

ACADEMIC BOARD
Standing Orders (August 2026)

1. Function of the Academic Board

The Academic Board is established under paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Articles of Government of the University's Higher Education Corporation. The Academic Board shall be responsible for:

- (a) general issues relating to the research, scholarship, teaching and courses at the University, including criteria for the admission of students; the appointment and removal of internal and external examiners; policies and procedures for assessment and examination of the academic performance of students; the content of the curriculum; academic standards and the validation and review of courses; the procedures for the award of qualifications and honorary academic titles; and the procedures for the expulsion of students for academic reasons. Such responsibilities shall be subject to the requirements of validating and accrediting bodies;
- (b) considering the development of the academic activities of the University and the resources needed to support them and for advising the Vice-Chancellor & Principal and the Board of Governors thereon; and
- (c) advising on such other matters as the Board of Governors or the Vice-Chancellor & Principal may refer to the Academic Board

2. Membership of the Academic Board

The Academic Board shall consist of:

- (i) The Vice-Chancellor & Principal (Chair of the Academic Board)
- (ii) Seven ex-officio staff appointed by the Vice-Chancellor & Principal:
 - University Secretary and Registrar
 - Pro-Vice-Chancellor (HE Quality)
 - Executive Deans of School
 - Executive Director of Further Education Quality (or equivalent)
 - FE Principal
 - Director of Higher Education Quality
- (iii) Three Universal Teaching Staff Representatives
- (iv) One Universal Support Staff Representative
- (v) A full-time sabbatical officer from the Guild of Students
- (vi) Two Universal Student Representatives

(Total 15)

Members identified in (iii) and (iv) shall be elected for a period of three years.

3. **Absence of Chair**

In the absence of the Vice-Chancellor & Principal, the Board shall appoint its own Chair for the purpose of the meeting.

4. **Frequency of Meetings**

The Board shall hold a meeting at least once in every University term and such other meetings as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions. The date of each meeting shall be fixed, whenever possible, at the first meeting in each Academic Year.

Additional meetings may be called by:

- (a) The Vice-Chancellor & Principal
- (b) a decision of the Board at any of its meetings, or
- (c) by at least 8 of the members of the Board.

The Vice-Chancellor & Principal has the right to veto meetings called under (c) provided that all refusals of meetings are automatically reported to the Corporation and an explanation given.

5. **Convening of Meetings**

At least five working days reminder notice of a meeting of the Board shall be given or sent, in writing, to all members of the Board.

6. **Agenda**

All proposed matters to be discussed by the Board shall be notified to the Head of Information Services and Academic Registry, in writing, at least ten working days before the date of the meeting at which they are to be discussed.

An Agenda, with supporting documentation as appropriate, shall be determined by the Vice-Chancellor & Principal and circulated in accordance with paragraph 5 with sufficient copies for staff and students' notice boards. The Agenda of the Board meeting shall be based on:

- (a) Minutes of the previous meeting
- (b) Matters arising
- (c) Formal business including committee reports
- (d) Other items for discussion proposed by members
- (e) Nomination of Staff Member of the Corporation (as required)
- (f) Any Other Business

7. **Quorum**

The quorum of the Board shall be at least six (6) of its members. There shall be no substitution without the prior approval of the Chair.

8. **Voting**

- (a) Any question put to the vote at a meeting of the Board shall be determined by a majority of the members present. Where there is an equal division of votes, the Chair of the meeting may exercise a second and casting vote. In the event of equality of votes and the Chair not exercising his rights to a casting vote, a motion shall fall.
- (b) Voting on a motion will ordinarily be by show of hands but may be by a secret ballot at the discretion of the Chair.

9. **Committees of the Academic Board**

In accordance with paragraph 3(4) of the Articles of Government, the Academic Board may establish such committees as it considers necessary to enable it to carry out its responsibilities provided that each establishment is first approved by the Vice-Chancellor & Principal and Corporation. Where appropriate, these committees have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of Academic Board. The number of members of any such committee and the terms on which they are to hold and vacate office shall be determined by the Academic Board.

