



Join us

as we transform lives

**Appointing our new Associate
Dean of Arts and Media**

Candidate Pack



**University of
Central Lancashire**
UCLan

Where opportunity creates success

Introduction

Joining the University of Central Lancashire's School of Arts and Media means becoming part of a dynamic, creative, and forward-thinking community, dedicated to empowering our students and making a meaningful impact on the cultural and creative industries.

As one of ten Schools within a university of 38,000 students, we are home to a vibrant network of artists, designers, performers, media practitioners, and scholars, all committed to driving innovation and excellence in teaching, research, and industry engagement.

This is an exciting time to join our leadership team as we enhance our academic structure to further strengthen the student experience and ensure outstanding teaching and learning outcomes. As Associate Dean (Students and Teaching Lead), you will play a pivotal role in shaping the educational journey of our students, driving excellence in pedagogy, and leading initiatives that support student success, progression, and engagement.

We are passionate about widening participation and offering life-changing opportunities to students from all backgrounds. Our School has a strong reputation for championing inclusivity, creative practice, and real-world learning, ensuring our graduates are equipped with the skills and confidence to thrive in their chosen careers.

This role offers an exceptional opportunity for an inspiring and strategic leader to help shape the future of arts and media education at the University. If you are driven by a commitment to student success and innovation in teaching and learning, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for your interest in this role - we look forward to learning more about your vision, leadership, and experience.



Professor Peter Lloyd
Dean of School of Arts and Media

Contents

Introduction	2
About the University	
Working together to transform lives	4
Our Schools	8
The University in numbers	9
About the School of Arts and Media	10
Preparing our students for future success	13
Our Strategic Plan, Vision and Strategy	14
Our working culture	15
A place where everyone can thrive	15
An inclusive culture	16
Connecting with research	17
Connecting with business and enterprise	18
Connecting with the world	19
Connecting with the region	20
Our campuses	21
About the role	
Job description	25
Candidate profile	27
How to apply	28

Working together to transform lives

The University of Central Lancashire is the international, multi-campus university that's proud to be leading the way in modern learning today.

We are innovative by nature, offering courses which combine academic excellence with real-world teaching. Our students are able to develop their skills, knowledge and self-confidence through hands-on learning experiences in state-of-the-art facilities which mirror the environments they can expect to encounter in their professional lives.

This approach ensures that our graduates emerge with highly employable skills, ready to make their mark on the world. Along the way they benefit from the guidance of our inspirational teaching colleagues, many of whom are internationally renowned experts in their fields.



'University of the Year' at the international Edufuturists Awards 2023

The Edufuturists Awards is an international awards ceremony which recognises innovation across the higher education sector and champions universities who work to ignite change and transform learning for the benefit of society and future generations.



TEF
2023
Silver

We've been rated Silver in the Teaching Excellence Framework 2023.

Where opportunity creates success

We have a long and proud history of enabling people to realise their potential and transform their futures. We gained university status in 1992, but our roots actually go all the way back to 1828, when our distant forerunner, the Institution for the Diffusion of Knowledge, opened its doors in Preston.

We've grown into one of England's largest universities, with a colleague and student community of around 38,000. Today the impact of our work extends to every corner of the globe.

A force for economic growth

At the regional level, we are a catalyst for economic growth. In 2019 we opened our £35m Engineering Innovation Centre, a world-class facility which is enabling Lancashire to enhance its status as a national centre of excellence for engineering, aerospace and manufacturing.

We recently announced that we will be taking a leading role in the development of a new National Cyber Force, a multi-million pound project launched by the Government which is set to establish Lancashire as a leader in cybersecurity. And in 2021 we strengthened our position as a leading provider of healthcare education with the opening of our new School of Veterinary Medicine, the first ever veterinary school to open in Lancashire.



We've recently invested £200m in transforming our Preston Campus. At its heart is our stunning new Student Centre, which brings our second-to-none support services together under one roof. More than ever, we're giving all our students the help they need to thrive at University.

The Student Centre stands on University Square, one of the largest public spaces to have opened in England for many years. In creating this impressive gateway between the campus and city, we are contributing to the regeneration of Preston and ensuring that the city we're proud to call home is increasingly attractive to students, businesses and tourism.

Over in Blackburn our recent acquisition of Training 2000, longstanding experts in adult education, is enabling us to offer thousands more apprenticeships at all levels, including innovative Degree Apprenticeships.

Ongoing developments to our Burnley Campus are bringing new educational opportunities to the communities of Pennine Lancashire. With our recent acquisition of the Newtown Mill site, we are expanding our campus around the historic Weavers' Triangle area. Our ambition has been to transform Burnley into a flourishing University town, meeting the skills needs of east Lancashire and developing the next generation of key workers in areas such as health, medicine, nursing and social work.



A worldwide community

When you join our University you'll be welcomed into a truly international community made up of students and staff from more than 100 countries, together with a worldwide alumni network of around 200,000 people.

On the global stage, our research continues to transform lives – from improving treatments for stroke patients in India to enhancing standards of maternity care worldwide.

