

AMBITION
DELIVERED
TODAY



Candidate brief for the appointment of External Member of Audit Committee



**UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR**
TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION

THE Awards
2025



TEF 2023 Overall: **Gold**
Student experience: **Gold**
Student outcomes: **Gold**
Teaching Excellence Framework



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people **Gold**



External Member of Audit Committee, Teesside University

Role Description

In order to contribute fully to the operation of the Audit Committee, the duties and responsibilities of the External Member of Audit Committee are as follows:

Duties and responsibilities

- > To act in accordance with the University's Instrument and Articles of Government and the HE Code of Governance published by the Committee of University Chairs (being the code of governance adopted by the Board of Governors at the current time) and any internal rules and regulations specifically those designed to ensure legal and regulatory compliance is maintained.
- > Through the remit of the Audit Committee, to support the University to comply with the regulatory conditions imposed by the Office for Students.
- > To contribute constructively and impartially to debate, based on own knowledge and experience.
- > To be an active member of the Audit Committee, supporting it in providing assurance to the Board of Governors on the robustness of the University's financial stewardship, risk management and control arrangements. In doing so, the Committee helps protect the interests of the University as a charity, ensures the efficient and effective use of resources in pursuit of its charitable purposes, and safeguards its long-term financial viability.
- > To provide constructive challenge through professional experience, thoughtful questioning and applying evidence-based judgement.
- > In the discharge of the role, to observe the seven principles of public life; selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. To make full and timely disclosures of any personal interests or potential conflicts of interest to the University Secretary.

Appointment and tenure

The appointment will be for an initial period of three years, but as this is a co-opted position on the Audit Committee, it is subject to annual re-appointment during the three-year period. Appointments may be renewed at the end of the initial period, subject to recommendation by the Chair of the Audit Committee to the Nominations & Governance Committee.

Expenses and remuneration

The role is not remunerated but all reasonable travel and other expenses incurred in fulfilling the role can be reclaimed. Claims should be made via the University Secretary.

Time commitment

The expected time commitment is approximately six days per year, plus time for reading papers in advance.

External Member of Audit Committee, Teesside University

Person specification

The External Member of Audit Committee should be able to demonstrate the following experience, skills and qualities.

EXPERIENCE

- > Experience of operating at a strategic level, ideally from an audit or finance background
- > The ability to look beyond operational matters and consider long-term organisational resilience, opportunity and sustainability
- > Experience and understanding of governance, assurance, financial stewardship and effective oversight of organisational risk

SKILLS

- > Specialist or technical skills and knowledge, ideally from an audit or finance background, which support the ability to analyse and interpret complex documents, specifically of a financial and risk management nature, to provide constructive challenge and form decisions
- > A strategic thinker who is able to contribute across a range of governance, risk management and financial issues, form balanced opinions, ask insightful questions and contribute objectively to decision making
- > Effective communication skills with the ability to probe and challenge constructively
- > The ability to exercise the responsibilities of the role with independence, impartiality and discretion

QUALITIES

- > An interest in, and strong commitment to higher education and to the strategic aims of the University
- > An understanding of the components of a complex organisation and processes of planning, financial control, performance and risk management
- > A commitment to equality and diversity
- > An ability to regularly attend the meetings of the Board of Governors and any committee of which membership is accepted



About Teesside University

Teesside University is a dynamic and modern institution, dedicated to delivering opportunity and providing a high-quality higher education learning environment, offering innovative courses taught by committed and passionate staff. We are a future-facing university with an international reputation for academic excellence. Evidenced by the rating of triple Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework 2023, the Ofsted Outstanding for apprenticeships, the Daily Mail Modern University of the Year award 2026, and being named Times Higher Education University of the Year 2025.

Our multi award-winning campus, through our £300m Campus Masterplan, is a bold commitment to excellence, creating cutting-edge spaces for learning, collaboration, and innovation.

Our vision, mission, and values

[Download our values and behaviours framework](#)

VISION

Teesside will be a leading university with an international reputation for academic excellence that provides an outstanding student and learning experience underpinned by research, enterprise and the professions.

MISSION

Teesside University generates and applies knowledge that contributes to the economic, social and cultural success of students, partners and the communities we serve. Through education enriched by research, innovation, and engagement with business and the professions, we transform lives and economies.

