



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

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Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education and Learning Innovation



We are Citizens of Change





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Welcome from the President and Vice-Chancellor

Diverse in our makeup and united in ambition –
we pursue excellence in knowledge and learning to
transform our community, our world and beyond.
We are Citizens of Change.



PROFESSOR SIR NISHAN CANAGARAJAH
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in this exciting opportunity to help shape the future of one of the UK's most ambitious and forward-thinking universities.

I was delighted to launch the University's Citizens of Change strategy in November 2021. This bold vision commits us to: research-inspired education, world changing research and a focus on people, partnerships, and impact.

At the heart of this strategy are three core values: inclusive, inspiring, and impactful. These values define who we are today and the University we aspire to be in the future.

We believe equity, diversity, and inclusion are essential to creating a thriving place to work and study. With staff and students from over 100 countries, we proudly embrace a rich diversity of perspectives, beliefs, and approaches that enrich both our University and the city of Leicester.

Our recent achievements reflect this commitment to excellence. In the past year, Leicester has been crowned Daily Mail University of the Year 2025 and shortlisted for Times Higher Education University of the Year 2024 and The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2025. We ranked 28th in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2026 and climbed from 36th to 33rd in the Complete University Guide. We also secured a top 15 position for student satisfaction in the 2025 National Student Survey and recently ranked 26th globally for Research Quality in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026.

In 2023, we were awarded an overall Gold rating in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), signifying outstanding student experience and outcomes. This places Leicester among a select group of institutions excelling in both teaching and research, reinforced by our top 30 performance in the Research Excellence Framework (REF).

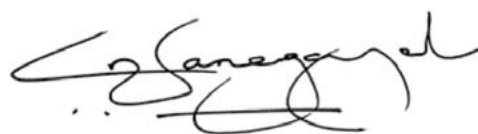
The REF2021 results published by Research England show Leicester moved up 23 places to rank 30th overall, one of the biggest climbs of any UK university. This is our best-ever performance in a research assessment exercise – a testament to the quality and impact of our academics' work and our vibrant research environment

We are seeking an exceptional candidate to join us as Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education and Learning Innovation to provide institution-wide leadership for the University's education provision and student outcomes

Reporting to the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and as a member of the Executive Board, you will play a key role in shaping institutional direction, leading digital transformation initiatives, and enhancing the overall student educational experience. You will ensure that students' opportunities for success are maximised and that the University delivers an outstanding, high quality student educational experience and outcomes.

This is a significant and challenging role for a candidate of the highest calibre – someone with vision, drive, and the ability to leave a lasting legacy of achievement.

If Leicester sounds like the place for you, and you have the skills, experience, and ambition to make a difference, we look forward to hearing from you.



PROFESSOR SIR NISHAN CANAGARAJAH
PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR



Our reputation speaks for itself, with global recognition for our discoveries and contributions to advancing knowledge.

About the University of Leicester



The University of Leicester is a dynamic and inclusive institution, celebrated for our inspiring academic programs, ground-breaking research, and supportive community.

Founded over 100 years ago as a symbol of hope for the future, we are the only university in Europe established by its community as a living legacy to those who made sacrifices during the First World War. This is reflected in our motto, *Ut vitam habeant* – ‘so that they may have life.’

Based in one of the UK’s and Europe’s most culturally diverse cities, our identity and mission have been shaped by this rich tapestry. Students and staff from around the globe come together to engage here, contributing an incredible array of perspectives, beliefs, and approaches that enhance both our university and the vibrant city of Leicester.

We play a vital role in the regional economy, serving as a leading employer and an active supporter of music, arts, sports, and culture. Each year, we contribute over £360 million to Leicester’s economy, underscoring our commitment to the community.

Our commitment to excellence is evident in our recent investment of over £500 million, which has transformed our campus into a world-class environment with state-of-the-art facilities designed for the future. This includes the newly developed Freeman’s neighbourhood – a lively space for students to live, learn, and connect.

As Citizens of Change, our researchers are dedicated to tackling some of today’s most pressing challenges, from combating viruses and diseases to improving air quality, protecting our natural environment and promoting social justice. The diversity of our research reflects the rich variety of our community, creating a broad impact on society.

