



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Futures Institute

WittKieffer

DIRECTOR

EDINBURGH FUTURES INSTITUTE

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES





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WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Welcome!

I am delighted to announce the launch of this exciting recruitment opportunity for the position of the Director of Edinburgh Futures Institute. This is an exceptional opportunity for a talented and ambitious leader to continue the development and implementation of a shared vision for excellence in interdisciplinary research and innovative teaching, alongside external cross-sector engagement and partnership building.

Innovation starts with an idea. Turning an idea into reality needs partnership. Part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, our Data Driven Innovation initiative is striving to help researchers collaborate with businesses, charities, and the public sector, at the crossroads of data science, research, and real-world challenges – where exciting innovations can take place.

The DDI initiative has been created by the University of Edinburgh to support the creation of new partnerships that will make a positive difference in society. The Edinburgh Futures Institute is one of six data-driven innovation ‘hubs’ that have been created, housing expertise and facilities to help 10 industrial sectors become more innovative through data.

The Director will provide essential leadership for all aspects of the Institute’s activities as well as playing an important part in the governance and management of the wider College and University, and we are looking for someone who can operate effectively in all these spheres.

The city of Edinburgh provides an exceptionally vibrant and connected environment in which to realise our ambitious vision for the Edinburgh Futures Institute in the context of a world-leading university. The University of Edinburgh’s rich and exciting research and engagement ecosystem offers exceptional opportunities to bring unique solutions to global challenges in the context of sector-leading excellence in digital transformation and data driven innovation at scale.

This is an outstanding opportunity to lead a new Institute and join one of the world’s great universities. As Director, you will be strongly supported by the University and College Senior Management Teams in taking your plans forward.

I look forward to discussing the post with you further.



Professor Sarah Prescott
Vice Principal and Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences



ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

At the University of Edinburgh, we've been influencing the world for more than 400 years. Each year we take on tomorrow's greatest challenges. Each year is different – every person, teacher, project, and every thought is more exciting than the last. Whatever excites you, whatever your ambition, whatever makes you 'you', we know one thing; nothing ordinary comes from this extraordinary place. At Edinburgh, you'll be in good company, doing good things, for the good of the environment and the world.

Driven by this passion, we've affected and empowered every one of our communities. We believe this is possible because of a unique mix of three factors:

- **Place:** the city of Edinburgh is famous for changing the way the world is understood. Its history and reputation rub off on us, every day. It inspires and lifts our expectations of what is possible.
- **People:** our staff, students, leaders and partners are talented, courageous, engaging and brilliant – and down-to-earth. They value wisdom, laughter, character – and each other.
- **Practice:** we're an encouraging space to explore, but at the same time, our research, teaching, and even our daily processes, are ambitious. We, and our global business partners, inspire you to aim high, push frontiers, deliver economic impact and drive sustainability. We're bold and our results change the world.

Where our place, people and practice meet, this is the University of Edinburgh.

As a world-leading research-intensive University, we are here to address tomorrow's greatest challenges. Between now and 2030, we will do that with a values-led approach to teaching, research and innovation, and through the strength of our relationships, both locally and globally. Edinburgh is a truly global university and we have always had a commitment to diversity and a community in which students feel valued and welcome.

The University had more than 49,000 students matriculated in 2022/23. Students from all over the world choose to study at Edinburgh, attracted to the quality of our education and research portfolio, but also our city, our community and our international culture. With 21 Schools across the three Colleges, the University has a diverse and attractive portfolio of highly ranked programmes on offer.

For more than four centuries the University of Edinburgh has been changing the world. Today, we continue to make our mark, with world-leading experts educating the pioneers of tomorrow.



THE COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

We are one of three academic Colleges at the University of Edinburgh, with more than 4,500 staff and around 28,500 students from 160 different countries.

We have an international reputation as an academic powerhouse in the arts, humanities and social sciences, connected to global networks of scholars, and providing first-class teaching and research across a wide range of academic disciplines.

