

Lay Membership of Council: Further particulars

Lay membership of the University Council is a non-salaried, fixed term appointment. Reasonable expenses, including support for caring responsibilities, are covered.

Role of the Council: The Council is the University's governing body with responsibility for the governance of the University and the conduct of all its affairs. The Council comprises no more than 27 members and shall at all times include a majority of members who are not employees or registered students of the University. Its Chair, the President, is a lay member. The Council is the ultimate decision-making body of the University and members are corporately responsible for the decisions which Council takes.

At each meeting the Council will:

- Receive an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on matters of import about the University and the sector more generally
- Receive a presentation, usually from another member of the Executive Board, on a matter of current importance (for example, the University's position in league tables)
- Consider and make decisions about matters of strategic importance
- Approve formal items which come under the Council's remit
- Receive reports from its various sub-committees

Time Commitment: It normally meets four times a year (November, January, March and July) for 2 to 3 hours, following an optional lunch. Owing to the issues raised by the pandemic, the Council has been meeting additionally; its next exceptional meeting is on 1 October. For now all meetings of Council are virtual, and it is expected that this will last at least until the end of 2020. The Vice-Chancellor offers virtual briefings to Council members in smaller groups of 4 or 5. Council members are encouraged to be involved outside the formal meetings, either through membership of the various sub-committees of the Council (as vacancies arise), or through other vehicles either formal or informal. We encourage and help members to get to know us, by arranging meetings with students and staff.

Term of Office: 3 years commencing with the date of appointment, which may be extended by one further period of three years, and potentially, by a further period of three years, unless otherwise permitted to serve for a longer term in accordance with the Charter by virtue of being appointment President or Vice-President of the Council.

An induction will be arranged at the convenience of new members.

If you have any further queries, please contact the University Secretary, Dr Richard Messer (r.j.messer@reading.ac.uk)