10. **Minutes**

The names of the members present at a meeting of the Board shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Full, unapproved, minutes shall be circulated to all members within two weeks of the meeting date.

11. **Motions and Amendments**

The motion or amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded. A proposer may withdraw a motion or amendment with the consent of the seconder and with the consent of the meeting and once withdrawn all discussion on it shall cease.

The discussion of any item under 'Any Other Business' shall be at the discretion of the Chair.

12. **Attendance of Non-members**

The attendance at Academic Board meetings of any person who is not a member shall only be with the approval of at least 8 of the members of the Academic Board. A guest shall not have the right to vote.

13. **Clerk**

The Director of Academic Registry (or in his/her absence a person approved by the Chair) will be the Clerk to the Board shall attend all meetings and shall keep a record of the proceedings.

14. **Suspension of Standing Orders**

Any or all of the Standing Orders may be suspended for such time as the Academic Board may determine by a minimum of 8 members present and voting.

15. **Changes to Standing Orders**

Proposed changes to the Standing Orders must be referred to the Vice-Chancellor & Principal and Corporation for consideration and approval.

BOARDS OF STUDIES (Higher Education)

1. Functions of the Committee

- (i) To receive reports regarding any key issues arising from Subject Boards.
- (ii) To discuss and comment upon matters which affect whole areas of study and assessment at different levels.
- (iii) To advise the Academic Board on issues of continuity and progression.
- (iv) To report to Academic Board on the academic progress of the University's programmes.
- (v) To engage students in the development and enhancement of academic provision and standards
- (vi) To consider any other issues which may be raised to the Academic Board.
- (vii) To consider any cross-institutional non-academic matters affecting students.
- (viii) To highlight and escalate student queries and requests and to respond in a timely and effective manner

2. Membership

- (i) The Pro-Vice Chancellor (HE Quality), who shall chair the meetings
- (ii) A nominee from the Estates Department
- (iii) Executive Deans and Directors of Schools
- (iv) The Director of Higher Education Quality
- (v) Any other relevant Heads of Department or Deputy Deans
- (vi) The Higher Education Lead or Director of Student Employability
- (vii) A student representative from each subject board for which the Board of Studies is responsible
- (viii) A full-time sabbatical officer from the Guild of Students
- (ix) A nominee from the IT Department

In the absence of the Chair, the Committee shall appoint from amongst its number a Chair.

3. Frequency

A minimum of two meetings in each Academic Year.

4. Quorum

Seven members.

BOARDS OF STUDIES (Further Education)

1. Functions of the Committee

- (i) To receive reports regarding any key issues arising from Subject Boards.
- (ii) To discuss and comment upon matters which affect whole areas of study and assessment at different levels.
- (iii) To advise the Academic Board on issues of continuity and progression.
- (iv) To report to Academic Board on the academic progress of the University's programmes.
- (v) To engage students in the development and enhancement of academic provision and standards
- (vi) To consider any other issues which may be raised to the Academic Board.
- (vii) To consider any cross-institutional non-academic matters affecting students.

2. Membership

- (i) The Director of Student Experience (FE), who shall chair the meetings
- (ii) The FE Principal
- (ii) A nominee from the Estates Department
- (iii) Executive Director of FE Quality
- (iv) Any other relevant Heads of Department or subject leads
- (v) The Further Education Lead or Director of Student Employability
- (vi) A student representative from each subject board for which the Board of Studies is responsible
- (vii) A full-time sabbatical officer from the Guild of Students
- (viii) A nominee from the IT Department

In the absence of the Chair, the Committee shall appoint from amongst its number a Chair

3. Frequency

A minimum of two meetings in each Academic Year.

4. Quorum

Seven members.