Through our partnerships with more than 120 institutions, we're bringing the life-changing benefits of a University of Central Lancashire education to thousands of students in every corner of the world – from China to Malaysia to Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, our overseas campus in Cyprus is going from strength to strength as it marks its 12th anniversary, with more than 1,000 students now enrolled across our expanding course portfolio.





Our Schools

We have recently realigned our academic structure to drive sustained improvements to our student experience and graduate outcomes.

The new structure is as follows:

- School of Arts and Media
- School of Business
- School of Engineering and Computing
- School of Health, Social Work and Sport
- School of Law and Policing
- School of Medicine and Dentistry
- School of Nursing and Midwifery
- School of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences
- School of Psychology and Humanities
- School of Veterinary Medicine

The University in numbers

'University of the Year' at the international Edufuturists Awards 2023

Top 7%
in the world

We are in the top 7% of universities in the world, according to the **Center for World University Rankings 2023**.

Ranked 3rd
in the North West

We've been ranked 3rd in the North West for **Student Positivity** and 34th overall in the UK (National Student Survey 2023).

63rd

We have been ranked **63rd out of 157** universities for our research power (REF 2021).

3rd largest
in the North West

We are the third largest university in the North West and Lancashire's largest provider of **graduate-level qualifications**.

39,000+
students

Our **thriving community** of students from over 100 countries come here to learn from colleagues who are experts in their fields, achieve their potential, and make friends for life.

3,000+
colleagues

From our senior leadership team to our academics and Professional Services colleagues, we take **pride in transforming our students' lives**.

6 modern
campuses

We deliver excellent teaching and learning, **an unrivalled student experience** and world-leading research from our campuses in Preston, Burnley, Westlakes, Blackburn, London and Cyprus.

550+
courses

We offer a **huge range** of undergraduate, postgraduate and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses, designed to give our graduates the best start to their careers.

£200m
campus
transformation

With the opening of our Engineering Innovation Centre, Student Centre and University Square we've **transformed our Preston Campus** for the benefit of colleagues, students and the wider community.

123
international
partnerships

Students in **every corner of the world** – from China to Malaysia to Sri Lanka – are studying degrees awarded by us.

QS Stars

We are proud to have gained various 5 Star (Excellent) accolades in the internationally recognised **QS Stars 2022** ratings system. Our University has a 4 QS Stars (Very Good) rating overall.

About the School of Arts and Media

Thank you for your interest in the role of Associate Dean (Students and Teaching Lead). The School is looking for an outstanding leader to join the School executive team and help us deliver an outstanding student experience, grow income and enhance an environment that encourages our colleagues to flourish.



The School of Arts and Media is one of the largest Schools at the University of Central Lancashire, with over 200 academic and professional colleagues supporting a diverse community of over 1,500 students across a range of undergraduate, postgraduate, research and international programmes.

Within the School we deliver a broad, dynamic portfolio spanning Fine Art, Design, Media, Journalism, Music, Dance, Theatre, Animation, Games Design, Fashion and more - designed to equip students with both creative and industry-focused skills.

Academic quality and improving student metrics are at the heart of much of the School activity. The School is nationally and internationally recognised for teaching excellence, with several courses accredited by professional bodies such as Creative Skillset, NCTJ and ScreenSkills. The School is home to award-winning students and graduates, regularly achieving success in competitions such as the Royal Television Society Awards, D&AD New Blood and Graduate Fashion Week.

The new Associate Dean would be expected to take a leadership role in supporting our academic staff to drive success through setting and achieving ambitious goals.

The School has a thriving research community with world-leading work in fine art, digital media, journalism, theatre, music, and creative practice, achieving a strong performance in the Research Excellence Framework (REF), with internationally significant research outputs in art, design, media and performing arts. The School is home to In Certain Places, a research centre fostering collaboration between researchers, students, external partners and communities. The School is actively involved in cultural and policy development, contributing to national and international discourse in the creative arts.

The School has strong record of industry engagement and employability. We have strong partnerships with leading cultural organisations, creative industries, and media companies, ensuring our students gain real-world experience. We hold regular guest lectures, masterclasses, and live briefs with industry professionals from the BBC, ITV, Aardman, Factory, Creative Lancashire and more. We pride ourselves on our strong placement and internship opportunities which enhances our graduate's employability.

The School has cutting-edge studios, labs, and performance spaces, including printmaking workshops, digital production suites, TV and radio studios, and VR/AR labs. We have invested in industry-standard equipment and software, ensuring our students are well-prepared for professional practice. Our students have access to exhibition and performance spaces, including the on-campus PR1 Gallery and Media Factory, as well as external venues.

The School is committed to diversity and inclusion: We have a welcoming and inclusive environment, with a strong focus on equality, diversity, and accessibility in creative education. We are actively engaged in projects that promote social impact, sustainability, and cultural engagement within the wider community.

This is a pivotal leadership position within the School of Arts and Media at the University of Central Lancashire, playing a key role in shaping the student experience and ensuring excellence in teaching and learning. We are looking for an outstanding individual who is passionate about student success, teaching innovation, and educational leadership.

