Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Thank you for expressing an interest in the role of Academic Dean of the Faculty of Education and Society.

We are at an exciting phase of our development and are looking to appoint an exceptional individual to help us realise the ambitions outlined in our Strategic Plan 2016-2021.

Here at Sunderland we place our students at the heart of everything we do, 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. The University has been recognised with a Silver rating award in the Teaching Excellence Framework - placing it alongside other high-performing universities.

We are looking for an outstanding candidate to take on the role of Academic Dean to lead the Faculty of Education and Society. The Academic Dean is responsible for the leadership and management of the Faculty in support of the learning and research agendas, ensuring the Faculty makes an active contribution to the delivery of the University’s Strategic Plan. Our Academic Deans play a key role in engendering an exciting, dynamic and relevant scholarly environment that encourages curiosity and creativity amongst staff and students and creates reputable knowledge hubs in the subject specialisms of the Faculty.

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 in order 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, Nursing, Cosmetic Science and Sports Sciences. Living Lab is a unique, purpose built environment using high-fidelity simulation equipment to deliver integrated learning between university researchers, staff, students and healthcare and life sciences partners. Here they can test, monitor and collaborate on new technologies and treatments in real world settings, raising the quality of care and improving patient safety.

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 Ceramics programmes, where students have access to the best facilities in Europe.

At the University of Sunderland in London – situated at Canary Wharf in the heart of the City’s business and financial district – 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. In March 2017 the University launched its campus in the Central District in Hong Kong, providing a South East Asian hub from which to develop further overseas growth.

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 Tajikistan.

High-quality teaching is informed by research and engagement with employers and ensures students are equipped with the skills required to succeed in a highly competitive graduate jobs market. The University is working with organisations including Accenture, Sage and Northumbria Water in the delivery of Degree Apprenticeships and has ambitious plans for growth in this sector.

Recent capital investments include Hope Street Xchange which opened in March 2017. This centre for enterprise and innovation is providing a focus for engagement with employers and investors, and is a catalyst for building an entrepreneurial culture amongst University staff and students. The centre is home to 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 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 Talented, which opened in September 2016, and is also 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 its standing within its community, the North-East region, nationally, and as a global player.
A distinctive 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 aligned to six key themes:

**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 as 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.

**Learning Engagers**
- A University where students 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.

**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:**
- Our programmes will be distinctive and relevant with work integrated learning and professional practice embedded within.
- Our research and creative practice will be contemporary with immediate impact for communities, business partners and students.
- Our students will become lifelong partners in the institution, able to access career accelerators and updated learning and practice throughout their lifetime.
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.

Senior management structure

The Executive team of the University is as follows:

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

The Faculty of Education and Society

Overview

Situated in the award-winning Sir Tom Cowie Campus at St Peter’s, the Faculty of Education and Society has a budget of approximately £25m and 120 teaching and research staff. The Faculty is made up of three Academic Schools - Culture, Education, and Social Sciences. Over 3,500 undergraduate and postgraduate students study on campus and the Faculty works with 200 partner institutions in the region and beyond, delivering vocational programmes, and has 100 distance learning partner institutions worldwide.

The Faculty submitted to the 2014 REF and was rated highly and is acknowledged as having world leading research in all of its Units of Assessment. Each School has a Professional research lead who works directly to the Dean and the Head of Faculty Research within the Faculty’s Research Institute.

Students are heavily involved in the academic community and in the creation of new knowledge through research. Students are prepared to make a real impact on the professions, the community, and in the public and commercial sectors that they will join after graduation.

The School of Culture

The School includes English, History and languages provision all with excellent NSS scores. The School links research with teaching and has a diverse range of PhD students working with 4* academics. The School has recently reviewed its undergraduate provision in English, and history programmes. Each of these areas lead on to postgraduate provision within the Faculty.

The School offers opportunities for students to publish their own work and has two edited collections already published, as well as student and staff-led publications in more specific culturally-led areas. The School also takes a lead role in regional Literature Festivals.

The School of Education

The School provides teacher education programmes at primary, secondary and tertiary levels and is judged to be good by OFSTED. The School also offers non-QTS distance learning programmes at home and across the world and this is a major growth area for the Faculty. The School offers Postgraduate taught programmes to Master’s level as well as more specialist short courses and has several Doctoral students working towards PhDs and Professional Doctorates, the latter often being education professionals aiming to improve their skills and their organisation through working with the University. The undergraduate and postgraduate provision was reviewed last year to ensure content is compelling and current, and has an emphasis on employability.

The School of Social Sciences

The School offers vocationally-orientated programmes in Social Work, Community and Youth Work, and Health and Social Care and in addition more academically-orientated programmes such as Criminology and Sociology. The School is internationally recognised as a centre for applied social studies, specialising in domestic abuse and equalities and is regularly called upon to inform Government through Select Committee contributions as well as through its world-ranked research publications. Staff are highly respected, particularly in the areas of LGBT, HIV and social justice. Programmes are accredited by the appropriate national bodies.