Our reputation speaks for itself, with global recognition for our discoveries and contributions to advancing knowledge. Our standing in the league tables positions us among the leading universities in the UK.

While we take pride in our heritage and accomplishments, the University of Leicester is resolutely focused on the future. Our spirit of discovery inspires innovative thinking, empowering us to seize new opportunities as we embark on our second century.

16,778
undergraduate
students



£340 million
research portfolio (live grants)
from over 250 funders



5,099
postgraduate
students



4,215
staff



31%
international
students



£396 million
turnover



2025 Statistics



President and Vice-Chancellor's Office

The President and Vice-Chancellor's Office is the strategic heart of the University of Leicester. It provides overall direction for the institution, ensuring that our mission as a world-class university is delivered through excellence in education, research, and global engagement. The Office shapes the University's long-term vision, safeguards financial sustainability, and drives transformation in response to sector-wide challenges and opportunities.

At its core, the Office leads the implementation of the University's Citizens of Change strategy and oversees major initiatives such as the research strategy, which helps to position Leicester as a leader in delivering research-inspired education. It ensures that our values— inclusive, inspiring, and impactful—are embedded across all areas of university activity and from championing interdisciplinary research to fostering international partnerships, the Office plays a pivotal role in amplifying Leicester's reputation and influence worldwide.

The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education and Learning Innovation will work at the heart of this strategic environment. Working with members of the Executive Board and Senior Leadership Team, you will be

accountable for setting an engaging vision for education design and delivery which is transformational, digitally-informed, and future-proofed. You will provide clear direction and by briefing, motivating and evaluating the performance of colleagues engaged in learning and teaching, ensure the University's continued high performance in relevant metrics such as TEF and NSS.

Research inspired education

With a diverse student body of over 20,000, we are proud to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment where every learner can thrive.

This year, the University has celebrated numerous educational achievements, reflecting the strength of our research-led teaching and our commitment to delivering an outstanding, future-focused academic experience. We empower our students, regardless of background, to become impactful Citizen of Changes.

Top 10% for student satisfaction

Once again, the University has been recognised for outstanding student satisfaction, maintaining its

position in the top 10% of UK universities in the 2025 National Student Survey (NSS). This marks the second consecutive year of being ranked among the very best for overall positivity. For the third year running, the University saw improvements across all 26 survey questions, with particularly strong gains in 'organisation and management' and 'student voice'. The latter placed Leicester in the top 20% nationally, reflecting our commitment to listening to students and acting on their feedback. Over 90% of students expressed positivity in academic support, highlighting the dedication of our teaching staff.

Celebrating milestones

Last year, the University proudly marked a series of anniversaries across its academic departments, reflecting a rich legacy of excellence in education and research. – The School of Chemistry and the School of Physics and Astronomy both celebrated their centenary, having been established in 1925 – just four years after the University's founding. These departments have played a pivotal role in advancing scientific discovery and nurturing generations of researchers and innovators.

The School of Criminology, Sociology and Social Policy commemorated 75 years of shaping social understanding and policy through pioneering research and teaching. The School's work has significantly shaped academic thinking and influenced public conversations.

The Leicester Medical School also reached a major milestone, celebrating 50 years since its founding. Over the past five decades, it has grown into a nationally respected institution, known for its commitment to clinical excellence, inclusivity, and innovation in medical education.

Teaching excellence recognised

The University celebrated a number of achievements in the 2025 National Teaching Excellence Awards, receiving two National Teaching Fellowships (NTFs) and one Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE). Professor Simon Gay, Head of Leicester Medical School, was honoured with an NTF for his pioneering work in clinical reasoning education, which has significantly shaped medical curricula across the UK and internationally. Dr Jo Dawkins, Associate Professor in Criminology and Forensic Science, was also awarded an NTF for her inclusive, interdisciplinary teaching methods that empower students through problem-based learning and experiential education.