As Associate Dean (Students and Teaching Lead), you'll provide strategic leadership in enhancing the quality of education, student outcomes, and overall experience across our diverse portfolio of creative disciplines.

You'll work closely with academic teams, professional services, and external stakeholders to drive forward initiatives that support student achievement, inclusivity, and graduate employability.

A core priority will be the successful implementation of block teaching within the School. This transformative approach requires an individual with a strong background in managing change, who can bring colleagues, students and external partners on the journey with them.

Reporting directly to the Dean, you'll be responsible for leading this transition, ensuring that the School delivers high-quality, engaging, and industry-relevant learning experiences while maintaining academic standards and integrity.

The role will also involve responsibility for monitoring and improving key student success metrics, including retention, progression, achievement, and graduate outcomes. You'll work to develop targeted interventions that support student attainment, enhance employability, and contribute to an inclusive and supportive learning environment. Ensuring that our teaching and learning practices remain at the cutting edge of pedagogical innovation will be central to this role. Maintaining and improving our performance in key student experience metrics, such as NSS, TEF, and graduate outcomes, will be essential.

The successful candidate will be instrumental in fostering a culture of continuous improvement and excellence in teaching and learning. You'll oversee curriculum development, ensuring that our programmes remain relevant to the evolving needs of the creative industries and that they provide students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to succeed. Collaborating with course teams, you will champion the use of innovative teaching methods, digital learning technologies, and industry engagement to enrich the student experience.

Our School prides itself on its strong links with industry, and the Associate Dean (Students and Teaching Lead) will play a crucial role in strengthening these partnerships. You'll work closely with employers, professional bodies, and external organisations to enhance work-integrated learning opportunities, including placements, live projects, and industry mentoring. Your leadership will ensure that our students graduate with the confidence and expertise to thrive in the competitive creative sector.

An important aspect of the role will be to ensure that the School continues to excel in national and international rankings, student satisfaction surveys, and key performance indicators related to student success. You'll lead on preparations for key external assessments, such as the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), ensuring that our School demonstrates its strengths in delivering high-quality education. Additionally, you will work to strengthen our academic community, fostering an environment where staff are supported to innovate, collaborate, and deliver their best work.

As a member of the School's senior leadership team, you'll work closely with the Dean and other Associate Deans to shape and implement the School's strategic priorities. You will contribute to decision-making at the highest level, ensuring that student experience and teaching quality remain at the heart of our academic mission. You'll also collaborate with colleagues across the University, ensuring alignment with institutional priorities and best practices in higher education.

The role requires a leader who is not only an expert in learning and teaching but also an adept manager and strategic thinker. You will be expected to work proactively to solve challenges, build consensus, and inspire others towards excellence. Your ability to engage and motivate staff, navigate institutional processes, and advocate for the needs of students will be key to your success.

We're looking for a candidate with a strong academic background, significant experience in teaching and learning leadership and a track record of successfully managing change. Experience in curriculum development, student engagement, and pedagogical innovation will be essential, as will the ability to work effectively with diverse teams and stakeholders.

This is an exciting opportunity for an ambitious and passionate leader to make a significant impact on the future of arts and media education at the University. We welcome applications from individuals who share our commitment to student success, teaching excellence, and the transformative power of education. We would particularly welcome applications from individuals who will diversify our leadership team and support our development of a culture that's inclusive and welcoming to all.

Preparing our students for future success

We are proud to offer all our students life-changing learning experiences which enable them to unlock their potential, preparing them to succeed in tomorrow's world.



Our courses equip students with cutting-edge skills that are in high demand amongst the world's leading companies. They benefit from our state-of-the-art teaching facilities, which mirror real industry environments. As a result, our graduates can transition seamlessly into the professional world, making them highly employable.

Our portfolio is constantly expanding, shaped by industry needs and the rapid technological changes that are revolutionising the world around us.

More than ever, we're committed to ensuring that everyone with the potential to succeed at University can do so, regardless of their background. We've recently invested millions in our second-to-none support services because we want to give every single one of our students the help they need to succeed here.

In Preston, our £60 million Student Centre opened in 2021, bringing all our advice and support services together under one roof – from our specialist counselling and mental health teams to our expert advisers on finance, careers, enterprise, inclusive support and much more. Every aspect of the Student Centre is designed to promote wellbeing – from relaxing social and study spaces to a tranquil rooftop garden.

Our efforts to open up the life-changing benefits of higher education to all continue undimmed. In 2014 we introduced a comprehensive range of Foundation Year entry programmes, strengthening our commitment to being an accessible University. Meanwhile, our Return to Study entry programmes are enabling mature students who've been out of education for a long time to make the transition to university-level study and take their lives and careers in exciting new directions.

Our Strategic Plan

We're proud to offer life-changing opportunities to everyone who can benefit from them. Accomplishing our Strategic Plan will help us to continue this legacy.

Every colleague has a vital role to play in helping us achieve our vision. We're focused on creating a welcoming, empowering environment across all our campuses, fostering a real sense of community and enabling every individual to do their best work and achieve their potential.

