

Recruitment pack:

Dean of School of Technology

Our Vision

To be The Opportunity University renowned for its creativity and innovation, developing students and staff who are entrepreneurial, eminently employable and well-connected within a research and professionally informed environment.

Our Mission

To be an employer focused University connected with our local, national and global communities delivering opportunity and academic excellence.

The University is at the cutting edge of learning teaching and research. With excellent graduate employment rates it prides itself on providing successful and innovative course programmes within an applied culture; along with being considered as one of the most socially inclusive universities in the UK.



Introduction

The current Dean of School, Professor Rob Moreton, retires in the Summer of this year. This provides an opportunity for the new Dean to build on the excellent foundations laid by Rob over the past four years and to provide the dynamic and innovative leadership and

management required to ensure the continuing success of the School and University during these challenging times.



About Us

The University of Wolverhampton is a leading modern university (one of the largest in the UK) with a tradition of providing opportunities and academic excellence dating back 150 years. Employing over 2,300 staff, the University serves a student body of over 23,000 drawn from the West Midlands and the wider region, and a vibrant international community.

It has invested over £95 million in its buildings and infrastructure over the last seven years. It has recently developed a five year plan through an open, inclusive and wide ranging consultative process involving staff, students, governors and other stakeholders. To initiate the plan, the University has undertaken an assessment of its competencies, stakeholders, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This approach will be cascaded down through the Academic School and Department plans.

The Strategic Plan seeks to respond to the rapidly changing political and economic climate through establishing broad value statements setting out what we stand for, what our goals will be then outlining actions to achieve them.

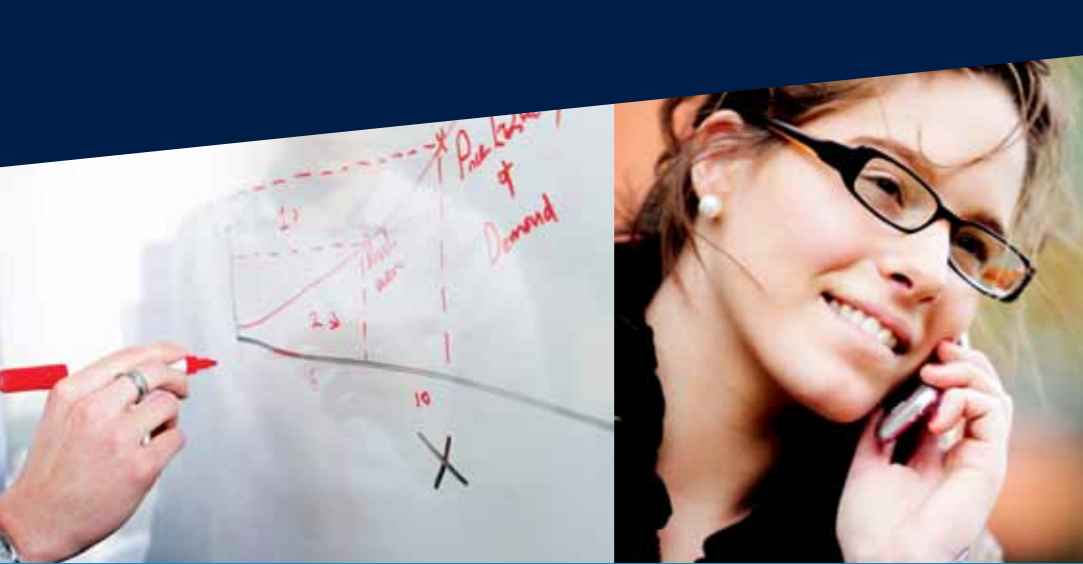


Our Future

The University is a major contributor to the success of the higher education sector's influence in widening participation. This requires considerable investment in developing progression routes and coherent ladders of opportunities. The University will continue to be at the leading edge of promoting social mobility, enabling and contributing to the significant improvement in individual life chances across our communities.

By providing the opportunity for individuals to engage in higher education we will be shaping economic and social regeneration in the years to come. We will build these ladders of opportunity in with the evolving needs of our students and the rapidly changing external environment.





Recent Developments at the University

In the Research Assessment Exercise, Wolverhampton was one of the two most improved post-92 universities with all 11 subject areas entered having elements deemed to be “Internationally Excellent” and eight having elements graded as “World Leading”.