VALUES



Delivering
Excellence



Empowering
Individuals



Embracing
Diversity



Communicating
Openly



Fostering
Creativity



Committing to
Sustainability



Taking
Responsibility

World-leading research

At Teesside University, research is powered by the expertise of our academics. Our engaged approach delivers real impact across economic, social, and cultural spheres, benefiting students, partners, and communities.

Our research is bold, relevant, and globally connected. From shaping international health policy on obesity and jet lag, to advising the UK government on Net Zero, tackling organised crime, and revolutionising digital practices in construction – Teesside researchers are solving the world's most pressing challenges.

The majority of our research was judged to be world-leading or internationally excellent.

(*REF2021)

Rated world-leading or internationally excellent in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF), our work is deeply collaborative. We partner with businesses, charities, governments, and the public to ensure our research delivers value – locally, nationally, and globally.



Innovation with impact

Our Launchpad start-up hub fuels entrepreneurial talent and regional growth. Teesside start-ups rank 7th nationally by turnover, generating £118m and supporting 645 jobs across the UK last year.

We work closely with industry to co-create solutions, enrich our curriculum, and provide placements and internships – a commitment recognised through our Customer First accreditation.

Our approach to research and innovation has earned us recognition as one of the UK's most engaged universities, demonstrated through our continued improvement in the Knowledge Exchange Framework. Teesside excels in CPD and start-up activity, ensuring knowledge flows beyond campus and into the communities we serve.

Innovation is a catalyst for change at Teesside University. We turn ideas into impact, powering progress through bold thinking, strategic partnerships, and entrepreneurial energy.

At Teesside, innovation means creating a future where everyone benefits from progress.

VERY HIGH ENGAGEMENT

**KEF
5**

- ✓ Working with business
- ✓ CPD and graduate start-ups
- ✓ Local growth and regeneration

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK*



Campus masterplan

Teesside University is proud to be one of the UK's most financially resilient higher education institutions – debt-free, consistently in budget surplus, and strategically investing to provide an excellent learning and teaching experience.

At the heart of this commitment is our £300m Campus Masterplan – a transformative initiative creating world-class spaces for learning, collaboration, and discovery.

Middlesbrough



Located in the heart of the Tees Valley, our main campus in Middlesbrough has undergone a remarkable transformation with over £300m invested to date. Highlights include:

- > **Student Life:** a £13.2m one-stop facility for student support services
- > **BIOS:** a £36.9m medical science facility advancing health and life sciences
- > **Digital Life:** £41.4m centre for gaming, animation, and digital technologies

London



Located in the heart of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Teesside University London is based at Here East, a dynamic hub for innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship. This campus reflects Teesside's commitment to expanding its reach and impact beyond the North East, offering a distinctive learning experience in one of the UK's most vibrant tech ecosystems.

Our multi award-winning campus now rivals the best in the sector, with developments recognised by RICS, BREEAM, Green Apple Awards, and Constructing Excellence.

Darlington



A short journey from the Middlesbrough campus, with excellent local transport links, this campus houses our National Horizons Centre of excellence for biosciences, and a health and life sciences facility.



£300m Campus Masterplan



**Award-winning buildings:
BIOS
Digital Life**



**Green Apple, RICS, BREEAM,
Constructing Excellence
awards, EcoCampus Gold**

Beyond facilities, our investment reflects a deeper commitment to research, innovation, and community impact. Strategic assets like the National Horizons Centre of excellence for biosciences, Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre, and Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA), our on-campus Tate+ art gallery, enrich the student journey and connect learning to the real world.



Global reach

Teesside University is a truly global institution, connecting students and staff through international opportunities, world-class partnerships, and collaborative research networks.

Our commitment to global engagement is reflected in a 60% rise in international mobility, enabling more students to study, work and collaborate across borders.

In the International Student Barometer Survey (Autumn) 2024* 94.4% of students studying at Teesside University were satisfied with overall happiness.

Our alumni network of **165,000** graduates across more than **170 countries**, forms a powerful and engaged global community.

Teesside University is building a reputation as partner of choice for high-impact research, innovation and expertise, connecting people and ideas across continents to shape a better future.

165,000

alumni across 170 countries

60%

increase in student mobility

**RANKED
2ND**

in the Times Social Inclusion Index



Local impact

At Teesside University, we are a recognised driver of economic growth, directly and through our partnerships. We are an engine of opportunity and social mobility – proud to serve our communities and play a vital role as an anchor institution within the Tees Valley.