Joining our ambitious senior leadership team means you'll be playing a vital role in helping us transform our vision into reality.

Our Vision

We transform lives by delivering an outstanding educational experience, creating prosperity and opportunity in the communities we serve.

Our Strategy

Our strategy is founded on six priorities for the next seven years, taking us up to our 200-year anniversary, in 2028.

Priority 1 - Student Opportunity and Success

Priority 2 - Leading the Way in Modern Learning

Priority 3 - Our People Experience

Priority 4 - Real-world Research and Innovation

Priority 5 - Our Place in the World

Priority 6 - Future-proofing our University

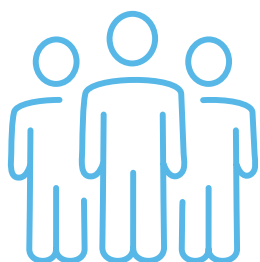
[View our Strategic Plan 2021-2028](#)

Our working culture

Our thriving colleague community is united in a common commitment to transforming the lives of our students.

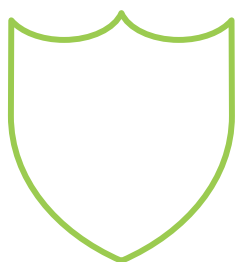
We are focused on creating a welcoming and engaging environment where everyone is supported and empowered to deliver their best work and achieve their potential.

Our Values



Achieving Together

We achieve our ambitions through teamwork and collaboration.



Being Proud

We take responsibility and professional pride in the quality of our work.



Creating Opportunity

We proactively create and seize every opportunity to flourish in education, at work and for life.



Supporting All

Everyone matters. We show support, respect and compassion to our students, colleagues and communities.

An inclusive culture

We proactively work to promote and embed equality, diversity and inclusion in everything we do. Together we're creating a working environment where everyone can thrive. We're achieving this through the commitment of our colleague community and our involvement in equality awards, accreditations, networks and equality leads. We strive to ensure that our work is central to all policy development, decisions and practice, and that our career and learning opportunities are genuinely accessible to everyone.

Our framework of equality, diversity, dignity, respect and fairness extends to our entire community - colleagues, students, partners and visitors - and is strongly aligned to the University's overarching strategy of proudly transforming lives. We also work with external communities to broaden participation and dialogue and maximise the potential benefits in the communities we serve.

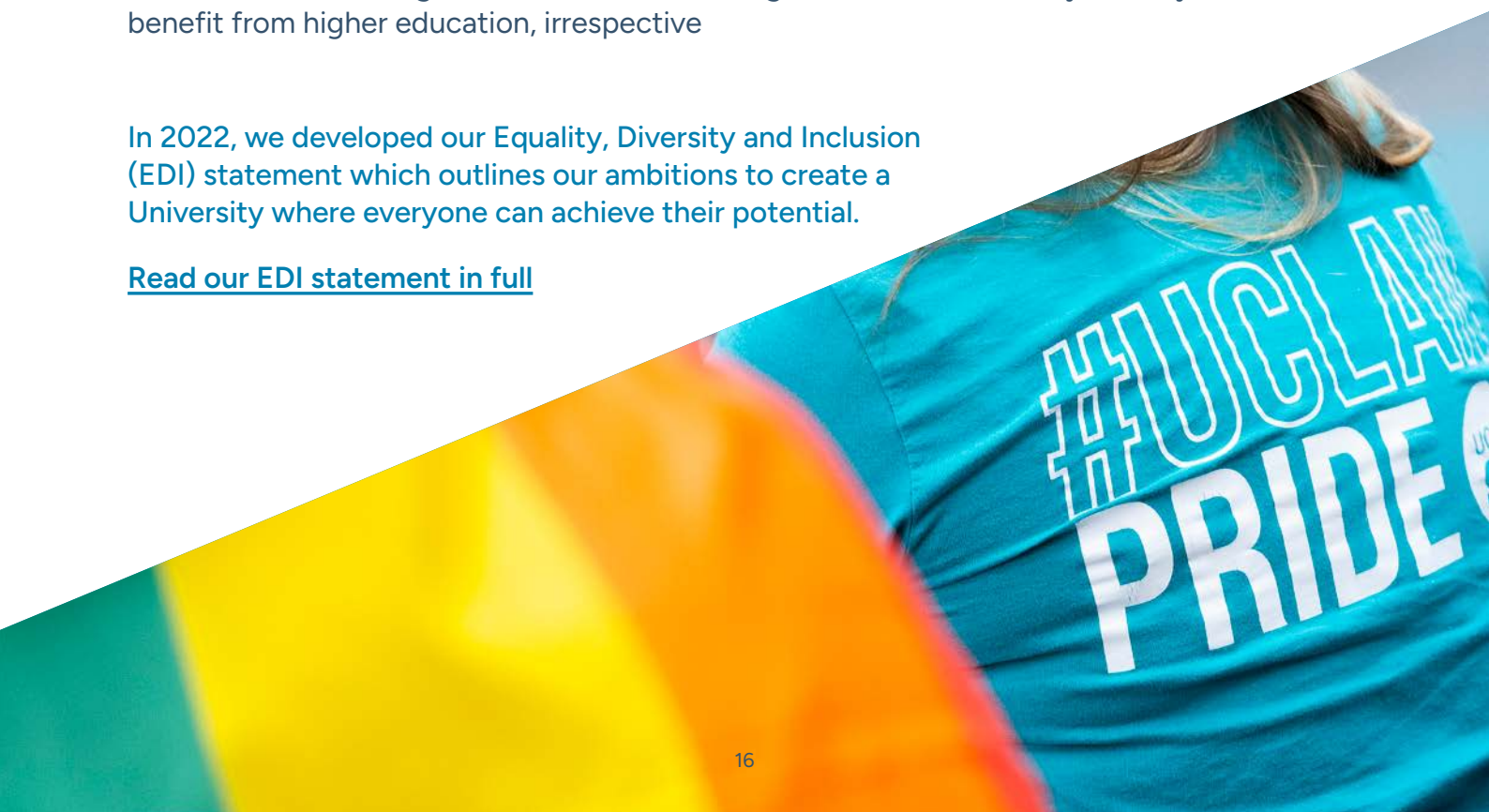
Continuing to draw on the widest and most diverse range of talent for our students and colleagues is essential to the continuing success of the University. We're committed to enabling all individuals to benefit from higher education, irrespective