The University of Wolverhampton is currently taking steps to prepare for the change in the higher education policy and funding environment in the UK. We have recently redesigned our curriculum framework at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

This fresh approach will enrich the student learning experience via an enhanced, employer-responsive curriculum ensuring graduates leave the University as highly employable, digitally literate and globally aware individuals with significant competitive edge in the increasingly challenging job market.

The University also has a new Innovation and Enterprise Strategy. Developing and enhancing current activity in this area, two new Innovation and Enterprise Hubs will be created at either end of the Wolverhampton/Telford Technology Corridor creating an environment that will stimulate and encourage enterprise, entrepreneurship and innovation in the region. This will not only present fresh opportunities for students and graduates but will also provide local businesses with the incentive to raise their research and development activities across the full range of technologies. The University is already engaged with stakeholders in the significant opportunities offered through the recently announced Jaguar Land Rover Engine Plant Site which is to be located in the City.

The Region

The West Midlands region served by the University includes the Black Country, a region characterised by rich social, cultural and community diversity but containing areas of social exclusion with traditionally low levels of educational participation. The University’s mission commits it to providing for, and contributing to, the region through vocationally relevant programmes that ‘enable and encourage individuals to realise their full potential’.

The Black Country is made up of four boroughs – Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. At the heart of the UK road, rail and air networks, the City of Wolverhampton is reinventing itself as a confident and vibrant centre for commerce and culture. Wolverhampton is in easy reach from anywhere in the UK and an excellent base for exploring the Midlands. Wolverhampton is the gateway between the historic Black Country and the beautiful countryside of Shropshire and Staffordshire. Major regeneration projects are transforming the City’s landscape and a wide variety of modern industries have emerged to ensure vitality and employment well into the 21st Century.

Wolverhampton has a long and successful sporting history; from founder members of the football league, Wolverhampton Wanderers, or ‘The Wolves’, to Olympic gold medallist, Denise Lewis. The City also boasts Britain’s only all-weather, floodlit racecourse and one of the most established speedway and greyhound stadiums in Europe.

With four Council-run leisure centres, superb health and fitness clubs, beautiful parks and nature reserves, and access to some of the best golf courses in the Midlands, Wolverhampton provides ample opportunity for a healthy lifestyle. High-quality support services are helping more and more businesses to locate and thrive in Wolverhampton. Wolverhampton has gone from strength to strength with investment from the public and private sectors creating an attractive environment and a wealth of opportunities for residents. The Interchange Project will revolutionise transport into the City, creating a single hub for public transport and creating a gateway entrance to the City on the West Coast Main Line.

A major boost to the region has been the recent announcement that Jaguar Land Rover is to build its new engine plant in Wolverhampton

Our Current Portfolio

The University has a portfolio ranging from biosciences to social sciences, construction to engineering, law to computing and business management, education to health, wellbeing and sport, and creative and performing arts; the University is renowned nationally for the quality of its programmes and as being a leader in the development of students for professional and vocational careers. Over the last few decades its unique portfolio has attracted students from over four continents and it was one of the first to develop transnational education.

As one of the leading UK universities for knowledge transfer activity, the University is highly regarded within the region and beyond for the help it is able to give its commercial partners. With a particular expertise in the SME community, the University works with companies in support of research and development, in the placement of its students into business and in discrete project assignments. It delivers the second highest number of Knowledge Transfer Programmes nationally and is the leading provider in the West Midlands. It led on the national Student Placement for Entrepreneurs in Education

(SPEED) programmes – supporting students who wish to develop and build their own businesses – and now also leads the regional programme.

Research has seen significant investment and development with excellent performance in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise; particular research strengths include areas such as design, IT language of computing, the built environment and brain tumours.

The University of Wolverhampton plays a key role within the West Midlands region and has a significant track record of raising education standards in regional schools. It is leading the improvement drive on underperforming schools in its region and encouraging them to raise the aspiration levels of young people in the area. The University co-sponsors two academies in Wolverhampton and the Black Country University Technical College in Walsall.

The School of Technology

The School prides itself on the quality of academic staff and the support that it provides for its students. It has excellent links with employers both nationally and internationally, along with strong relationships with other educational partners in the UK and overseas.

The key departments are:

Architecture & Design – helping to shape the future of the buildings we live in and the products we use within them.

Built Environment – with excellent facilities to support the areas of construction materials, hydraulics, environmental science, engineering and sustainability.

Computer Sciences – has a strong heritage of teaching and innovation in computing to keep abreast of the new technologies such as GPS, 3G and Wi-Fi.

Information Systems (Informatics) – working with partners to meet industry demands in this rapidly changing environment.

