

# Director of Learning and Teaching Enhancement

## Job description

### **Job Title:**

Director of Learning and Teaching Enhancement

### **Reporting to:**

Vice Principal and PVC Learning, Teaching and Students

### **Location:**

Paisley, but expected to work from other campuses where appropriate

### **Job Purpose**

The Director will lead teaching and learning innovation, and quality and technology at UWS. The position is responsible for establishing, leading and managing a suite of educational initiatives around curriculum renewal, pedagogies for high-quality learning and student engagement, excellence and innovation in online learning and learning technologies.

### **Dimensions**

- Team - Lead a department consisting approximately 24 staff
- Budget - Circa £1m operational expenditure including elements of learning technology funding and circa £1m staffing costs
- Remit - across the University and beyond

### **Accountabilities:**

- Drive strategic teaching and learning initiatives, ensuring that teaching and learning innovation, curriculum design, and support are effective and meet the changing demands, needs and expectations of the University community.
- Support the VP LT&S in continuing to develop a strategic pedagogy at UWS that has, at its foundation, a high-quality and engaging student experience in-line with the UWS Curriculum Framework.
- Drive strategic teaching and learning projects, and in particular those part of the Student Experience Programme, including the design and incubation of new curricula, the quality assurance and enhancement of curricula, academic development activities, and learning technology support, proactively identifying issues and possible impediments to success.
- Implement effective learning and assessment frameworks that use data, benchmarks and observation to monitor student success.
- Lead the University's strategy for teaching excellence, academic staff capability, addressing existing and new models of academic work, enhanced models of academic leadership, and contemporary business models for tertiary education.
- Build and maintain effective working relationships, collaborations and partnerships with senior staff and key stakeholders both within the University and with external organisations.
- Provide strategic advice to senior management and Senate and its subcommittees on matters of teaching and learning quality and research-informed, forward-looking best practice.
- Lead the University's strategic approach to the use of learning technologies, empowering academic staff to enhance the learning experience of students.

- Lead the university's strategic approach to quality assurance and enhancement processes, including the cycle of institution-led reviews and the instruments for maintenance of academic standards.
- Provide strong leadership in the development of innovative service delivery models within the Departments and functions which comprise Learning and Teaching Enhancement.
- Advocate and collaborate with academic and professional departments in the development and implementation of educational offerings and resources, to support a culture of data-led high-performance teaching and to improve student learning outcomes in programs and courses at all levels.
- Take responsibility for the Regulations, Policies and Procedures of the University that concern Learning, Teaching and Academic Quality ensuring they are up-to-date, reflect sectoral best practice, are appropriately maintained and disseminated.

### **Planning & Organising:**

- Work autonomously in delivering the objectives of the role.
- Responsible for the delivery of Learning and Teaching Enhancement activities, ensuring successful delivery and continuous improvement.
- The planning timeframes are normally long term and, in most cases, have a University-wide impact.
- Responds to new and complex emerging situations and, as relevant, identifies and submits proposals for specific projects, managing or supporting progress towards implementation.
- Manage activities and work independently using initiative within the guidelines set by the University/legislation/professional bodies.

### **Working Relationships:**

- Work closely with the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Group and Leadership team, working in partnership with others to achieve the University's Strategy.
- Facilitate the implementation of University-wide change agendas through engaging, persuading, and influencing other colleagues with no direct managerial control, and working effectively with other academic and external partners.
- Play a significant role in chairing University-wide committees and a leading role in cross-University projects.
- External negotiation and partnership working, building strong external networks to keep abreast of sector-wide issues is essential. External relationships are diverse across a range of external bodies, and range in nature.
- Maintain a strong external network and to effectively represent the University in a range of formal and informal situations.

### **Qualifications, Experience, Skills & Knowledge required:**

#### **Educational Qualifications**

- Degree and Professional Qualification, membership or fellowship of a relevant professional body and a demonstrable commitment to continuing professional development.

#### **Experience**

- Postgraduate qualifications and extensive relevant university experience in a senior management role, including the ability to innovate in relation to the development of teaching and learning initiative
- Significant leadership experience including operating multi-disciplinary functions, managing large teams, budgetary management and leading complex projects, demonstrating breadth of understanding of context and complexity of the HE environment

- Specialist, research-informed knowledge of best practice and ongoing innovation in tertiary teaching and learning, learning technologies, academic student support and student engagement.
- Extensive knowledge of the policies and trends in Scottish higher education, especially as they pertain to teaching and learning quality and innovation, and student success, retention and engagement.
- Proven experience at a senior level of leading and inspiring a successful team, preferably within a HE environment, developing high performing leaders, employees and teams
- Experience of managing, to target, budgets in excess of a million pounds, including successful implementation of cost savings and service efficiencies
- Extensive experience in the successful management of complex teams, leading organisational change management, and the implementation of innovative practice across areas and institutions

### **Skills & Knowledge**

- Strong strategic leadership skills, focusing three to five years or more ahead with the ability to effectively direct resources to achieve University strategic goals
- Able to work with a high degree of autonomy to set and deliver business priorities and manage workload within a complex and dynamic operating environment
- Strong communication, political and influencing skills in relation to all levels of University staff and engagement with high level committees, external representatives, stakeholders and bodies
- Creative problem-solving skills and the ability to lead, manage and embed change
- Strong judgement and effective decision-making, including the ability to successfully conclude highly sensitive and confidential negotiations.
- Comprehensive understanding of the principles, practices and techniques of oral and written communications and able to demonstrate using them across a wide range of channels and platforms to a range of audiences to achieve strategic objectives
- Extensive knowledge of the full spectrum of learning and teaching approaches and understanding of how to apply them effectively
- Knowledge and understanding of HE in the global context.