of any protected group they belong to, and providing an exceptional learning experience that empowers our students to perform to the very best of their ability. Similarly, we want to provide an inspiring working environment for our colleagues that allows everyone to develop their knowledge and skills to their fullest.

We strive to create a trans-inclusive culture, workplace and learning environment; free from discrimination, harassment or victimisation where all trans people are treated with dignity and respect in the gender with which they identify.

In 2022, we developed our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) statement which outlines our ambitions to create a University where everyone can achieve their potential.

[Read our EDI statement in full](#)



Connecting with research

The University is a leading research institution. Our work transforms lives and has a positive impact on communities all over the world.

Our academics are engaged in innovative and life-changing research projects all over the world – from educating deaf students in India and tackling malnutrition in Pakistan, to exploring the mysteries of black holes. Our colleagues collaborate with major international organisations, from the United Nations and the World Health Organization to the European Space Agency and NASA.

As well as contributing to policy and practice, our research colleagues are sought out by the world's media for their expertise. Our research is driving technological change; putting cutting-edge ideas into practice; and improving the health, livelihoods and future prospects of whole communities.

We launched our 13 new Research and Knowledge Exchange Institutes in early 2024, covering research from the arts and humanities through to health, science and technology.

These will enhance the quality of our research environment and create more opportunities to achieve world-leading impact through their activities.

In 2022 we established our Doctoral Training Centre for Industry Collaboration. As at March 2023, we have 22 fully funded PhD students and expect this to grow to an expected cohort of over 40 students by January 2024. All PhD projects have an industrial collaborator, contributing time, expertise and resources to the programme of study.

In addition, we are currently a member of the University Alliance Doctoral Training Alliance (with nine funded PhD Fellows across Biomedical Sciences for Health, Energy and Social Policy disciplines) and is also working alongside MillionPlus to support the development of a Doctoral Training Collaboration.

World-leading research: 66% of our research outputs have officially been recognised as world-leading or internationally excellent in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021, a government assessment of our research, overseen by Research England.

Total annual research income £9.6m

We have been ranked 63rd out of 157 universities for our research power (REF 2021)

900+ research or knowledge transfer active colleagues.

800+ research students currently enrolled.

125+ readers and professors.

Connecting with business and enterprise

We're renowned for our collaborative industry partnerships. What sets us apart is our strong reputation for applied business research, entrepreneurship, innovation and knowledge exchange.

As a major local employer and education provider, we play a pivotal role in addressing productivity, skills and wealth gaps in Lancashire and Cumbria.

Local growth and regeneration are at the heart of our Strategic Plan. We're the number one choice for apprenticeships and professional development. Our wide range of Higher and Degree Apprenticeships enables employees to gain the skills and experience that today's industry needs, with valuable, industry-recognised qualifications while introducing industry-leading skills and knowledge into their businesses.

We also offer a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses for individuals and organisations, as accredited courses or standalone programmes.

By accessing our extensive industry and research expertise through our collaborative Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs),

businesses gain a competitive edge, improve productivity and performance.

As a civic university we're dedicated to supporting the small and medium enterprises (SME) sector. Our award-winning Centre for SME and Enterprise Development, which currently has over 1,500 active members, enables local businesses to connect, learn and grow together.

We have an IP and Commercialisation service, and we support both student enterprise and new business development. Our £35m Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC) is a catalyst for collaboration and knowledge transfer between the University and our industry partners, helping to position Lancashire at the forefront of the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution', cementing the region as a national centre of excellence for aerospace, advanced engineering and manufacturing.

The results of the Knowledge Excellence Framework (KEF), published in September 2023, saw the University ranked in the top 20% of English higher education institutions in the areas of local growth and regeneration; working with the public and third sector; and continuous professional development (CPD) and graduate start-ups.

