



University of
Sunderland

PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR (FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY)



DEAR CANDIDATE,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Business and Technology) at the University of Sunderland.

We are a life-changing institution, dedicated to being student focused, professions facing and society shaping. We seek to provide a transformative experience for all our students through an employability and enterprise focused curriculum. Our students benefit from an excellent and innovative education with the University achieving a Silver TEF rating at the last assessment. Our focus on excellent quality is matched by our commitment to improving access to higher education.

As an anchor institution, we create extensive opportunities for graduates to stay in Sunderland – a city undergoing significant transformation and deeply connected to the University – and the wider north-east of England, promoting economic and social benefits. Our mission has major national and global reach, with campuses in London and Hong Kong and educational partnerships at over 40 locations worldwide. Our provision spans a diverse portfolio including degree apprenticeships, UK and transnational educational partnerships, and an extensive offer of online education.

We are committed to pioneering research, innovation, and knowledge exchange. Our signature capabilities focus on applied research, and enable us to deliver impact regionally, nationally, and internationally. Through our three research institutes, we tackle real-world challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration, as well as our wider research and innovation activities. In the Faculty of Business and Technology, research expertise includes cutting-edge advancements in digital technologies, user experience, Industry 4.0 applications, and management learning and business education. This spans areas such as smart manufacturing, materials science, and global cooperation, enhancing education, benefiting industry, and delivering meaningful societal contributions.

This is a pivotal and exciting time for the University as we continue to strengthen our academic portfolio and further enhance our reputation for educational innovation and excellence. We are looking for an exceptional individual to deliver our ambitions for growth, student success, and research and innovation.

The Faculty of Business and Technology is at the heart of this ambition, playing a crucial role in fostering the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and technologists.

We are seeking an individual with the skills and experience needed to lead the Faculty of Business and Technology with vision and purpose, guiding its strategic direction and fostering academic excellence. In this role, you will play a pivotal role in driving the success of the faculty, delivering an outstanding student experience and excellent outcomes, developing the faculty's academic portfolio across all aspects of provision, enabling growth, and advancing our priorities for high quality and impactful research and innovation.

As a Pro Vice-Chancellor, you will also have university-wide responsibilities. You will provide impactful and strategic leadership to deliver on the University's ambitions for growth and outstanding quality in degree apprenticeships and skills across the whole institution. Working with me, you will also support the delivery of our university-wide ambitions across the education portfolio. We will provide you with support, development and opportunities to further develop, positioning you well for the future.

The University is a collaborative, forward-thinking and exciting place to work with a clear sense of mission. This is an excellent opportunity to join us if you want to elevate your professional journey in a challenging as well as supportive environment.

I am very happy to discuss this role further you. Please email talent.acquisition@sunderland.ac.uk for us to arrange a date and time to speak.

Thank you for your interest and I look forward to hearing from you.

Professor Helen Driscoll,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)



ABOUT US

THE UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND

We pride ourselves on being a life-changing university, with the underpinning ambitions to be student-focused, professions-facing and society-shaping.

Whether it is doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, journalists, computer scientists or business leaders, we are educating and training students who will help shape our everyday lives, communities, and workplaces, not just here in the north-east, but around the globe.

Academic excellence is at the heart of what we do as a university, but we have demonstrated that can sit very comfortably with championing social inclusion and diversity.

SOCIETY-SHAPING

As we work to shape the city of Sunderland, the north-east of England more generally and the wider world, we make a positive contribution to economic and social change. Our graduates leave equipped with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and connections to make a positive difference across the globe.

£250m

The amount we are investing in our facilities over the next ten years

We are one of the world's best young universities according to The Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2023. In addition, we are a Top 50 institution in the Guardian University Guide 2024.

Our staff survey, conducted in 2023, demonstrated high levels of engagement, alongside many other positive comments about working here.

Over the next ten years, we are investing £250million in our facilities. This includes further expansion of our health-related activities at our City Campus, and redevelopment of the Sir Tom Cowie Campus at St Peter's, with a new library and improved facilities for the Faculty of Business Law and Tourism and the Faculty of Technology. In addition, the University of Sunderland in London will be moving into a new building during the 2024-25 academic year, mirroring a similar move for the University of Sunderland in Hong Kong which took place in May 2023.

