Role Description

Role title: Senate Member

Term of office: Elected Member - Three years. This is renewable for one consecutive term, subject to re-nomination. Once one year has elapsed after the six, a further electoral period on the same terms is possible.

Time commitment:

* Five meetings a year (approximately three hours each, excluding preparation time).
* Possible additional *ad hoc* meetings for workshops/training/induction.
* Occasional *ad hoc* advice and decision-making between meetings.
* Members of Senate are normally expected to commit additional time as a member of a sub-committee or joint committee with Council where Senate vacancies arise, namely:
  + [Academic Programmes Committee](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/academic-programmes-committee/) (APC)
  + [Academic Staff Committee](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/academic-staff-committee/) (ASC)
  + [Courses and Partnerships Approval Committee](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/courses-and-partnerships-approval-committee/) (CPAC)
  + [Education, Quality and Standards Committee](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/education-quality-and-standards-committee/) (EQSC)
  + [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-committee/) (EDIC)
  + [Honorary Degrees Committee](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/honorary-degrees-committee/) (HDC)
  + [Redundancy Committee](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/redundancy-committee/)
  + [Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/research-and-knowledge-exchange-committee/) (RKEC)
  + [Senior Academic Appointments Committee](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/senior-academic-appointments-committee/)
* Members of Senate may from time-to-time be asked to participate in processes associated with student and staff casework, including Health, Wellbeing and Support for Study panels.
* Members of Senate are also eligible to stand for election to [Council](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/council/) and/or [Court](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/court/).

Appointment: Elected by [Academic Assembly](https://www.bath.ac.uk/teams/academic-assembly/)

Role Purpose

Senate is the University’s senior academic decision-making body. It is responsible for the strategic, rather than operational, development of policy and activities in education, research, knowledge exchange and the student educational experience. It oversees the regulation, governance, standards and quality assurance of the academic endeavour and provides onward assurance to the University Council, in line with the expectations of the Office for Students.

Senate members contribute their skills and experience in a non-executive capacity, acting in the interests of the University as a whole and taking collective responsibility for making decisions. Their roles are unremunerated. They are expected to ensure that Senate operates to high standards of governance by personally demonstrating their integrity, objectivity, and accountability in every aspect of their work. Senate benefits from members having a range of experience, both in terms of longevity and type.

Senate Key Responsibilities

The functions and responsibilities of Senate are set out in detail in Section 19 of [University Statutes](https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/statutes-of-the-university-of-bath/) and [Ordinance](https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/university-ordinances/) 8.

Person Specification

N.B. Senate benefits from the breadth of skills and experience of its members and their range of perspectives. Length of service at the University is, therefore, not a criterion when standing for election.

1. Ability to identify and manage conflicts of interest ensuring all decisions made are in the best interests of the University.
2. Willingness to follow [The Seven Principles of Public Life](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life/the-7-principles-of-public-life--2) (also known as the Nolan Principles).
3. Willingness to promote transparency and good governance.
4. Ability to challenge constructively and hold management to account in an appropriate manner.
5. Ability to maintain confidentiality and deal with sensitive information in an appropriate manner.
6. Ability to interpret relevant data to identify issues and ask relevant questions.
7. Ability to identify risks and evaluate the effectiveness of any mitigations in place.
8. Ability to monitor good systems of control and accountability.
9. Ability and willingness to learn about relevant areas of legislation and regulatory compliance.
10. Ability to provide insight on sector developments (e.g. disciplines or polices that would help inform Senate decision-making.
11. Keen interest in the academic endeavour, i.e. promoting knowledge and understanding including teaching, teaching methods, learning, researching, accessing and sharing information, publishing, and participating in professional activities.
12. Commitment to promoting and embedding equality, diversity and inclusion.
13. Commitment to promoting and embedding sustainability within the University.
14. Ability and willingness to dedicate sufficient time to fulfilling this role, including any additional committee requirements.