



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

Director

**Senator George J. Mitchell
Institute for Global Peace,
Security and Justice**

Candidate Information



WittKieffer

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WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR SIR IAN GREER



Dear Candidate,

It is a pleasure to welcome you as a prospective candidate for the position of Director of the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's University Belfast.

As one of our flagship interdisciplinary research institutes, the Mitchell Institute embodies Queen's commitment to advancing scholarly excellence in service of global peacebuilding, social transformation, and justice. In a world marked by growing complexity and division, the Institute's work—rooted in the distinctive legacy of Northern Ireland's peace process—carries renewed urgency and relevance. Its work resonates globally through high-profile partnerships, innovative programmes, and a commitment to shaping policy and practice at the local, national and international levels.

Queen's is proud to be in a strong and sustainable financial position, enabling continued investment in research infrastructure and strategic leadership. The next Director of the Mitchell Institute will play a vital role in shaping the next chapter of this internationally recognised centre of excellence. We are seeking a distinguished academic leader with a compelling vision for collaborative scholarship, external engagement, and the continued growth of the Institute's global reputation and impact.

I hope that, as you explore this opportunity, you will gain a sense of the ambition and collegial spirit that defines both the Institute and the wider University. I very much look forward to your continued engagement with the process.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Greer
President and Vice-Chancellor
Queen's University Belfast



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Queen's University Belfast (Queen's) is a leading centre of academic excellence with a distinguished heritage and a global outlook. Founded in 1845 as one of three Queen's Colleges in Ireland, it has grown into a world-class institution that combines tradition with innovation, and local impact with international reach.

Situated in the heart of Belfast, Queen's is a cornerstone of Northern Ireland's educational, cultural, and economic life. The University serves a diverse community of over 25,000 students and 4,000 staff, drawn from more than 80 countries. Its historic Lanyon Building, a symbol of academic heritage, sits alongside cutting-edge research facilities and modern learning environments, reflecting the University's commitment to both legacy and progress.

Now one of the world's top 200 universities (QS World University Rankings, 2026), Queen's is globally recognised for the quality and impact of its research. It is home to several internationally renowned research centres and institutes, including those focused on health sciences, cybersecurity, peace and conflict resolution, and sustainable energy. The University's research excellence is matched by its dedication to teaching and learning, with a strong emphasis on student experience, employability and innovation.

Queen's is in a positive financial position, with strong cash reserves and limited debt. Indeed, Queen's debt levels are some of the lowest in sector (and, in fact, the Russell Group), which allows the University to make long-term, strategic decisions, in the face of challenges faced across the sector.

The University plays a pivotal role in the economic and social development of Northern Ireland. As a major employer and anchor institution, Queen's contributes significantly to regional growth through knowledge transfer, skills development, and civic engagement. Its partnerships with industry, government, and the voluntary sector ensure that its research and teaching remain relevant, responsive, and impactful.

Queen's is also a truly global university and is ranked 6th in the world for international outlook (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025) and 19th in Europe for International Faculty (2025 QS Europe University Rankings). It maintains strategic partnerships with leading institutions across Europe, North America, Asia, and beyond, and is a destination of choice for international students and scholars. Its global engagement is underpinned by a commitment to diversity, inclusion, and sustainability — values that are deeply embedded in the University's culture and strategic direction.

With a proud history, a dynamic present, and a bold vision for the future, Queen's University Belfast continues to shape the world through education, research, and leadership. It is a place where knowledge is created, shared, and applied for the benefit of society — locally, nationally, and globally.

VISION

Queen's vision is to be a global research-intensive university, generating internationally leading research coupled with outstanding teaching and learning, focused on the needs of society, locally and globally.

MISSION

Queen's will deliver a world-class student experience and education, and conduct leading-edge education and research, focused on the needs of society.

OUR VALUES

Queen's is guided by five core values, captured in the acronym **ICARE**:

Integrity – Acting ethically and holding ourselves accountable.

Connectivity – Engaging with the world while embracing our local heritage.

Ambition – Striving for excellence and embracing challenges.

Respect – Valuing diversity and inspiring positive change.

Excellence – Pursuing the highest standards in all we do.

These values shape the University's culture and inform its approach to leadership, collaboration, and impact.





STRATEGY 2030: SHAPING A BETTER WORLD

Queen's University Belfast's Strategy 2030 sets out a bold and ambitious vision for the next decade: to shape a better world through life-changing education and research. Developed through extensive consultation with staff, students, and external stakeholders, the strategy reflects the University's commitment to excellence, inclusion, and global impact in a rapidly changing world.

At the heart of Strategy 2030 is a focus on five strategic priorities:

- A Global University: Expanding Queen's international reach through partnerships, collaboration, and a reputation for diversity, inclusion, and sustainability.
- A Transformative Education and Student Experience: Delivering flexible, lifelong learning that equips students to become engaged global citizens.
- Research of the Highest Quality and Impact: Advancing world-leading research with real-world application, underpinned by strong industry and civic partnerships.
- A Great Place to Work: Fostering a culture of empowerment, equality, and wellbeing for all staff.
- An Anchor Institution: Playing a central role in Northern Ireland's social and economic recovery, with a focus on civic responsibility and environmental sustainability.

The strategy positions Queen's as a driver of innovation and progress — locally rooted, globally connected, and committed to addressing the grand challenges of our time. It is a roadmap for transformation, ensuring that Queen's continues to lead with purpose, resilience, and impact.