We work with local partners, businesses, and the creative industries to shape a smarter, stronger, and more vibrant region. Our commitment to place is reflected in everything we do, from widening access to education, to driving innovation and cultural engagement.

In 2026, we will proudly host the Turner Prize at MIMA, our Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, further cementing our role as a cultural and civic leader in the North East.

Teesside University is not just part of the Tees Valley, we're helping shape its future.



Turner Prize hosted at MIMA in 2026



£105m annual GVA contribution



£80m Investment Zone partner



Creative industries and civic engagement



Powered by people united by purpose

Our staff are the driving force behind our success. Their passion, expertise, and dedication drive student success and institutional excellence.

Team Teesside is a bold, collaborative community united by a shared commitment to excellence. With 87% staff satisfaction, our people feel valued, supported, and empowered to make a difference.

We are proud to have achieved Investors in People Gold for five consecutive accreditations, reflecting our commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a positive workplace culture.

Our focus on wellbeing, inclusivity, and professional development is recognised through a range of prestigious awards and accreditations – evidence that when our people thrive, so does our University.



What does Team Teesside mean to our staff?
Click [here](#) to find out.

**INVESTORS IN
PEOPLE GOLD**
(5 CONSECUTIVE ACCREDITATIONS)

87%
staff satisfaction

**BETTER HEALTH
AT WORK**
(MAINTAINING EXCELLENCE)

**ATHENA SWAN, DISABILITY
CONFIDENT LEADER,
MINDFUL EMPLOYER**



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Gold



Teesside University in numbers

£300m+

LAST 10 YEARS

OVER £300M+, FROM CASH RESERVES, INVESTED IN OUR CAMPUSES

£24.9M

AVERAGE ANNUAL CASH SURPLUS
OVER LAST FIVE YEARS

OVER

£105M

**GVA ANNUAL
CONTRIBUTION TO
THE TEES VALLEY**

(TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY
ECONOMIC IMPACT
REPORT 2025)

OVER

£200M

DEBT FREE

Our robust financial management has ensured that the University remains in surplus and carries zero debt

2,668

IPADS, KEYBOARDS AND
CASES DEPLOYED TO FIRST YEAR
UNDERGRADUATES

21,569

Total number of students (based on
2024/25 HESA student records)

79%

THE AMOUNT OF GRADUATES
THAT ENTER HIGH-SKILLED
EMPLOYMENT OR GRADUATE-
LEVEL FURTHER STUDY

**GVA ANNUAL
CONTRIBUTION TO
THE TEES VALLEY**

(TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY
ECONOMIC IMPACT
REPORT 2025)

780

Through our on-campus
business support, our
graduates have launched
over **780** new businesses

3,096

Total number of
staff in 2024

£3,253

SERVICES AND FACILITIES
SPEND PER STUDENT

£300m

CAMPUS MASTERPLAN

1,438

Students studying
in partner institutions
overseas

TEF GOLD

ACROSS ALL AREAS

We have more than **165,000** alumni from over
170 different countries who are part of an active
community of global Teesside graduates

165,000

Teesside 2027 – Ambition Delivered Today

OUR STRATEGIC AIMS

- > **Education 4.0** – to be the University of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, delivering innovative and impactful provision through Education 4.0.
- > **Research and Knowledge Exchange** – to invest in staff and facilities to create a vibrant research culture, and engage local and global partners. Through delivery of these aspirations, we will improve our research quality, ensure our sustainability, drive innovation, and expand the impact of our work.
- > **Teesside University Global** – to be a global institution that provides an excellent international experience through partnerships and networks across the world.
- > **Resources and Business Management** – to ensure University resilience, investment and growth, drive strategic transformation and change, support academic excellence, and maximise the student experience



How to apply

We are inclusive and supporting of different perspectives to drive innovation.

We are constantly looking to improve the diversity of our organisation and invite applications which reflect the diversity and demographics of our community including applications from BAME, LGBTQ communities and those with a disability.

Key dates for interview

Closing date for applications: 2nd October.
Interviews will take place thereafter.



Castle Peak Group is acting as our retained consultancy on this appointment. Candidates should apply by emailing a full cv and covering letter to James Carss at james.carss@castlepeak-group.com



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For further information on citations visit
tees.ac.uk/source

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