1,500 members in our Centre for SME and Enterprise Development.

2,000+ apprentices and 35 Degree Apprenticeship programmes.

7,500+ organisations nationally engaged with for business support.

25+ different offers of business support.

Connecting with the world

The University of Central Lancashire has always maintained a global outlook, focused on providing students and colleagues with unique opportunities and cultural experiences that impact, influence and encourage innovation in teaching, research and partnerships. Today we are a community on a truly international scale.

Our journey began in the late 1980s when we secured our first international partnership, with Shenzhen University, when the locality amounted to nothing more than a small fishing village. Shenzhen is now one of the most successful and largest cities in China.

Further partnerships followed with Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, which has seen more than 1,500 students graduate over recent years, Beijing Institute of Technology and Shanghai University of Business and Economics.

It is more than 30 years since we started out on our journey with China, leading the British Higher Education sector in delivering UK degrees in partnership. As China has developed so has our offering, becoming more diverse and innovative and reflecting our strategic approach to China.

We now enrol students from more than 100 countries and have partnerships with 123 international institutions based everywhere from China to Malaysia to Sri Lanka.

In 2012 we became the first British university to establish an overseas campus in Cyprus. As we celebrate the 12th anniversary of its opening, our campus continues to go from strength to strength, with more than 1,000 students enrolled.

Our growing global reputation and reach is stretching even further as we encourage UK students to broaden their educational horizons, and build on established international links to work with new partners around the world. Globalisation provides life-changing opportunities and our University is a true trailblazer.

In September 2017, Hurricane Irma had a devastating impact on Sint Maarten where the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine is based. We responded quickly and decisively to accommodate the displaced 643 medical students and staff who were transferred to Preston to continue their tuition in just nine days. This resulted in winning the Internationalisation category in The Guardian University Awards 2018.



Connecting with the region

The city of Preston is a vibrant, cultural and friendly city with a very long history. It was given the status of a market town in 1179 and obtained city status in 2002, becoming England's 50th city in the 50th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

As an anchor institution with a multi-campus presence, we take our responsibilities seriously. It's our duty to enrich the cultural lives of our communities and champion social progress. That's why we'll do everything we can to support the economic development of our local areas, regions and the wider North West.

The city centre boasts the Harris Museum and Art Gallery, which was announced as one of 16 additional visual arts organisations across the UK to join Plus Tate, the contemporary visual arts network.

The city's historic Winckley Square Gardens have been officially reopened to the public following a £1.2m restoration backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

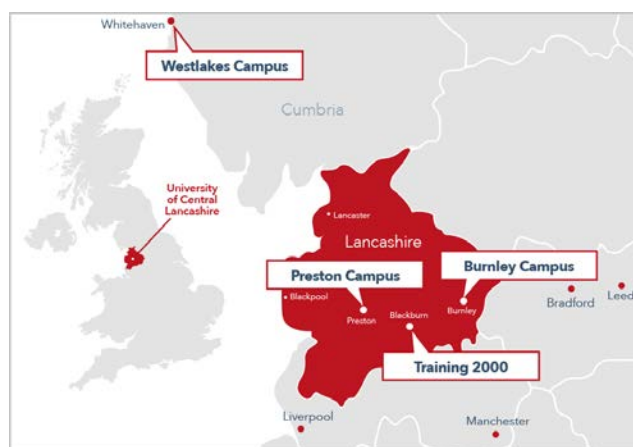
Campus life is city-based but in less than an hour you can be on the Fylde Coast, walking in the stunning Lake District or the Forest of Bowland, sight-seeing in Lancaster, shopping in Manchester or Liverpool, or enjoying the best local food at one of the many farmers markets in the county. Preston also has many parks, including Avenham Park, which is a fine example of traditional Victorian parkland in the heart of the city.

Beacon Fell Country Park is located just 10 miles outside Preston and offers a variety of trails as well as spectacular views of the nearby Forest of Bowland and Morecambe Bay.

Brockholes is an award-winning local nature reserve which is home to a range of woodland and lakeside walks and includes a variety of hides to suit all visitors; its Visitor Village scooped awards for Design and Innovation and Tourism and Leisure in 2011.

Located a short distance from the coastline, the Lake District and larger cities of Manchester and Liverpool, both of which have international airports, Preston is also one of the best connected cities in the country, making it easy to get across the UK by road, rail and air.

The city is well served by the M6 motorway both north (J32) and south (J31), and the University is half a mile from Preston railway station - a major hub on the West Coast Mainline and just under an hour away from Manchester Airport.



Our campuses



Preston Campus

Our main campus is located in the city of Preston in the heart of Lancashire, close to the major cities of Manchester and Liverpool, and just over two hours from London by train. Preston is a friendly, bustling place, with a lively atmosphere.

With ample shopping, cafés and snack bars, multi-screen cinemas, great pubs, art galleries and museums, there's plenty of opportunity for a varied social life. There are restaurants and bars to suit every taste and pocket; theatres and music venues featuring the latest acts; and colourful cultural festivals.

