirational in providing education, research and creative practice, which offers transformative experiences to students, staff, communities and business partners in the UK and across the world.

The University’s ambitions are to be recognised as:

**Life Changers**
- A world leading contemporary university that is distinctive in supporting learning at all stages in life.

**Knowledge Creators**
- An institution that is acknowledged globally and an exemplar in the creation of knowledge, skills and learning that is work relevant in the 21st Century.

**Tomorrow Makers**
- A university whose graduates are adaptive creative thinkers with the personal attributes to become the leaders and tomorrow makers of our societies and economies.

**Boundary Breakers**
- An institution that fosters a sense of pride amongst its staff, students and alumni as it makes a real difference to the world in which we live through its research, innovation and practice.

**Future Shapers**
- A leading anchor institution in the North East making significant social, economic and cultural contributions to our locality, displaying innovation, entrepreneurship, financial stability, efficiency and sustainability in our approach and delivery.

The University of Sunderland will be compelling and different because:

**Programmes** will be distinctive and relevant with work-integrated learning and professional practice embedded within.

**Research and creative practice** will be contemporary with immediate impact for communities, business partners and students.

**Students** will become lifelong partners in the institution, able to access career accelerators and updated learning and practice throughout their lifetime.

**Learning Engagers**
- A University where students will want to study due to the quality of teaching, the relevance and accessibility of our programmes and the reputation we enjoy for partnering with students and personalising their experience.
Key Facts and Figures

Student Numbers 2014/15:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home/EU</td>
<td>10,427</td>
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<tr>
<td>International including TNE</td>
<td>9,051</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>16,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>3,053</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Research</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19,478</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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2014/15 Staff Numbers

- Full Time: 15,969
- Part Time: 3,509
- Total: 19,478

Income 2014/15: £133.4 Million

Operational Surplus 2014/15: £4.611 Million

Research Excellence Framework 2014:

- All areas submitted recognised as being ‘internationally excellent’

Economic Impact Assessment 2015:

- £560 Million Gross Value Added for the UK Economy

Annual Investment in Student Scholarships and Bursaries: £5.5 Million

National Student Survey 2016:

- 83% Overall Satisfaction

International Student Barometer Survey 2015:

- 89.2% Overall Satisfaction

Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey 2015:

- 94% in work or higher study (6 months after graduating)

The University has six Faculties:

- Faculty of Business, Law and Tourism
  - Sunderland Business School
  - Sunderland Law School

- Faculty of Health Sciences and Wellbeing
  - School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
  - School of Nursing and Health Sciences
  - School of Psychology

- Faculty of Education and Society
  - School of Education
  - School of Culture
  - School of Social Sciences

- Faculty of Arts and Creative Industries
  - School of Art and Design
  - School of Media and Communications

- Faculty of Computer Science
  - School of Computer Science

There are seven Service Departments and an operational delivery team at Sunderland in London:

- Academic Services
- Human Resources
- Enterprise and Innovation
- Marketing and Recruitment

- Planning and Finance
- Facilities
- Student and Learning Support

Some of these areas are being considered as part of our current cross-institutional review.

University Governance and Leadership

The University is a Higher Education Corporation established under the 1988 Educational Reform Act. It is an exempt charity with the purpose “to provide higher education and further education and to carry out research and to publish the results of the research or any other material arising out of or connected with it in such a manner as the Corporation shall think fit”.

The Trustees of the Charity are the members of its Board of Governors. They have oversight of the strategic objectives of the institution and ensure that they align with the general principles of public benefit and the charitable objects.

The Executive team of the institution is as follows:

- Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive: Shirley Atkinson
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Vacant Assistant
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic): Professor Michael Young
- Chief Operating Officer: Steve Knight

The Executive team is supported by:

- Pro Vice-Chancellor - Product and Partnerships: Professor John MacIntyre
- Pro Vice-Chancellor - Students: Dr Rob Trimble
- Pro Vice-Chancellor - Academic Governance: Pro Gary Holmes
- Pro Vice-Chancellor - Connections and Place: Graeme Thompson

Senior Management Structure
Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching

Overview
The Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) will provide inspirational and supportive leadership, services and resources for all staff involved in teaching: driving learning enhancement and pedagogic research, sharing good practice through inclusive networks, facilitating staff recognition and excellence awards, supporting innovative curriculum development and promoting technologies and skills for e-learning.

The Centre’s aims align to the University’s 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, specifically to be:
- a world leading contemporary University that is distinctive in supporting learning at all stages in life;
- an institution that is acknowledged globally as an exemplar in the creation of knowledge, skills and learning that is work relevant in the 21st Century.

The aims of the Centre are as follows:
- To support the development of all academic staff and postgraduate research students with a university teaching role, to achieve and sustain an excellent learning experience for all students.
- To deliver staff recognition and award schemes which recognise teaching excellence within the University and support and fund pedagogic innovation.
- To provide comprehensive range of online resources to inform and inspire teaching staff, with opportunities to share good practice and research outcomes.
- To support the effective development and delivery of Trans-National Education and Distance Learning by providing support and guidance in relation to best practice in teaching, learning and assessment.
- To support student engagement activities, which may include peer mentoring and tutoring, staff/student research partnership and student-nominated teaching excellence awards.