Our students, staff, alumni and friends are our lifeblood and most valuable asset. We are incredibly proud to host such a thriving, international community, joined in its commitment to improve and achieve benefits for individuals, communities, societies and our world.

We host around 4,000 academic staff and more than 1,200 colleagues in professional services roles across our 11 academic Schools, the cross-University Centre for Open Learning, the Edinburgh Futures Institute and the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities.

We have over 18,000 undergraduate students, around 8,000 postgraduate taught students and over 2,300 postgraduate research students. We also have approximately 2,600 students across the various pathways into undergraduate study, short courses and seasonal provision.

Already exceeding the Scottish Government target for Widening Participation for 2021, we maintain our broader commitment to recruit students from less advantaged socio-economic backgrounds, overseas and locally. Our culture focuses on the community, with staff and student experience and wellbeing firmly at the centre of all we do.

Our core values include that we understand, respect, and celebrate each other's differences and that we operate in an inclusive environment, where opportunities are equally accessible to all.

We promote an environment of continuous learning where knowledge and best practices are shared and celebrated. Each year we promote a variety of reward and recognition schemes which showcase teams that thrive on the talents of all members, and colleagues who inspire those with whom they work.

We are ranked 10th in the world for Arts & Humanities and 3rd in the UK for Arts & Humanities (QS World University rankings 2023).

Our Strategy

The University of Edinburgh Strategy 2030 is rooted in our values, and led by a distinctive, honest and realistic set of guiding principles to deliver excellence in 2030.

We strive to:

- be a place of transformation and of self-improvement, driven to achieve benefit for individuals, communities, societies and our world;
- be diverse, inclusive and accessible to all;
- be ambitious, bold and act with integrity, always being willing to listen;
- have a strong sense of community, fostering a sustainable environment in which staff, students, alumni and friends are proud to be part of our University;
- attract the world's best minds to come to study and work with us while building innovative global partnerships for research, teaching and impact;
- celebrate and strengthen our deep-rooted and distinctive internationalism; and
- sustain a deep allegiance and commitment to the interests of the city and region in which we are based, alongside our national and international efforts.

Creating new opportunities for partners, friends, neighbours, and supporters to co-create, engage with the world, and amplify our impacts is at the forefront of our thinking and activity.





THE EDINBURGH FUTURES INSTITUTE

We are for the pathfinders, the inquisitive and those who want to make our complex world better.

We respond to, and reflect on, the future/s of education through innovations in teaching and learning. We believe higher education has an important role to play in creating citizens who are equipped with interdisciplinary tools, creativity and innovation that can help us face the challenges of the rapidly changing world, including advancements in AI, data and digital technologies.

The Institute is one of six Hubs underpinning the University's Data Driven Innovation (DDI) programme, focusing on aspects of AI and Data related to Science and Technology with a focus on innovation and external collaboration. Operational since 2019 and opened in 2023, we are an interdisciplinary institute with a focus on data and collaboration, offering undergraduate and postgraduate education, support for research and knowledge exchange and co-location with external partners in a newly renovated, state-of-the-art city centre location.

We have developed 13 new, interdisciplinary taught Masters programmes, drawing on the world-class research and teaching expertise from across the University of Edinburgh to provide our students with the knowledge and skills they need to face the future. Our undergraduate MA (Hons) in Interdisciplinary Futures launched in September 2023. This programme is designed to develop key employability skills and collaborative experiences, focused on global and local challenges, and linked to cutting-edge research and the big future issues facing our planet and societies. We intend to grow our student numbers over the next five years to around 1,200 FTE.

'The most interesting part of Edinburgh Futures Institute is the interdisciplinary nature of it, the collaborative nature of it, the fact that even though you're on your programme, you're in and among lots and lots of different students from different programmes. It's not streamlined in the way that other postgraduate things are where you have your cohort and that's it. As a part-time student, I'm meeting people that are doing this course from China, from Chile, from South Africa, from Berlin. It's global, and it's that community, it is just such an amazing opportunity...'