ACCESS, PARTICIPATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

1. Functions of the Committee

- (i) To provide a forum for the discussion of matters of access, participation, and equality of opportunity, as they relate to the operation of the University.
- (ii) To monitor progress in delivering the University's Access and Participation Plan commitments, including progress against numerical targets.
- (iii) To receive reports on the impact of access, participation and equality of opportunity initiatives from staff and students across the University.
- (iv) To oversee, and make recommendations on, the Access and Participation Plan evaluation strategy.
- (v) To advise the Academic Quality, Standards and Enhancement committee and other committees on all matters relating to access, participation and equality of opportunity.
- (vi) To ensure that the University meets all equality reporting deadlines determined by the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- (vii) To ensure that equality and diversity policies, outcomes and objectives are in place and disseminated across the University.
- (viii) To report to Academic Board on access, participation and equal opportunities matters.
- (ix) To consider any other issues which may be raised by the Academic Board.

2. Membership

- (i) The Executive Director of Human Resources who shall chair the meetings
- (ii) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (HE Quality)
- (iii) The Director of HE Quality
- (iv) The Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Co-ordinator (or equivalent)
- (v) The Director of Marketing and Admissions (or nominee)
- (vi) Two Teaching Staff representatives nominated by the Chair
- (vii) Deputy Deans (Teaching, Learning and Digital)
- (viii) The Head of Disability Services
- (ix) The Head of Strategic Planning and Reporting
- (x) Data Analyst for APP reporting
- (xi) One representative from Human Resources

- (xii) One support staff representative nominated by the Chair
- (xiii) Two nominees from the Guild of Students who must be sabbatical officers, students or employees of the Guild.

In the absence of the Chair, the Committee shall appoint from amongst its number a Chair

3. Frequency of Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least three times per year

4. Quorum

Six members.

THE ACADEMIC QUALITY, STANDARDS AND ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

1. Functions of the Committee

- (i) To advise and make recommendations to Academic Board on the University's strategies, policies and procedures relating to the setting and maintenance of academic standards and the quality assurance of the University's awards
- (ii) To report to the Academic Board on matters relating to strategies, policies and procedures for the curriculum, learning, teaching and assessment.
- (iii) To receive reports concerned with the academic standards of collaborative provision to ensure standards are safeguarded.
- (iv) To receive and consider reports and annual action plans from Audits and School reviews.
- (v) To consider reports and make recommendations to the Academic Board on the University's engagement with national requirements for standards, quality and learning and teaching.
- (vi) To monitor policies and processes relating to student engagement and the quality of the student experience. This includes consideration of student feedback, module evaluations, the National Student Survey and other relevant surveys.
- (vii) To guide and monitor preparation for external reviews, outcomes and action plans by the QAA, the OfS and TEF.

2. Membership

- (i) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (HE Quality), who shall Chair the meetings
- (ii) The Director of Higher Education Quality
- (iii) The Head of Information Services and Academic Registry
- (iv) Executive Deans or Directors of Schools or designated nominees
- (v) Deputy Deans (Teaching, Learning and Digital)
- (vi) Deputy Deans (Quality Assurance and Enhancement)
- (vii) Relevant Heads of Department by invitation
- (viii) A student nominated by the Guild of Students

In the absence of the Chair, the Committee shall appoint from amongst its number a Chair for the meeting.

3. Frequency of Meetings

The Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions.

4. Quorum

Eight members.

VALIDATION AND APPROVALS COMMITTEE

1. Functions of the Committee

- i. To consider proposals for the introduction/renewal/modification of academic programmes of study, with powers to approve these in the case of UCB awards and make recommendations to other awarding bodies as appropriate.
- ii. To consider applications by other institutions for collaboration with the University and to recognise programmes of study.
- iii. To report to Academic Board on matters relating to the validation, re-validation and franchise of the University's programmes and the recognition of programmes from other institutions.
- iv. To consider any other issues which may be raised by the Academic Board.

2. Membership

2.1 Core members

Core members of the Committee may be invited to consider the programme proposals at an earlier stage of the programme development but should be present whenever possible at the Committee to participate in the final decision.

