

About the Court

The Court is the governing body of the University with powers and authority, enshrined in the University's Charter and Statutes, over all of the affairs of the University as a charitable institution and a place of education, learning and teaching, research, knowledge exchange and scholarship. Members of the Court, including its elected Chair, are the "charity trustees" with duties and responsibilities enshrined in the Charity & Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The majority of the 25 strong Court membership, including the appointed Chair, is made up of independent lay members who bring a wide range of expertise and experience to the work of the Court. The Court delegates appropriate authority to the Principal and Vice-Chancellor for the effective management of the University as the Chief Accounting Officer and the Chief Executive Officer.

The Court has overall responsibility for all of the business affairs of the University undertaken at all campuses. This involves:

- establishing the vision, mission and strategic direction of the University;
- ensuring that the University meets the needs and expectations of its many stakeholders;
- safeguarding, developing and promoting the University's assets;
- overseeing the University's performance against its ambitions and agreed targets;
- managing institutional risks of all kinds;
- ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation and statutory requirements; and
- safeguarding the University's reputation and promoting its values.

The Chair of Court must have substantial experience and influence as well as the range of top leadership skills necessary to lead the Court successfully and support the University to achieve success as a complex international institution spanning five campus locations and with ambitions to achieve an annual income of £350 m per annum by 2025. Our economic success will enable the University to deliver against its many ambitions for the student and staff experience at Heriot-Watt and to build on our leading reputation in learning, teaching, research and innovation.