Jo, MSc Education Futures postgraduate student

The Institute occupies the iconic, Category A listed Old Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, with 20,000m² of restored space which includes state-of-the-art teaching facilities, rooms for co-working with industry partners, incubation areas for businesses, labs for innovation and prototyping and exhibition and performance spaces.



Our building serves as one of the University's front doors, open to the wider community. We honour the legacy of the former hospital by ensuring it continues to serve as a space that enables people to come together in different ways, in-person and online. We sponsor co-produced events, festivals, temporary and online exhibitions, and permanent artworks and installations around the Futures Institute building. In August 2024, the Edinburgh International Book Festival, the largest public celebration of the written word in the world, will take place in the Futures Institute building for the first time.

Edinburgh Futures Institute is part of a regional powerhouse for collaboration and data innovation with industry partners. Our research and engagement activity focuses on challenges and opportunities posed by data driven innovation in four main sectors: fintech and financial services, public services, tourism and festivals, and creative industries; and two cross-cutting themes: future infrastructure and the ethics of data and Artificial Intelligence.

We collaborate with a broad range of organisations to address complex challenges and make positive impact. We offer sector-focused events and networking, co-creation and design thinking workshops, and futures-focused facilitation and consultancy. Our collaboration opportunities are designed to bring academic and industry expertise together to develop innovation capacity and create solutions, and we look to create and nurture long-term strategic partnerships.

This leadership role is critical to the delivery of the DDI programme and the City Region Deal, and so the Director will work closely with the five other DDI Hubs and the Senior Responsible Officer for the DDI programme, as well as with colleagues in the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, but also other Colleges, aligned to development of sector-led cross-disciplinary innovation.

Working in partnership with other DDI leads to drive a major innovation regional programme, your leadership and impact will accelerate our ambitions in entrepreneurship, translational research and industry engagement strategy, operating at the interface between a cross-College academic community and the Programme Operating Board.

A key requirement at this stage of the DDI programme is delivery of major investment opportunities to take the Institute, as well as the DDI programme, to the next stage in collaboration with regional, UK and international organisations. You will take overall responsibility for driving the innovative EFI programme, seeking to take full advantage of collaborations with external partner organisations, as well as integration and opportunities to work with other DDI Hubs. Confident and creative, you will build, develop and maximise trusted relationships externally and internally to deliver significant investment. You will be supported by, and work closely with, the EFI Chief Operating Officer to this end.

The Futures Institute employs around 70 professional services staff to support academic colleagues from across the University to come together with students and partners to challenge, create and make change. Our academic faculty and leadership is drawn from across the University and focuses on teaching, research and innovation.

Governance and Engagement

Our Director has a dual reporting line to the Head of College and the Provost, and is supported directly by the EFI Chief Operating Officer, the executive team and the Edinburgh Futures Institute Management Group. We work closely with our newly established Strategic Board which includes membership from across the University, reflecting our interdisciplinary and strategic nature.

During our Annual Planning Round, we draw upon the collective expertise of our academic and professional services teams, who work collaboratively to shape and deliver on our current and future activities.

Our new building will include members and partners active in our key industry sectors and we plan to introduce a Stakeholder Advisory Board comprising membership from our academic research centres and clusters, our partners and members and key external organisations. This will help us to ensure our work remains relevant and connected locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

We are looking forward to the appointment of our new Director and to working together to realise our ambitions.

THE POSITION

RESPONSIBILITIES

Provide strategic leadership in education, research and innovation, including development and implementation of the shared vision for the Institute that embodies agility and flexibility to allow the Institute to respond appropriately to changes in internal and external context.

Create a positive and collegial environment that promotes and supports equality, diversity and inclusion, and places emphasis on open communication, where all students, members of staff and partners are engaged and their contributions are encouraged and recognised.

Contribute to the development of College and University plans and develop the Institute's plan in line with overall College and University strategy. Set and monitor goals and performance standards to optimise the use of all of Edinburgh Futures Institute's resources, in support of Institute, College and University objectives and, where necessary, ensuring corrective action is taken.