- i. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (HE Quality), or their nominee, who shall chair the meetings
- ii. The Director of Higher Education Quality
- iii. A Deputy Dean for Quality Assurance and Enhancement
- iv. An Executive Dean or Director who is not from the School concerned or their nominee
- v. A student nominated by the Guild of Students
- vi. The Director of Apprenticeships, where appropriate
- vii. For University of Warwick awards, a representative from UoW authorised by the Joint Accreditation Board.
- viii. An external reviewer from another HE institution, and where appropriate, other external Committee members such as a representative of a Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) or a service user.

In the absence of the Chair or their nominee, the Committee shall appoint from amongst the core members employed by UCB a Chair for the meeting.

2.2 Additional internal stakeholders

The following key internal stakeholders need to review and sign off on the programme before it can be validated. Where it is possible to do so, they may do this prior to the Validation and Committee meeting stage using the comments function on Worktribe, and for the most part,

they will be signing off at the pre-validation stage by considering the programme team's answers to the questions they have included on the Worktribe Business Case tab.

Each of these stakeholders may still attend the Committee meeting (giving prior notice to the HE Quality team) if they have unresolved questions or if the Core Committee members invite them to do so.

- i. Finance
- ii. DICE
- iii. Library Services
- iv. A Deputy Dean for Teaching, Learning and Digital
- v. The Marketing and Admissions Department
- vi. HIRED through the Interim Director of Student Employability (Higher Education) or their nominee
- vii. The Head of Student Records and Academic Registry or their nominee
- viii. Director of International Strategy and Recruitment or their nominee, where appropriate
- ix. The Director of Student Services or their nominee
- x. The Director of IT Services or their nominee
- xi. The Director of Estates or their nominee

3. Frequency of Meetings

The Committee shall meet as necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions.

4. Quorum

Four Core Members, including at least one Deputy Dean for Quality Assurance and Enhancement or the Director of HE Quality.

ASSESSMENT APPEAL COMMITTEE

1. Functions of the Committee

- (i) To consider and determine appeals against the decisions by a Board of Examiners that a student has failed to meet the minimum requirements to continue on his/her programme of study.
- (ii) To consider and determine appeals against assessment or Examination Board decisions.

2. Membership

- (a)
 - i) The Director of Academic Registry, who shall Chair the Committee
 - ii) A Deputy Dean, but not from the School concerned.
 - iii) A Deputy Dean (Quality Assurance and Enhancement)
 - iv) The Committee may co-opt a fourth member if it recognises that the meeting would benefit from a person with a particular specialism.
- (b) No person will be allowed to be a member of the Committee, who has been involved in the original assessment decision or has any significant acquaintance with the student concerned.
- (c) No member of the University shall be allowed to sit on the Committee where matters concerning their own subject area are to be considered.
- (d) No Committee shall include more than one member who is inexperienced in the hearing of appeals.
- (e) In the absence of the Chair (due to extraordinary circumstances) the Committee may appoint from amongst its number a Chair for the meeting.

3. Frequency of Meetings

The Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions.

4. Quorum

Three members of the Committee.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Functions of the Committee

- (i) To review and revise regulations in line with national developments and university experience.
- (ii) To provide a framework for the systematic review of the University's academic regulations on an ongoing basis.
- (iii) To approve the introduction of new regulations.
- (iv) To monitor the application of regulations and ensure their consistent use.
- (v) To approve qualifications for fitness to practise.

2. Membership

- (i) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (HE Quality), who shall chair the meetings
- (ii) Executive Deans
- (iii) A student nominated by the Guild of Students
- (iv) The Head of Information Services and Academic Registry or equivalent
- (v) The Director of Higher Education Quality
- (vi) Deputy Deans (Quality Assurance and Enhancement)

In the absence of the Chair, the Committee shall appoint from amongst its number a Chair for the meeting.

The Committee may, from time to time, invite guests to attend meetings to provide it with detailed and expert advice.

3. Frequency of Meetings

The Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions. Typically, this may be twice a year.

4. Quorum

Five Members.

BOARDS OF EXAMINERS

There will be an Internal and External Board of Examiners for each programme of study leading to an award.