There are many excellent parks and open spaces around Preston where you can unwind, including the beautiful Avenham Park with its riverside walk, and there are designated cycle lanes around the city. Preston is also within easy reach of fantastic countryside and stunning coastlines - you're close to the Ribble Valley and the Lake District, and within striking distance of the lively coastal resorts of Blackpool and Morecambe Bay.



Burnley Campus

Our Burnley Campus features bright, spacious buildings and cutting-edge facilities. We're situated across three sites: Princess Way (shared with Burnley College), Victoria Mill (an iconic Grade II listed building located in the historic Weavers' Triangle area) and Sandygate Mill. A fourth site, Newtown Mill, is opening soon.

Just a few minutes' walk away from the campus you can venture into vast expanses of scenic parkland. Burnley boasts six beautiful Green Flag parks. During your free time, the opportunities for leisure are endless. Go walking and cycling, enjoy a round of golf or take to the water on Thompson Park's boating lake.

Historic Towneley Park, once the deer park for the 15th century Towneley Hall, is the perfect spot for a quiet picnic and you can enjoy live music here during the summer months. Football fanatics can experience the thrills of live football at Burnley FC's Turf Moor Stadium.



Westlakes Campus

Our picturesque Westlakes Campus is based on the Westlakes Science and Technology Park in West Cumbria, just three miles from Whitehaven. Westlakes is a beautiful place to work. And when you're not hard at work, you'll have some of the country's most beautiful and dramatic landscapes on your doorstep, just waiting to be explored – from the Lake District to the Solway Coast.

You're within easy reach of the many restaurants, bars, supermarkets, high street stores and medical centres in nearby Whitehaven, which you can easily reach by public transport. Whitehaven also offers live music venues and a theatre. The nearby Lake District, England's largest national park, offers endless opportunities for adventure, including hiking, watersports or just soaking up the breathtaking scenery.



Blackburn Campus (Training 2000)

In 2017 we joined forces with the Blackburn-based educational charity Training 2000, one of the largest Group Training Associations in the UK. With this strategic alliance we're set to become the leading provider of apprenticeships at all levels in the North West.

Training 2000 are specialists in apprenticeships, and they've been working in partnership with industry for more than 50 years. By welcoming them on board, we've strengthened our position as the leading provider of the region's skills and employment needs. Their ever-expanding range of apprenticeships are giving organisations the chance to develop highly skilled staff by equipping them with practical skills and the opportunity to progress to a Degree Apprenticeship.



Cyprus Campus

Our campus in Larnaka, Cyprus offers a truly international experience. Here, students can study for a UK degree that offers the same balance of academic excellence and practical focus as we offer in Lancashire, while enjoying an incredible location on the beautiful southern coast on the island.



London Campus

Our new hub in London offers courses designed to fit around the busy lifestyles of today's modern professionals. Adult learners can take advantage of the flexible educational opportunities on offer in one of the world's most exciting cities. University of Central Lancashire London is a partnership arrangement between us and LCA Education Ltd, who deliver courses on our behalf leading to a University award.

A place where you can thrive

If you're looking for a rewarding career where your work helps to transform lives, the University of Central Lancashire offers you opportunities to excel.

There are numerous opportunities for professional development here, including mentoring and coaching support for current and aspiring leaders. This is a place where you'll be given the support you need to grow, progress, realise your potential, and make a real difference to students' lives.



When you work for us you'll be able to enjoy an excellent range of rewards and benefits, including:

Leadership development

Includes coaching, mentoring and networking opportunities to ensure that you're able to continually develop your skills, knowledge and leadership capabilities.

A healthy work-life balance

Management colleagues are entitled to 30 days annual leave, plus bank holidays and 4 additional discretionary days over Christmas.

Financial benefits

- All colleagues are eligible to join an occupational pension scheme
- There is also the opportunity to sign up to an Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) plan
- Discounted travel schemes
- Salary sacrifice scheme to help with the purchase of electric cars
- Discounts on shopping and services through Vivup

Staff networks

We have supported the creation of five equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) networks which all colleagues are welcome to join. At present these are the International Staff Network, LGBT+ Staff Network, Racial Equality Network, Staff Disability Network, and Women's Network.

Discounted sports membership

All colleagues on our Preston Campus can access the Sir Tom Finney Sports Centre and Sports Arena for a small monthly fee, giving you access to gym and sports facilities, plus a programme of fitness classes. If you're based at our Burnley or Westlakes campuses, you'll have the chance to access nearby sports centres.

Support for your wellbeing

You will have access to a range of support and resources to support your mental health and wellbeing, from trained counsellors to a faith and spirituality centre.



Job description

Job title	Associate Dean of School (Students and Teaching)
School / service	School of Arts and Media
Grade	Management contract
Responsible to	Dean of School
Responsible for	Course team in Media and Performing Arts

Job purpose

Provide strong, accountable management and leadership to support the Dean in realising the vision and objectives of the School by:

- Providing subject leadership to ensure strong direction and management of colleagues and student success;
- Initiating and influencing the delivery of School activities relating to students and teaching, widening participation, business development, research, knowledge exchange and public engagement;
- Providing collaborative leadership and shaping a culture of success reflective of the University's values and committed to the achievement of its strategic goals;
- Providing assurance for initiatives designed to enhance the student experience.