Champion the development of constructive working relationships between Edinburgh Futures Institute and colleagues in other parts of the University, in order to facilitate mutual understanding and effective joint working.

Fulfil an ambassadorial role for the Institute, the College and the University, working with relevant colleagues and professional support units to facilitate, establish and maintain productive relationships with external stakeholders to maximise any available opportunities. External stakeholders will include academic collaborators, alumni, donors, industry and commercial partners.



THE PERSON

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Essential

- Proven ability to develop, articulate and sustain a shared vision in the delivery of a holistic strategic plan
- Internationally recognised experience and expertise in areas relevant to Edinburgh Futures Institute's work
- Inclusive and well-developed interpersonal and leadership skills, able to demonstrate credibility, diplomacy and tenacity
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written, the ability to flex style and approach to audience (including students, academic colleagues, government entities, public, private and third sector organisations and the public), and an understanding of the critical importance of communications in effective leadership and management
- Proven ability rapidly to develop understanding of organisational context and culture and sector-level opportunities and challenges
- Ability to represent the institution externally or working with external bodies (e.g. academic collaborators, alumni, donors, industry and commercial partners)
- Ability to take an organisation-wide perspective within a large and complex institution and to collaborate with other parts of the organisation to achieve shared strategic objectives
- Strong track record of partnership working, building strong and trusted relationships to deliver shared goals
- Experience in driving entrepreneurship / adoption with external organisations
- Expertise in the application of data to drive initiatives and growth
- An appreciation of the range, depth and diversity of the Institute's activities
- Demonstrable knowledge of, and commitment to, principles of equality, diversity and inclusion
- An effective, consultative and inclusive approach to leading people, reflecting the ability to coordinate, manage differing views and build consensus to deliver shared goals, combined with executive decision-making ability
- An ability to work effectively, collaboratively and at pace with academic and professional services colleagues

Desirable

- Sound knowledge of financial management of a large academic unit
- Experience of entrepreneurship, as founder, investor or both
- Knowledge and understanding of the HE sector in the UK or internationally
- Demonstrable experience of successful influencing at senior government level
- Understanding of student experience related issues e.g. student support, how to engage and involve students and improve communication
- Board-level experience in a large organisation
- Internationally recognised scholarship in areas relevant to the Institute
- Teaching and research experience commensurate with a senior appointment





THE LOCATION

Edinburgh is a beautiful city that has something to offer everyone. Whether you prefer a quiet restaurant, a lively night out or something in between, you are bound to find it in Edinburgh. Regularly ranked as on the “Best Place to Live in the UK”, Edinburgh has many strings to its bow.

Culture and Entertainment

Home to the largest arts festival in the world, The Edinburgh International Festival brings the month of August alive in the city where residents are spoilt with first class theatre, music, performance art and comedy all on their doorstep. The abundance of galleries and museums such as The Museum of Scotland, Scottish National Gallery and Scottish National Portrait Gallery to name but a few, means that there is always opportunity to soak up some culture all year round.

For those who wish to feed their bellies as well as their minds, Edinburgh boasts the highest number of Michelin starred restaurants in the Scotland and has more restaurants per head of population than any other UK city outside of London. The historic appeal of the Athens of the North has led it to become renowned for its monuments and attractions including the Scott Monument, National Monument on Calton Hill and of course the Edinburgh Castle itself; which dominates the city skyline, no more so than on Hogmanay with the world’s biggest street party and fireworks extravaganza to match!

Transport

Air Links - Several airlines fly to the Edinburgh from the principal European cities, and there are very frequent services from London. If booked well in advance, travel to Edinburgh by air can be cheap, particularly from London. For more information check the Edinburgh Airport website. Bus and tram connections operate 24/7 and with an average journey time of 25-30mins form the city centre. Rail Links - Travelling to Edinburgh from other parts of the UK is generally easy by train and both Waverly and Haymarket train stations are centrally located with support routes provided by the bus and tram networks. Transport Around Edinburgh – Edinburgh has an excellent level of public transport provision compared to many cities in the UK. We have our own Transport and Parking Department here in the University of Edinburgh and they can provide lots of advice on getting around the city plus details on staff parking facilities on campus.