The University's MedRACE initiative – a student-staff partnership tackling racial inequality in medical education – received the prestigious CATE award. MedRACE's inclusive, student-led model has driven impactful changes, including influencing NHS policies and contributing to national decolonisation toolkits. These accolades underscore our commitment to transformative teaching and collaborative innovation.

Black British history scholarship

The University has introduced the Len Garrison MA Scholarship, offering three fully funded studentships in Black British local history. In partnership with Black Cultural Archives, the initiative honours alumnus and activist Len Garrison. It covers tuition and includes a bursary for placements at the BCA in London. Open to UK students starting in September 2025, the scholarship promotes diversity in academia.

Award for Black and Mixed Heritage students

Inspired by Stormzy's scholarship, Leicester Law alumnus Daniel Adebayo has launched the embRACE Award to support Black and Mixed Heritage students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Funded by his social enterprise, Race Forward CIC, the £6,000 award helps recipients overcome financial barriers and thrive at university.

Support for displaced youth

The University of Leicester and Alsama Project are developing the G12++ certification to help displaced young people access higher education. Launching in 2026, G12++ recognises academic skills regardless of formal schooling, offering a pathway to university and employment. The initiative supports the UNHCR's 15 by30 pledge and will include scholarships to support learners in refugee communities to overcome barriers and achieve their ambitions.



The role

Job title:

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education and Learning Innovation

Salary:

Competitive salary plus additional responsibility allowance of £30,000 per annum for the term in the leadership role.

Department:

President and Vice-Chancellor's Office – reporting to the Provost/Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Hours/Contract:

Full-time. This appointment is initially for a four-year period, with the potential for a further four-year term. When the term is completed, the role holder will be offered a Professorial position on a permanent basis.

Role purpose

Reporting to the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, this role provides strategic leadership for the University's education provision and student outcomes. As a member of the Executive Board, the postholder will play a key role in shaping institutional direction, leading digital transformation initiatives, and enhancing the overall student educational experience. The role-holder will ensure that students' opportunities for success are maximised and that the University delivers an outstanding, high quality student educational experience and outcomes. You will do this by setting an engaging vision for education design and delivery which is transformational, digitally-informed, and future-proofed. You will provide clear direction and by briefing, motivating and evaluating the performance of colleagues engaged in learning and teaching, ensuring the University's continued high performance in relevant metrics (e.g. TEF, NSS, etc.).

Resources managed

The role-holder will lead cross-disciplinary project teams to achieve learning and teaching outcomes. Relevant staff resources and budgets reside with managers and specialists within these project teams. The role holder will direct the work of academic leaders in education roles across the University, including the work of the Education Academy.

Main duties and responsibilities

Leadership in education and learning innovation

- Play an active role in the Executive Board, in maintaining and developing high performance standards of excellence in learning, teaching and the student experience.
- Play a key role in supporting the University's digital transformation strategy, embedding strong digital culture and capabilities across the institution, within education.
- Hold to account Heads of College and Schools for the provision of outstanding student educational experience and outcomes.

Strategy and planning

- Accountable for the Research-Inspired education strategy and associated key performance indicators, presenting this to the rest of the Executive Board (EB), Senate and Council, leading discussion and taking ownership of the whole team's decisions.
- With the Director of External Relations and relevant Heads of College, coordinating the continuing development, review and enhancement of the University's undergraduate and postgraduate taught offer in line with market demand.
- Developing and leading the University's vision and implementation plan for embedding emerging technologies, including AI, to enhance the education experience and student attainment.
- Ensuring that the University maximises its approach to widening participation and fostering social mobility, including leadership of the institutional Access and Participation Plan (APP), and associated programmes which support student transition and success.
- Leading strategic education planning processes with academic schools and colleges, ensuring they are focused on the key issues and risks, maximising performance and outcomes

Quality improvement and student voice

- Ensuring a continuous improvement approach to learning, teaching and student support that emphasises and showcases the sharing of existing excellence between schools and Colleges, ensuring this work achieves national and international recognition.
- Enabling communication between educators and learners and a sense of partnership with students to improve learning and teaching still further.

