

Academic Board – Terms of Reference

2025-2026

Parent body

Council

Purpose

Academic Board is the principal academic authority within the committee system.

It is responsible for overseeing all academic and research business at the University and providing assurance to Council that the University is striving for and maintaining the highest provision.

Academic Board is made up of representatives from all stakeholders across the University and is chaired by the Vice Chancellor.

The Board has 11 sub-committees to which it delegates various areas of its responsibilities for focused scrutiny, support and action, and is also the parent body of all Departmental Boards and their sub-committees.

Terms of reference

The Academic Board has no single Terms of Reference document. Its Terms of Reference are derived from a collection of statements in the Charter, the Statutes and the Ordinances, the provisions of which are brought together below for convenience.

The role of Academic Board is defined in general terms by the [Charter](#) (Paragraph 7):

7. There shall be an Academic Board of the University (hereinafter referred to as "the Academic Board") which, subject to the powers of the Council as provided in this Our Charter and the Statutes and to the Statutes and Regulations of the University, shall be responsible for the academic work of the University in teaching, examining and research.

The powers of Council as defined in the Charter and Statutes ([Statute 4](#)) make other more detailed references relevant to the position of Academic Board. In particular, "before determining any question or taking any decision on the allocation of resources which the Council considers to affect the academic policy of the University, the Council shall seek the advice of the Academic Board."

Composition

The Composition (Constitution) of Academic Board is defined in the Statutes ([Statute 6](#)) and may therefore only be changed with the permission of the Privy Council, acting on a recommendation from the University Council. Some details of the Statutory provisions follow the list of members below.

In the membership list, expiries of terms of office are 31 August in the year mentioned, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Statute 6 provides for the following:

Class 1 and **Class 2** members of the Academic Board shall remain members for so long as they hold the relevant office.

Class 3 members shall hold office according to the Standing Orders of the University, subject to any specific arrangements prescribed for Academic Board by Ordinance.

Class 4 members shall remain members for a period of one year but shall be eligible for re-election for a further period.

Class 5 Members shall be the holders of up to four specified posts, to be designated by the Council for this purpose from time to time.

The Academic Board shall have the power to co-opt up to two appropriately qualified persons for such period as it shall determine, except that such members shall not remain co-opted members for a seventh consecutive year.

Elected members of the Academic Board including student members shall cease to be members of the Board if they cease to be eligible in the categories in which they were elected. A student member shall vacate office immediately upon ceasing to be a student.

Casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Orders of the University, subject to any specific arrangements prescribed for Academic Board by Ordinance.

Powers

From [Statute 7](#):

1. The Academic Board shall be the body responsible for the academic work of the University in teaching, in examining and in research, excluding matters relating to the allocation of resources.
2. The powers of the Academic Board shall be prescribed by the Ordinances.

As indicated by the quotation from Statute 7 above, the main statement of the Powers of Academic Board is found in Ordinances. The relevant [Ordinances are 4-5](#).

Meetings

From [Statute 7](#):

1. The Academic Board shall meet not less than once in each term.
2. The quorum for a meeting of Academic Board shall be twenty, or such larger number as the Council may from time to time prescribe.

Next update: September 2026