OUR GLOBAL REACH

The University of Sunderland has a global community of 25,600 students, based at our campuses in Sunderland, London and Hong Kong, as well as learning partnerships in 19 different countries.

Our London campus, based in Canary Wharf, has over 4,200 students and celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2022. Offering a range of courses across business, tourism, engineering and nursing, our London campus is a hub of learning in the centre of the capital.

With a substantial track record of educating students from Asia, our links with our Asian alumni became even stronger when we established a presence in this hugely influential region. Now, the University of Sunderland's campus in the Wan Chai district of Hong Kong has 653 students. As the only university campus in Hong Kong, we deliver a range of business and tourism courses at the heart of one of the region's most exciting cities.

Our Independent Distance Learning (IDL) provision has been established for some years, and Sunderland Online was launched in 2020. We have around 3000 students currently across the provision, with plans for further growth.



OUR RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Research, innovation and knowledge exchange inspires and drives our academic community. It delivers outstanding outcomes for the student experience and plays an influential supporting role in developing economies and societies regionally, nationally, and globally.

We have a strong focus on applied research that responds to the needs of real-life issues in the economy, in culture and society. Our research

stands out because it is relevant and responsive, as well as inclusive and collaborative.

The success of our approach was demonstrated in the outcomes of the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) when 70% of our published research was rated as either world-leading or internationally excellent, double the proportion of such research from 2014. This, in turn, led to the publication of a new Research and Knowledge Exchange Plan.

The latest Knowledge Exchange Framework results are also testament to our strong research, innovation and knowledge. The results from the Knowledge Exchange Framework 2023 showed that we're in the top 20% of UK universities for research partnerships and for local growth and regeneration.

OUR TEACHING

The excellence of our teaching was demonstrated in the 2023 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) when we received an institutional 'Silver' rating, with 'Silver' ratings for Student Outcomes and Student Experience.

Our excellent teaching is informed by research and engagement with employers, ensuring our graduates are equipped with the skills required to succeed in their chosen career or path to further study.

Our Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) supports academics in their continuous professional development.



EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We believe that creating an inclusive and supportive culture is not only the right thing to do, but what is best for our community.

Not only does it make us better at understanding the needs of our students, but it also creates a sense of belonging that enables all our staff to perform at their best.

Inclusivity is a value at the heart of what we do and we want all our staff to be part of that journey with us.

<https://www.sunderland.ac.uk/about/equality-diversity-inclusion/>

UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The University Executive is the most senior executive decision-making body in the University.

The Board of Governors provides strategic leadership to the University, as well as challenge and support to the University Executive.



MORE INFORMATION

For further information on all aspects of the University's work, including its strong financial position, download our Annual Report and Financial Statements 2023-2024

UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE TEAM



SIR DAVID BELL KCB DL

Vice-Chancellor and
Chief Executive



ANDREA WALTERS

Chief Operating Officer



BEN DALE

Chief Financial Officer



MILAN RADOSAVLJEVIC

Deputy Vice Chancellor
(Commercial)



PROFESSOR HELEN DRISCOLL

Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Education)

THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN SETS OUT OUR

PURPOSE AND AMBITIONS

In 2020, the Board of Governors agreed a new five-year strategy for the University, which sets out our core purpose as a life-changing institution with three underpinning ambitions:



STUDENT-FOCUSED

Academic excellence is the foundation for all that we do. At the same time, the University offers transformative experiences to talented students from all backgrounds.



PROFESSIONS-FACING

Our refreshed curriculum is focused on delivering ready-to-work graduates aligned to a variety of employment sectors.



SOCIETY-SHAPING

As an anchor institution in the city of Sunderland, we are central to the collective local effort to bring about positive change in the city and wider north-east of England.

Inspiring

- we provide a supportive, empowering and enriching experience for our staff and students

Innovative

- we value people for their creativity and update our knowledge and practice to enhance the student experience

Collaborative

- we work together as a community with our partners and build lasting relationships to achieve our shared ambitions

Inclusive

- we celebrate our diverse culture, which welcomes and values everyone's contribution

Seeking excellence

- we strive for the highest quality in academic delivery, research and service standards

OUR HISTORY

We are proud to be a life-changing Guardian Top 50 university and of our positive impact on the prosperity and wellbeing of the city and wider north-east region.