- Ensuring the centrality of student voice in the work of the education portfolio, ensuring developments respond to student needs and are appropriately shared to support outcomes, recruitment and conversion.
- Overseeing the governance and associated processes that maintain and enhance the quality and standards of our education provision, taking the lead on accreditation/quality audits as required.
- Leading the professional development of academic staff in the education portfolio, including the work of the Education Academy, the professional development framework, ensuring high quality delivery of teaching, with a highly skilled and engaged educational workforce.

External reputation development

- Leading, coordinating and evaluating the University's submission to the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and managing the University's approach to the National Student Survey (NSS).
- Building strategic partnerships with other education providers in the city and immediate region, which support the regional skills development plan.
- Ensuring our strategic partnerships with other international education providers deliver high quality provision and meet external regulator conditions.

Internal and external relationships

- Other members of Executive Board.
- Academic Registrar.
- The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and a range of senior colleagues.
- Senior Education Leadership Team (SELT) (including College Deans of Education).
- Education Leadership Group (including School Directors of Education).
- Officers and staff of the Leicester Students' Union.
- The Office for Students.
- The University's student body through visibility at key events.
- Key equivalents in other universities, both nationally and internationally.
- QAA and other external agencies and bodies, a relevant to the role.

- Local, national and international government bodies and public organisations, and key officers in these bodies and organisations.
- Advance HE.

Planning and organising

- Overview of all aspects of the student experience, including the progress of projects, and willingness to engage swiftly at a deeper level of detail as necessary.
- Setting and following the chosen direction but also flexing this as needed.
- Review of success of projects and initiatives and dissemination of lessons learned.
- Chairing and business planning Education Committee and all associated work groups.

Qualifications, knowledge and experience

Essential

*Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview

- Successful record of senior academic leadership, strategic development and management in the field of education, gained within a high performing University.*
- Demonstrable experience of transformational leadership and turning plans into action.*

- Demonstrable understanding of digital capabilities as they relate to education, and experience of leading digital transformation projects*
- Track record of facilitating the highest quality education through the active recruitment, professional development or management of people and resources.*
- Track record of successful co-operation and collaborative working relationships, both internal and external.
- Demonstrable success of building partnerships with key influencers in external agencies relevant to the University and its external stakeholders.
- Extensive knowledge of developments in the higher education arena, both nationally and internationally, and a high regard for research, scholarship, teaching and learning.

Skills, abilities and competencies

Essential

- Visionary leadership and the ability to inspire and motivate both students and colleagues at all levels in the University.*
- Highly developed digital literacy skills, with the ability to translate these into strategy, action plans to develop organisational capabilities and skills.*



- Proven capabilities as a leader, with a flexible, inclusive and collegial management style appropriate to the complexity and diversity of the University.
- Ability to lead continuous organisational change and development.*
- Ability to think strategically and to develop a vision for the future of the University in and beyond the context of the University’s strategy for the student experience.
- Incisive analytical skills and the ability to make logical, well-balanced and reasoned decisions.
- Ability and willingness to execute difficult decisions quickly and effectively, when needed.
- Excellent negotiating skills, flexibility and open-mindedness.
- Outstanding written and oral communication skills, representative of the University.
- Demonstrable commitment to the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Respect for all members of the University’s staff and student body, and the ability to develop and maintain good working relationships with colleagues, students and external contacts.
- A commitment to people development and the organisational values and behaviours that underpin the culture of the University.
- Willingness to travel both nationally and internationally on behalf of the University.

Criminal declaration

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.

Supporting university activities

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are encouraged to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We encourage all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required. If supporting these activities is likely to affect your workload, please speak to your line manager in the first instance.

University values

Inclusive – We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

Inspiring – We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

Impactful – As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community.

Equity and diversity

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equality support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high-quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equity, diversity and inclusion.

How to apply

Applications should consist of a full academic curriculum vitae detailing relevant qualifications and experience, full employment history and achievements. CVs should be accompanied by a covering letter describing briefly how candidates meet the criteria outlined in the person specification, why the appointment is of interest and what they believe they can bring to the role.

Applications can be made through our recruitment system Eploy. Please click on the below link to apply:

<https://jobs.le.ac.uk/vacancies/13267/pro-vice-chancellor-education-and-learning-innovation.html>

The deadline for applications is midnight on 10 May 2026.

