

Universities UK membership criteria

Extract from Universities UK Statutes



of an Eligible Institution. For the avoidance of doubt, only one Vice-Chancellor or Principal shall be eligible to be a Full Member in respect of the Eligible Institution to which he or she is appointed.

(2) For the purposes of these Articles, an "Eligible Institution" means an institution providing higher education that fulfils all of the following criteria to the satisfaction of the UK Board ("Eligibility Criteria"):

(a) *Primary purpose of teaching, scholarship and research:*

(i) a minimum five-year track record of delivering teaching,

scholarship (being commitment to, and practice in, the acquisition and synthesis of knowledge and understanding);

(iii) support for the principle of academic freedom for all staff and students enshrined in Section 43 of the Education Act 1986, as amended by Schedule 8 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992; and

(iv) normally a minimum of 80% of full time equivalent students across the whole institution enrolled on higher education provision.

(b) *Financial accountability and independence:*

(i) full accounts published annually and made publicly available on the internet, consistent with the Higher Education Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice (SORP), which evidence clarity and transparency of share ownership, including any changes thereto;

(ii) independent governing body with authority over the strategic direction, educational ethos and financial management of the institution; and



- (iii) adherence to the Nolan seven principles of public life, namely: selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership.
- (c) *Accountability to students and the wider public:*
 - (i) adherence to all the regulatory frameworks and accountability requirements for public finance which are applicable to higher education institutions at any given time;
 - (ii) adherence to relevant quality assurance systems, including national systems and professional bodies;
 - (iii) engagement with national systems within the UK that support and protect the interests of students, such as the National Student Survey (NSS) and Office of the Independent Adjudicator; and
 - (iv) adherence (by law or voluntarily) to the publication and scrutiny of data and information such as through the Higher Education Statistics Agency and Freedom of Information Acts.