Our career-focused and professions-facing curriculum means that students graduate with the relevant knowledge and skills employers need. Areas of strength include a wide range of health disciplines – Medicine, Pharmacy and Nursing to name a few – Engineering, Computer Science, Technology, Education, Business, and Arts and the Creative Industries.

We have extensive partnership arrangements with many organisations across manufacturing, business and the public and voluntary services. We work closely with the NHS, making a vital contribution to improved patient care in the city, and we were a founding partner of the nationally-recognised Sunderland Culture organisation.

Proud of our role in promoting social change and widening participation in higher education for all with talent, the University's work has been passionately supported by our Chancellor Leanne Cahill, CEO of Bravissimo and proud Sunderland graduate.



1901

Sunderland Technical College

1969

Sunderland Polytechnic

1992

University of Sunderland



Top: Hope Street Xchange
Bottom: The John Dawson Sciences Complex

“Pharmacy has been taught in Sunderland for over a century”

Our modern roots lie with Sunderland Technical College, which opened in 1901 to develop high-quality vocational programmes to support the regional skills needed for the 20th century.

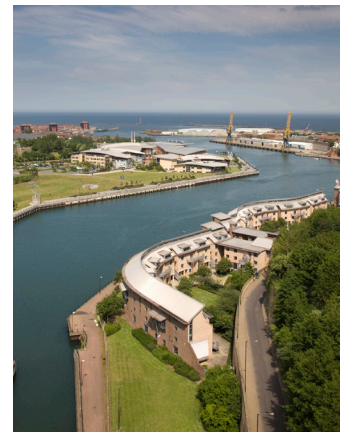
Pharmacy, a flagship area for the University, has been taught in Sunderland for over a century, with our first students registering in 1921.

In 1969, the Sunderland Technical College, the Sunderland School of Art, and the Sunderland Teacher Training College were brought together and became Sunderland Polytechnic. In 1992, the Polytechnic was awarded university status and we became the University of Sunderland.



Over the last thirty years, the University has continued to innovate, creating our riverside campus focused on computing, the media and teaching, and extending our reach across the globe, with campuses in London and Hong Kong as well as Sunderland.

Today, the University of Sunderland sits at the heart of our city and continues to focus on adaptability, agility and innovation.



Top: Sir Tom Cowie Campus at St Peter's,
Bottom Left: Hope Winch Exhibition (Microscope)
Bottom Right: City Campus



WELCOME TO SUNDERLAND

Our city by the sea





Sunderland is a welcoming coastal city, offering an excellent quality of life

Sitting on the beautiful north-east coast at the mouth of the River Wear, our warm and friendly people are proud of their rich history and positive about the future.

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.

Our 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.

INVESTMENT

Over £1billion is being invested in exciting projects across the city, from the Riverside development of offices, homes and leisure facilities, through a revitalised central area and railway station to the development of a vibrant cultural quarter near City Campus. In addition, there are many great new spaces and places for enjoying leisure time at the Sunderland seafront

at Roker and Seaburn. With more investment and ambitious plans in the pipeline, Sunderland is attracting (and enjoying) plenty of attention.

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.

GETTING HERE

Sunderland is connected to the rest of the UK by excellent road and rail links; and accessible by major airlines through nearby Newcastle International and Teesside International airports. Once you arrive, getting around is easy with plenty of local buses and the Tyne and Wear Metro (light rail), as well as a good network of cycle routes and public footpaths.

There are direct trains to Sunderland from London Kings Cross and the Metro serves both University campuses.



For more information about everything Sunderland has to offer, check out the My Sunderland website: mysunderland.co.uk



**University of
Sunderland**

A LIFE-CHANGING TOP 40 UNIVERSITY

Guardian University Guide 2025

UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND

City Campus
Chester Road
Sunderland
SR1 3SD

Sir Tom Cowie Campus at St Peter's
St Peter's way
Sunderland
SR6 0DD