1. Functions of the Boards

- (i) To consider the performance of individual students in assessment.
- (ii) To make decisions concerning student progress within a programme of study.
- (iii) To make decisions concerning student achievement at the end of their programme.
- (iv) To make UCB awards to students or recommend to awarding bodies the eligibility of students for particular awards and grading as appropriate.
- (v) To report to Academic Board on matters of student progress and achievement.

2. Membership

- (i) The Executive Dean of the School concerned, who shall chair the meetings.
- (ii) The relevant Head of Department and module leader (or nominee)
- (iii) The relevant External Examiner (or equivalent)
- (iv) One Examinations Officer (or equivalent).
- (v) One other representative from the Academic Registry.
- (vi) Two representatives of University of Warwick, as appointed by the Joint Accreditation Board. (For External Exam Boards for University of Warwick awards)

In the absence of the Chair, the Committee shall appoint from amongst its number a Chair for the meeting.

3. Frequency of Meetings

The Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions.

4. Quorum

For all Boards of Examiners, a quorum will comprise: The Chair, a representative for each module of study being considered, a representative from the Examinations Unit and a representative from the Academic Registry. In addition, for External Boards of Examiners, the relevant External Examiner and at least 1 representative of University of Warwick, as appointed by the Joint Accreditation Board is required for a quorum.

APPRENTICESHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. Function of the Committee

- (i) To oversee the governance of all apprenticeship provision across UCB.
- (ii) To oversee the development, implementation and progress of a University College Birmingham long-term Apprenticeship Strategy.
- (iii) To provide a senior management group dedicated to a high level of organisational effectiveness in relation to apprenticeships policy and process which will contribute to growth, diversification, compliance, stability and the quality of provision within UCB.
- (iv) To oversee the development and implementation of Quality Improvement/ Enhancement Plans and Self-Assessment Reports in relation to Apprenticeships at all academic levels.
- (v) To determine levels of accountability, transparency, participation and openness.
- (vi) To create the enabling environment within UCB Schools to build capacity and capability to deliver a step change in apprenticeship provision both in terms of quantity but also the quality and range of apprenticeship provision.
- (vii) To consider proposals for new apprenticeship provision prior to validation, ensuring new provision aligns to the University Apprenticeship Strategy.
- (viii) To ensure that the apprenticeship stakeholders, including apprentices and employers are central to Apprenticeship provision at UCB.
- (ix) To monitor The University's status as an End Point Assessment Organisation in relation to standards and compliance with the requirements of regulatory bodies.

2. Membership

- (i) The FE Principal, who shall chair the meetings
- (ii) The Director of Apprenticeships
- (iii) The Executive Director of Further Education Quality
- (iv) The Director of Higher Education Quality
- (v) The Director of Apprenticeships
- (vi) The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services or nominee
- (vii) The Head of Information Services and Academic Registry
- (viii) The Director of Marketing and Admissions

- (ix) The Director of Student Services
- (x) The Director of Learning Services
- (xi) All Executive Deans
- (xii) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (HE Quality)

The Committee will, where appropriate, invite other attendees.

3. **Frequency of Meetings**

The Committee shall meet at least quarterly, but initially every eight weeks.

4. **Quorum**

Six members, including the Chair, and representation from at least five of the departments.

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

1. **Function of the Committee**

- i. To monitor performance of UCB against the OfS A conditions (Access and Participation) B conditions (Quality and Standards), and C conditions (Consumer Protection and Student Rights) raising matters of concern to EMT, AMT, Academic Board or the Corporation as appropriate
- ii. To set and monitor targets annually in line with B condition thresholds
- iii. To receive and review the OfS B conditions Risk Register, monitoring the effectiveness of mitigations
- iv. To discuss any matters relating to the Office for Students A, B, C and E6 condition changes
- v. To receive reports from groups overseeing specific elements of the B conditions including the Student Outcomes Committee, TEF working group
- vi. To maintain an overview of associated data collection, reporting and evaluation plans.

