

Academic Board

Terms of Reference

The Academic Board is the University's supreme academic deliberative and decision-making body. It is responsible for strategic oversight of all academic provision, including the University's academic standards, direction, and regulation.

1. Remit

The Academic Board should ensure that its activity contributes to continuous improvement against the strategic goals of LSBU's Group Corporate Strategy, and compliance with the OfS's ongoing conditions of registration, Research England's terms and conditions of grant, and other relevant regulatory provisions.

1.1 The remit of the Academic Board is to:

- 1.1.1 support development of and approve University-level strategies relating to teaching and learning, quality enhancement, research, and student experience across all stages of the student journey. Ensure that they are consonant with the Group Corporate Strategy and monitor progress against academic key performance indicators;
- 1.1.2 approve the awards which the University may validate and confer, and monitor development of the University's academic portfolio;
- 1.1.3 maintain and enhance academic standards, assure the quality of academic provision and of students' learning opportunities, and ensure awards hold their value over time;
- 1.1.4 ensure that the University's academic provision anticipates and meets the diverse needs of its students;
- 1.1.5 seek to maintain the quality and standards of teaching and, where possible, enhance through best practice;
- 1.1.6 have oversight of academic ethics;
- 1.1.7 approve the University's academic and student regulations, and ensure that the regulations are appropriate, comprehensive, fair and compliant with external expectations and legal requirements, and oversee their enactment, including for:
 - admission of students;
 - granting and annulling of degrees, qualifications and titles;
 - exclusion of students for academic reasons;
 - appointment and termination of internal and external examiners;

- assessment and examination of academic performance of students;
- character of curricula;
- quality of courses including validation and accreditation by external bodies; and
- granting distinctions including honorary degrees and academic titles.

1.1.8 provide scrutiny of the academic quality and suitability of the University's educational collaborations and partnerships;

1.1.9 provide advice on such other matters as the Board of Governors or the Executive may refer to Academic Board;

1.1.10 ensure that action in response to identified academic concerns is taken at the relevant level (institution, school, course), taking proper account of the views of students, members of staff, external examiners, and external quality bodies;

1.1.11 support promotion of the University's reputation, including its research, teaching, and academic offer.

2. Committees

2.1. The Academic Board may carry out its remit through sub-committees, including the Quality and Standards, Student Experience, and University Research committees and working groups.

2.2. The Academic Board should monitor the activity of its sub-committees. The minutes (or a report) of its sub-committees shall be reported to the Academic Board.

2.3. The Academic Board shall approve the terms of reference of its sub-committees.

3. Membership

3.1 Membership consists of the following:

 Holders of Senior Posts (4)	Provost (Chair) DVC (Academic Framework) PVC (Institute of Health and Social Care)
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Senior Academic Staff and Professors (24)	Deans (x1 per School) Two elected senior academic staff members from each school (x14) Chair of the 'Professoriate' Associate PVC (Education and Student Experience)
Non-teaching staff (5)	Director of Teaching Quality and Enhancement Director of Student Services Nominated member of research staff Nominated member of technical staff Associate PVC (Research)
Students (2)	Students' Union, President Students' Union, Vice President (Education)

3.2 A quorum consists of 7 members.

3.3 The term of office of nominated members is three years.

3.4 The Academic Board meets at least three times per year. Additional meetings may be called by the Chair as deemed necessary to execute the business of the Board.

3.5 Board governors may attend any meeting of Academic Board or sub-committees to observe their proceedings.

3.6 Nominated and elected Academic Board members are eligible to join the Board of Governors as Staff Governors. Academic Board members appointed as a Staff Governor will serve for a term of three years from the date of their appointment as Staff Governor and will remain on the Academic Board for as long. Staff Governors can serve up to two terms.

4. Reporting Procedures

4.1 The minutes (or a report) of Board meetings will be circulated to all members of the Board of Governors.

Approved by the Board of Governors on 21 November 2019

Changes to 3. approved by the Board of Governors on 25 March 2021

Changes to 3. And 1.1.10 approved by the Board of Governors on 25 November 2021

Changes to 1. and 3. approved by the Board of Governors on 24 November 2022.