Reporting to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), the Centre will bring together the Academic Practice PGCert. Programme team and Human Resources responsible for academic staff development, mentoring and peer support activities relating to the enhancement of teaching and learning, including the delivery of the PG Certificate/PDip/MA in Academic Practice.

To oversee support and development activities for e-learning.

To oversee an accredited scheme for staff recognition through fellowship awards.

To provide academic leadership to the University through the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT). To deliver this in line with the University’s vision, strategic objectives, ambitions and related academic plans.

Key accountabilities
To lead the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, managing teams responsible for academic staff development, learning technologies and learning enhancement and innovation.

To oversee a portfolio of academic staff training, development, mentoring and peer support activities relating to the enhancement of teaching and learning, including the delivery of the PG Certificate/PDip/MA in Academic Practice.

To oversee support and development activities for e-learning.

To develop and manage schemes which recognise teaching excellence within the University and support and fund pedagogic innovation.

To drive development of externally-funded learning and teaching projects, in co-ordination with Faculties and the Enterprise and Innovation Directorate.

To develop and manage enhancement initiatives that deliver improvements to teaching quality, the learning environment, student outcomes and student satisfaction in support of the University’s Strategic Plan.

To liaise with Human Resources to ensure there is an integrated approach to the delivery of academic staff development and related activities.

To engage with the Students’ Union in developing partnership projects in relation to student engagement and co-creation.

To offer specialist academic expertise and a sound knowledge of good practice and policy developments in Higher Education and teaching.

To contribute to strategy and policy development in relation to teaching quality, the learning environment and student outcomes.

To contribute to communications and promotion of the University’s academic offer and the student experience to both staff and students, internally and externally, nationally and internationally.

Person specification:
- Strong record of providing strategic academic development agenda aligned to strategic aims.
- Has a thorough understanding and appreciation of the challenges facing the HE sector and change agenda.
- Experience and Knowledge of learning and teaching pedagogy and practice within Higher Education.
- Experience of enhancing learning, including through technologies, to improve student learning.
- Experience of leadership and management in Higher Education.
- Strong track record of pedagogic research and/or professional experience in innovative teaching practice.
Sunderland is a welcoming city by the sea that offers a great quality of life.

Sitting on the beautiful North East coast at the mouth of the River Wear, its warm and friendly people are proud of their rich history that stretches back to Anglo-Saxon times.

Sunderland’s wide sandy beaches with their big-sky views attract walkers, surfers, runners and cyclists to enjoy the fresh sea air; while the Marina Complex provides top-class facilities and friendly service all year round.

The city boasts acres of green space and is close to wide, open countryside and urban attractions, with Newcastle, Durham and the North Yorkshire Moors on the doorstep. There are ambitious plans for the future with at least £75 Million of investment in the pipeline for the city.

We are within easy reach of other Northern hubs including Newcastle, York, Northumberland and The Tyne Valley with an international airport less than half an hour away, a direct rail link to London, the Tyne and Wear Metro light rail, and quick and easy access to the A1 and A19 via road. Many of our employees live outside of the city yet enjoy a far shorter commute than others in the UK due to our great transport links.

But back to Sunderland, there is plenty of culture too: the Empire Theatre attracts major west end productions and visitors to National Glass Centre can take in the work of internationally significant glass artists. Musically the city’s vibrant underground scene has an international reputation.

We have partnered with the official Sunderland City of Culture Bid 2021 which demonstrates a city wide commitment to a great future, showcasing our unique energy and ambition.

Sunderland's busy retail centre offers plenty of places to eat and drink, including cosy pubs serving cask ale, and independent restaurants, coffee shops and bars.

As for accommodation options there is a growing number of hotels for short stays, plus everything from affordable city centre apartments to Georgian suburban town houses for those staying longer.

Sunderland is a friendly city with ambition and a bright future – join us and be part of our story...

Benefits and How to Apply

The University offers competitive salaries, a range of generous benefits and an excellent working environment. Our commitment to staff is exemplary with staff development and welfare reflected in our strategic and operational plans.

The role offers a competitive salary and an attractive benefits package which includes:

- A final salary pension scheme with a generous employer contribution
- 36 days annual leave plus an additional 5 days concessionary leave and 8 days public holiday
- Generous relocation support
- A healthcare plan where employees have an opportunity to select a healthcare cash back plan for themselves and their families via monthly salary deduction
- Subsidised gym membership for the fitness suite at CitySpace and an onsite nursery for children from birth to school age
- Tier 2 sponsorship for international candidates wishing to relocate to the UK

To apply for this position, please log onto our website jobs.sunderland.ac.uk where the role will be listed as ‘Head of Learning and Teaching Enhancement’ submit a comprehensive CV, application form and supporting statement including details of your current salary and benefits package. Please ensure that your application fully addresses the criteria in the Role Profile.

You should give the names, positions, organisations and telephone contact numbers of at least two referees, one of whom should ideally be your current/most recent employer. Referees will not be contacted without your prior consent.

You are also asked to complete the University’s equal opportunities monitoring page. The information you provide on this form will be treated as confidential, and used for statistical monitoring purposes only.

Finally please ensure that you have included mobile, work and home telephone numbers, as well as any dates when you will not be available or might have difficulty with the indicated dates below.

Closing date: 26 February 2017
Interview expenses (within the UK) can be paid in relation to this post.