Critical responsibilities aligned to students and teaching

- Support the Dean of School in ensuring the achievement of strategic objectives with regards to learning, teaching and assessment, student and learner support, experience, success and employability;
- Ensure the quality of the design, content, pedagogy and delivery of the School curriculum, including the Degree Apprenticeship portfolio, and maintain its currency by facilitating the development of new and existing courses that are challenging, cognisant of changing markets and supportive of employability and positive graduate outcomes. Continuously evaluate the efficiency of existing courses to recommend timely withdrawal or amendment where appropriate;
- Have full knowledge of the compliance requirements for Ofsted and ESFA in respect of Degree Apprenticeships;
- Working in close collaboration with strategic partners across External Relations to deliver positive outcomes against strategic objectives relating to teaching and learning, which are compliant with internal and external regulatory requirements and reflective of such metrics as KPIs, NSS, APP and TEF;
- Mentor and support colleagues in the development of best practice, embedding an inclusive culture of excellence in teaching and learning.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Play a key role in the creation and articulation of a shared vision for the School, consistent with maintaining excellence in teaching and learning, research and knowledge exchange;
- Work collaboratively with the Dean and other Associate Deans in the School to ensure a comprehensive and appropriate spread of leadership and management is in place that caters to the needs of the business;
- Foster the advancement and implementation of plans for the achievement of School objectives with regards to the student experience, learning and teaching, research and knowledge transfer, underpinned by effective and efficient workload management and utilisation of budgeted resources;
- Manage, mentor and support academic colleagues within the School maximising potential and engagement with School objectives;
- Lead cohesive staffing teams to maintain an accessible, inclusive and quality learning environment for students which enhances their experience and maximises their potential;
- Have oversight for ensuring the effective delivery of the curriculum and strategic School projects aligned to the development of courses, research and knowledge exchange;
- Ensure the delivery of targeted interventions and activities designed to maximise student recruitment, retention and achievement;
- Promote a culture of respect, inclusion and cooperation in all areas and activities of the School encompassing consultation, decision-making and effective communication with colleagues and the student body;
- Establish and foster collaborative, cooperative and productive relationships with other academic areas and professional services, communicating effectively to ensure lines of authority and accountability are maintained;
- Work closely with PVCs to ensure their expectations and requirements are met;
- Provide line management to course team in Media and Performing Arts;
- Provide assurance regarding all statutory and compliance obligations;
- Represent the School on University-wide initiatives and within the external community as appropriate;
- Undertaking any other activities as determined by the Dean or PVC.

Candidate profile

Work experience

Essential

- Significant experience of leadership and management within a relevant discipline of the School;
- Experience of strategic planning, with a proven ability to implement change and curricular transformation at scale;
- Experience of leading teams and managing and coordinating resources and working with regulatory processes and governance systems;
- Able to inspire and manage the design, delivery and assessment of enterprising and innovative educational practice to future-proof the curriculum;
- Understanding of the sector, its current issues, priorities and challenges and their relevance to the cultural context of the School;
- Experience of building and sustaining internal and external relationships with demonstrable experience of well-developed external learning and teaching networks;
- Ability to lead a change agenda and to embrace new ways of working;
- Experience of cross-University collaboration in the delivery of new initiatives;
- Able to evidence personal excellence in learning, teaching and assessment.

Desirable

- Evidence of change management or significant project leadership.

Education and qualifications

Essential

- Doctorate / Higher Degree or equivalent professional qualifications / experience;
- Evidence of relevant continued professional development.

Desirable

- Membership of professional body;
- Fellowship of the HEA.

Skills and abilities

Essential

- Ability to think strategically and use an evidence-based approach to develop and deliver strategic plans;
- Ability to utilise leadership and a coaching style to create a high performing team;
- Personal credibility with proven ability to develop creative and innovative solutions;
- Self-confident and resilient;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills;
- Performance focused, with proven experience of leading improvement in learning and teaching metrics;
- Approachable, inclusive and collaborative, able to foster a culture of high performance in individuals and teams.

Desirable

- Development of strategic plans using an evidence-based approach;
- Credible and well-respected by peers as evidenced by professional networks and involvement with outside bodies;
- An academic track record relevant to the School's area of expertise.

Other

Essential

- Committed to the continuing professional development of themselves and others, leading a culture of learning and teaching excellence and innovation;
- An understanding of, and commitment to, the University's values and mission as a framework for decisions, actions and behaviours;
- A proven ally; able to evidence a strong commitment to diversity and inclusive learning, ensuring a sense of belonging for all;
- Able to contribute to the development and promotion of the internal and external profile of the School, and the University's reputation, at a regional, national and international level.

How to apply

To apply please click the 'Apply now' button on the advert where you will be asked to provide a covering letter and CV.

Please submit your application by the close of play on Sunday 23 March 2025.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified they are being invited to interview w/c 24 March 2025.

Interviews will take place on 1 April or w/c 7-11 April 2025.