First stage interviews will be held remotely on 9 June 2026.

Final stage interviews will be held face to face on 24 June 2026.



Living in Leicester

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are rich in culture, heritage, and leisure activities, from our vibrant multicultural city, to the beautiful market towns and rural villages.

Often described as the heart of rural England, the area features beautiful country villages, the National Forest, great rivers and castles and a cosmopolitan city centre, making it an exciting and diverse place to live and work.

Leicester is one of the UK's ten largest cities and represents the largest economy in the East Midlands region. It has a bustling and diverse atmosphere and recent regeneration (to the tune of £3 billion) has made this cosmopolitan city even more exciting. Leicester is home to the state-of-the-art Curve theatre, as well as large and multicultural festivals. It is famous for its diversity and offers an amazing chance to dive into many different cultural

celebrations. Leicester celebrates Diwali (the Festival of Light) with spectacular lights, stunning street parades and dazzling fireworks. This is attended by 35,000 people and is the largest celebration of the festival outside of India. The city also hosts an annual Pride Parade (Leicester Pride), a Caribbean Carnival and the largest comedy festival in the UK.

The University, working in close partnership with the city, has been the inspiration behind two of Leicester's most famous tourist attractions. The award-winning National Space Centre – the UK's largest attraction dedicated to space exploration – and the King Richard III Visitor Centre which retells the dramatic story of the University's discovery of England's most infamous King. Leicester is well-known as a sporting capital – hosting the country's best-supported rugby team the Leicester Tigers as well as Leicester City Football Club and Leicestershire County Cricket Club.

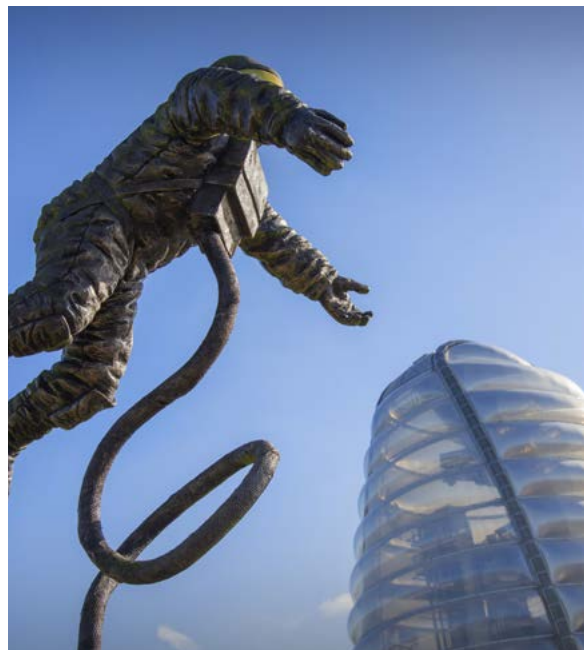
The city benefits from a large number of public parks including Abbey Park and also Victoria Park which is adjacent to the University. Leicester is steeped in history, dating back to the original Iron Age settlement which was to become an important Roman trading centre with a commanding position on one of Britain's



Leicester represents the largest economy in the East Midlands region.

most important routes – the Fosse Way. Leicester’s manufacturing industry reached its height in the 20th century, driven by world-renowned hosiery, textile, and footwear enterprises that shaped the city’s identity and powered its economic growth.

On Leicester’s doorstep is the National Forest, offering cycling, riding and walkways, adventure activities and some of the most impressive landscapes in the region, including Charnwood Forest and Swithland Reservoir. To the east is Rutland Water, one of the largest man-made reservoirs in Europe, which supports a wide range of water sports. Leicester and the surrounding region offer a wide choice of property to buy or rent. In the city itself, there is a diverse mix of housing and apartments. Both new and older properties, including substantial homes, can be found in leafy parts of Leicester within easy reach of the University. Alternatively, there is property available in the attractive villages and market towns in Leicestershire and Rutland such as Market Harborough and Oakham. House prices are markedly less than those in London.





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