2. **Membership**

- i. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (HE Quality), who shall Chair the meetings
- ii. Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Curriculum Reform, Delivery and TNE)
- iii. Director of HE Quality
- iv. Head of EDI
- v. Executive Director of Student Services and Wellbeing, or nominee
- vi. Executive Director of Learning Services, or nominee
- vii. Director of Student Systems, Data and Information Reporting
- viii. Head of Information and Reporting, or nominee
- ix. Director of Business and Employer Engagement, or nominee
- x. Vice Dean for Business
- xi. Deputy Deans for Quality Assurance and Enhancement
- xii. Deputy Deans for Teaching, Learning and Digital
- xiii. Deputy Dean for Quality, Accreditation and Apprenticeships (HLSE)
- xiv. A nominee from the Guild of Students

The Committee will, where appropriate, invite other attendees.

3. **Frequency of Meetings**

The Committee shall meet six times per year on average.

4. **Quorum**

Four members, including the Chair.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS ADVISORY GROUP

1 Functions of the Committee

- (i) To review, advise and make recommendations to the Academic Board on the policies and procedures relating to the University's UK and global partnerships.
- (ii) To scrutinise new proposals for UK and global partnerships to provide assurances that these align with the University's Strategic Plan (2021-24) and internal quality assurance policies and procedures.
- (iii) To support programme teams in the design and delivery of curriculum to ensure compliance with any global partnership agreement and the standards and policies of the University's Validations and Approvals Committee.
- (iv) To support programme teams in the implementation of UK and global partnership agreements.
- (v) To monitor the performance of all partnership agreements against contractual terms, including, where appropriate, the delivery of minimum student enrolments.
- (vi) To monitor the performances and experiences of International Students to inform future recruitment strategies and cross-UCB support and opportunities for such students.
- (vii) To formally recommend the termination of any partnership agreements in the event of contractual non-compliance.
- (viii) To report to the Academic Quality Standards & Enhancement Committee (AQSE) on the performance and quality assurance of all UK and global partnerships and an annual update on which ones will continue or will be terminated.
- (ix) To report to Academic Board on matters relating to new proposals, compliance, performance and quality assurances of UK and global partnerships and an annual update on which ones will continue or will be terminated.
- (x) To monitor the policies and procedures relating to the University's global partnerships.

2 Membership

- (i) Pro Vice Chancellor (Curriculum Reform, Delivery and TNE), who will chair the meetings.
- (ii) Director of International Recruitment and Partnerships
- (iii) Associate Director - International Partnerships
- (iv) Director of Higher Education Quality

- (v) Deputy Dean – Quality Assurance & Enhancement
- (vi) Head of Student Records & Academic Registry
- (vii) Executive Deans, Vice Deans or Directors of School by invitation
- (viii) Deputy Deans – Curriculum Development & Student Recruitment
- (ix) Relevant Heads of Department by invitation
- (x) Director of Finance
- (xi) Quality administrator

In the absence of the Chair, the Committee shall appoint from amongst its members a Chair for the meeting.

3 Meeting schedule

The Group shall meet as often as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions.

4 Quorum

Four members of the Group – must include a Pro Vice-Chancellor (as Chair), and a nominee from International Partnerships, the relevant School, and the Quality Unit

ACADEMIC TITLES COMMITTEE

1. Function of the Committee

In accordance with University's regulations and on behalf of the Academic Board, award to appropriate candidates, any of the following titles:

Professor
Emeritus Professor
Associate Professor
Honorary Professor
Visiting Professor
Reader
Visiting Reader
Honorary Fellow

2. Membership

- (i) The Vice-Chancellor & Principal (who shall chair the meetings)
- (ii) The University Secretary and Registrar
- (iii) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (HE Quality)
- (iv) All Executive Deans
- (v) Two members of staff who have had a professorial title conferred upon them previously by the University.
- (vi) The Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (or equivalent)

The Committee will, where appropriate, seek advice from other members of the UCB Professoriate and independent external sources.

3. Frequency of Meetings

The Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions. Typically, this may be once a year.

4. Quorum

Four Members, including the Vice-Chancellor and Principal.