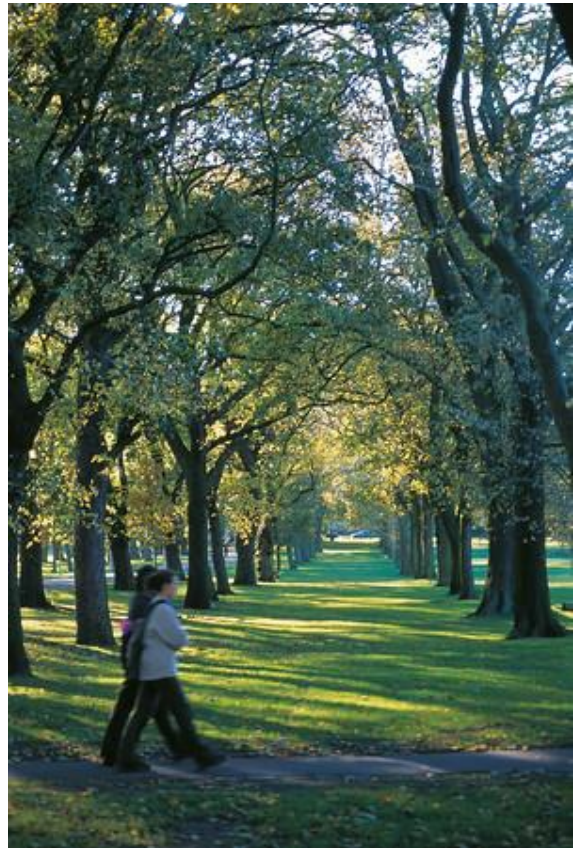
Edinburgh Districts

Edinburgh is a highly sought after place to live. Its beautiful city centre covers the Georgian splendour of the New Town, with its grand terraces, crescents, gardens, and upmarket shopping boutiques and bars, and the narrow closes, winding stairways, and historic charms of the Old Town. Nearby communities such as Morningside, Bruntsfield, Stockbridge and Newington remain in easy reach of the city centre as well provide a local community feel. Explore all of Edinburgh's districts on our [website](#).

Nurseries and Schools

Based at King's Buildings, The University's Arcadia Nursery, designed around the concept of 'free play' by award winning architect Malcolm Fraser and provides the perfect environment for children to blossom. There is however, no obligation to place your child in University's nursery. There are many other childcare options in Edinburgh. The Edinburgh Council website provides information about childcare across the City. There are two main types of school in the UK, state and independent schools. State Schools make up the majority of schools and are funded by the government. There is no fee for your children to attend these schools. Independent schools require a fee for your child to study there, although there are bursaries available.

The school your child can attend is usually dictated by the area in which you live. You cannot apply for a school place until you have an address in the area (this is not the case for fee paying / independent schools). The council has 'catchment areas' for each school and have a duty to provide schooling for your child, but if your first-choice school has no places left, they may have to recommend a school further away. As Edinburgh is our capital city, many of the schools fill up quickly. Some families consider living a commutable distance from the city in order to have a larger choice of schools. East Lothian and West Lothian Councils cover school areas a commutable distance from Edinburgh.



HOW TO APPLY

Enquiries or applications can be made, in confidence, to Mary Comer or Evan Yeckley at WittKieffer.

Applications should include the following:

- an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae; and
- a covering letter (of no more than two A4 pages) summarising your experience, attributes and your view of your overall suitability for the role.

Completed applications should be submitted electronically to mcomer@wittkieffer.com or eyeckley@wittkieffer.com

The closing date for applications is **Friday 19 April 2024 at 12 noon.**

A schedule of interviews has been set and applicants must be able to attend the formal interviews, which will be held in Edinburgh on **Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 June 2024.**