Published Data

Results in the latest National Student Survey (NSS) show high levels of student satisfaction: 70% of the Faculty’s students responded to the NSS and of those, 90% said they were satisfied with the quality of their course. Some of the survey highlights include Social Work and English in particular receiving 100% for overall satisfaction and Teacher Training achieving 90% overall satisfaction. All other reported programmes in the Faculty were 85% or above. Results from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey are also excellent. In the last survey, most programmes achieved 100% employment levels and the Faculty achieved 96% overall. Vocationally orientated programmes, particularly those in Education and Social Sciences, achieved 100% graduate-level employment, with the Faculty achieving 70% graduate-level employment overall.

These results reflect the quality of teaching which is underpinned by relevant research and professional practice, and delivered by staff who are committed to delivering an excellent student experience. These themes were reinforced by Sunderland’s recent Silver rating awarded in the Teaching Excellence Framework where the assessors applauded the University for promoting “…an institutional culture that facilitates excellent teaching.”
The Role: Academic Dean

Overall Purpose
To provide academic leadership of the Faculty with a key purpose of engendering an exciting, dynamic and relevant scholarly environment that encourages curiosity and creativity amongst staff and students and creates reputable knowledge hubs in the subject specialisms of the Faculty.
To deliver this in line with the University’s Vision, Strategic Ambitions and Objectives and related academic plans.

Key Accountabilities:
To be responsible for delivering ambitious targets for student engagement and success whilst maintaining high standards of quality and delivery. To advise the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) generally on matters pertaining to the Faculty and its academic areas.
To promote the achievement of a high-quality student experience across a diverse range of on campus and off campus learner groups.
To proactively support student recruitment to the Faculty at all levels of study.
To be accountable for Faculty programme content and delivery, including inter-disciplinary degrees and work-integrated learning.
To engage with employers and schools on the relevance of programme content.
To oversee the development and implementation of the Faculty’s research institute agenda, ensuring focus is on relevant, applied, fundable research and is in alignment with the University’s Research and Innovation Strategy.

Person Specification:
Qualifications and Professional Memberships:
• Relevant doctoral qualification
• Membership of a relevant professional body
• Higher education teaching qualification / Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

Knowledge and Experience:
• Substantial record of senior level leadership in higher education.
• Significant experience of people and financial resource management
• Good knowledge and understanding of the higher education environment, nationally and internationally, and the major determinants of institutional success.
• High personal academic and/or professional standing in an area relevant to the Faculty.

Key Competencies:
• Displays strong leadership and management skills, motivating others to achieve their potential.
• Ability to deliver organisational change in a challenging environment.
• Ability to identify and implement innovative solutions.
• Ability to achieve results through others.
• Demonstrates honesty, loyalty and integrity.
• Takes ownership and displays resolve to be accountable for delivering against objectives.
• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with an ability to engage effectively and positively across a range of stakeholders.
• Displays self-confidence, demonstrating a ‘can do’ approach.
• Cultural awareness and a high level of commitment to University values, aims and objectives, including equality, diversity and inclusivity.

Outline Terms and Benefits:
• Professional Contract (37 hours per week for nominal purposes)
• Location: David Goldman Building, St Peter’s Campus
The role offers a competitive salary, an excellent working environment 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 on-site nursery for children from birth to school age
• Tier 2 sponsorship for international candidates wishing to relocate to the UK

Our commitment to staff is exemplary with staff development and welfare reflected in our strategic and operational plans.
In addition, a professorial appointment will also be considered where appropriate.
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. Over £1 billion is being invested in regeneration projects across the city, from a new bridge across the Wear to landscaping and public realm improvements at the seafront and in the city centre; the results of this investment is really beginning to make an impact on Sunderland, with more plans in the pipeline.

There is plenty of culture too. The former Chair of Arts Council England described the University of Sunderland as the “poster child” for driving economic regeneration through creativity. The Cultural Spring Project, the re-launch of National Glass Centre, the Tall Ships Race in 2018 and being shortlisted for UK City of Culture 2021 are just a few of the projects that have placed creativity and vibrancy at the heart of Sunderland’s community.

The city’s underground music scene has an international reputation and 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. Sunderland is easy to reach too, 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.

Sunderland is an affordable place to live and offers a great quality of life. It's a friendly city. with ambition and a bright future – join us and be part of our story.

Recruitment Timetable and How to Apply

Queries
For an informal discussion about this role please contact Professor Michael Young, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) on 0191 515 2715.

To apply
Please submit:
- An up-to-date CV with details of current or last remuneration.
- A covering letter of no more than 2,000 words that sets out your motivation and addresses the requirements set out in the person specification.
- Details of two referees (one of whom should be your current employer), including name, nature of your relationship, position and contact details. References will not be taken up without prior consent.
- A completed equal opportunities and diversity form (which is available to download from the vacancies link below)

Apply using this link
https://jobs.sunderland.ac.uk/

Key dates
Interviews will be held on 22nd January, closing date will be 14th January.