Engineering – our engineering facilities are internationally recognised for their high quality, state of the art engineering equipment.

Mathematics – providing a wide range of courses to meet the requirements of industry and employers.

What we Offer:

- Cutting-edge facilities, with one of the largest Wi-Fi campuses in England.
- Well established links with local, national and international industries.
- Friendly, supportive environment
- Innovative, high quality bespoke learning and teaching methods and resources.
- Significant entrepreneurial opportunities to generate income through our Business Engagement Strategy and to continue our engagement and involvement in the Jaguar Land Rover development.

Research

The following research areas within the School are rated as “world leading”:

- Built Environment and Civil Engineering
- Architecture and Urban Planning
- Information Systems and Security
- Engineering
- Pervasive Computing
- Statistical Cybermetrics

Research is organised with a research centre covering each of the broad themes, with each centre comprising a number of active and successful research groups.



We are looking for a candidate with a proven record of academic and managerial leadership in higher education (HE). You need to have an in-depth understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing both HE and the disciplines within the School; to position the School so that it can maximise the opportunities that are available.

You should be a dynamic, self-motivated, proactive leader with excellent inter-personal skills, be research active and have a successful record of external grant capture.

Job Description

The post holder will report directly to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and will work closely with other Deans of School and members of the University's Senior Management Team. The post holder will also be expected to maintain and develop new links with other universities and other stakeholder organisations.

Overview of Role

- Provide academic and strategic leadership of the School in line with the University's strategic plan.
- Be responsible for the day to day management of people and resources within the School supported by the management team.
- Work with external partners and stakeholders.
- Have oversight of and be responsible for the academic and professional programmes delivered by the School, ensuring an excellent student experience for all students.

Main Duties

To lead on the development of the strategic plan for the School

- To lead on research, enterprise and income generation within the School.

- To be responsible for the strategic and operational delivery of the School's activities.
- To ensure that teaching, learning and professional practice are underpinned by relevant research and academic practice.
- To be responsible for the performance review of academic staff.
- To lead on the external promotion of the School and university through work with external and accrediting bodies.
- To lead on and promote excellence in the student experience.
- To effectively manage and support academic staff and other resources within a devolved budget.
- To have responsibility for Health and Safety and other legal requirements within the School.
- To develop collaborative partnerships with schools, colleges both within the UK and overseas.
- To undertake and lead on projects as determined by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and other senior colleagues.
- To support the implementation of the University's Strategic Plan and its sub-strategies.

Person Specification

Key Qualifications, experiences and competencies

Education

First degree and doctorate qualifications relevant to one of the School disciplines.

Experience

Substantial record of leadership, programme development and research in at least one of the disciplines of the School.

High personal academic and/or professional standing in the practice of one of the disciplines relating to the School's activities.

Substantial recent undergraduate teaching experience

Significant experience and knowledge of income generation schemes.

Evidence of extensive experience of working with commercial, public sector and industry partners.

Knowledge & Skills

Subject expertise of a high order in the practice of one of the disciplines relating to the School's activities.

International research reputation in at least one of the main subject disciplines which will provide academic credibility, essential for leadership of the School.

Personal Skills

Ability to play a major, dynamic leadership role in shaping, supporting and driving forward innovative corporate policies for the benefit of the University as a whole.

Strong track record of success in leading, developing and motivating professional groups of staff.

Ability to represent the School within the University and the School and University externally.

Evidence of experience in dealing with the day to day management of resources, financial, staff etc.

Excellent communication, influencing and negotiating skills.



Appointment Process and How to Apply

The appointment of the Dean will be led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Geoff Layer who can be contacted for an informal discussion (telephone: **01902 322102** or email: **geoff.layer@wlv.ac.uk**), supported by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Ann Holmes.

The successful candidate will be expected to take up the post at the earliest possible opportunity. Further details of the terms of appointment will be open to discussion with the preferred candidate.

The University of Wolverhampton values diversity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

It is committed to promoting equal opportunities and will aim to ensure that no applicant is disadvantaged or discriminated against either directly or indirectly.

Applications should be made by completing the University's application form which enables candidates to demonstrate how they can deliver on the job description and meet the employee specification. This form may be supplemented by a relevant and up to date CV.

Application forms are found on our website at: **www.wlv.ac.uk/pers/jobs/htm** or telephone: **01902 321049** quoting job reference number: **A5778**.

Timetable

Closing date:	15th February 2012
Shortlisting:	Week commencing 20th February 2012
Interviews scheduled for:	6th March 2012