THE SENATOR GEORGE J. MITCHELL INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL PEACE, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

Established in 2016, the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice is a home for inter-disciplinary research in areas of major societal change. The Institute's approach is based on three foundational convictions:

- that it is impossible properly to understand or pursue peace, security or justice without understanding and pursuing them all
- that it is vital to support inter-disciplinary research and education
- that research, education, societal engagement and real-world impact are all necessarily interwoven with each other.

The Mitchell Institute therefore brings together researchers and experts from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds to address some of the world's greatest problems. It produces pioneering and influential **Research** into diverse but integrated aspects of peace, security and justice; it fosters transformative and inter-disciplinary **Education**, especially for graduate students; and it is committed to **Societal Engagement and Real-World Impact** in partnership locally, nationally and globally, and in pursuit of global peace, security and justice.

The Mitchell Institute's work is strongly influenced by its distinctive location within a society which has long experienced division and conflict, and which has witnessed a transformative peace process. Some of the Institute's work focuses directly on that distinctive experience, and much of its work is enriched by expertise and ideas drawn from it. The Institute embodies a commitment that local, national and global insights regarding peace, security and justice can and should be integrated and of practical benefit across all societies.





THE POSITION

JOB PURPOSE

Applications are invited for appointment to the role of Director of the Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice. The Director will provide strategic vision and leadership for this international research institute and evolve the Institute's international reputation by promoting a culture of high-quality interdisciplinary research translation and innovation that is internationally exemplary and impactful.

The role will publicly represent the Institute and University and network extensively with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders including students, academics, politicians, diplomats, business, philanthropists, media and the wider public.

The Director is expected to deliver an overall plan for the Institute that attracts funding to support the Institutes research programmes and stimulates international partnerships. The Director will also foster cross-School, and cross-Faculty education and research collaborations, as well as lead the Institute's contribution to citizenship activities.

In addition to the strategic development of the Institute, the Director is responsible to the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) Pro Vice-Chancellor through the devolved accountability model, for the management of all financial, physical and human resources as well as for the corporate governance of the Centre.





THE ROLE

- Providing intellectual, strategic and dynamic leadership to the Institute aimed at enhancing its reputation and standing as an exemplary global research centre.
- To develop a compelling and ambitious vision for the Institute which promotes interdisciplinary research aimed at addressing societal transformation and sustainability.
- To foster transformative and interdisciplinary education across schools and Faculties, especially for graduate students and promote opportunities for knowledge sharing.
- To develop and manage strong international partnerships which enhances the work and impact of the Institute and University, with specific focus on the further development of the International Advisory Board (IAB) of the Institute and ensure engagement of members and their contribution to the strategic development of the Institute.
- To provide support, guidance and mentorship to the Institute staff and affiliates, proactively developing early career academics and fostering a high performing culture of ambition and excellence.
- To manage the Institute's budgets and develop opportunities to generate revenue to enable further expansion of the Institute's activities and its impact.
- To sustain an active research profile, attracting research income and undertaking scholarly activity leading to societal impact and informing government policy or legislation.
- Act as an ambassador for the Institute, the Faculty (AHSS) and University, raising its profile nationally and internationally.

THE PERSON

Candidates will be a member of the professoriate and be able to demonstrate and evidence:

- **Academic Distinction:** an exceptional academic record in the field of conflict, peace, security or justice, including a sustained record of internationally influential publications in the relative discipline, a record of securing research grant awards and evidence of international esteem, through examples of non-academic impact, such as policy influence
- **Academic Leadership:** strong intellectual leadership skills evidence by a substantial record of achievement in leading a significant programme of academic work, for example forming impactful relationships with external stakeholders, promoting interdisciplinary research and education initiatives
- **Commitment to Diversity and Collaboration:** a strong record of promoting interdisciplinary research and promoting collaborative working across schools and faculties championing diversity and debate
- **Visionary Leadership:** the ability to lead and motivate a team, cultivate a collaborative working environment, promote shared objectives, achieve an ambitious culture of research excellence and develop the structures and practices which define a high performing team
- **Networking and Influencing:** An exemplary communicator with the ability to communicate and influence at the highest level of academia and government and engage a range of internal and external stakeholders - including academics, students, politicians, diplomats, business, philanthropists, media and wider public

The Director of the Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice should expect to travel regularly.

Appointment to the Director position will be for a period of four years, or as mutually agreed with the Faculty Pro-Vice Chancellor. The successful candidate will **maintain a substantive permanent position** in the relevant school. For the duration of their appointment as Director they will be seconded from the School.





THE LOCATION – BELFAST

Belfast is a city that blends rich history with a vibrant, modern outlook — a capital that is as welcoming as it is ambitious. As the cultural and economic heart of Northern Ireland, Belfast offers an exceptional quality of life, making it an attractive destination for professionals, academics, and families alike.

The city is known for its warmth and hospitality, with a strong sense of community and a dynamic social and cultural scene. From world-class museums and theatres to independent cafés, music venues, and festivals, Belfast is a city that celebrates creativity and connection. The Queen's Quarter — home to the University — is a particularly lively area, filled with green spaces, historic architecture, and a thriving mix of restaurants, galleries, and cultural institutions.

Belfast is also one of the most affordable cities in the UK. Northern Ireland has the lowest student living costs in the UK (Save the Student National Student Money Survey 2024) and this affordability extends to professionals and families as well. Housing is competitively priced, commutes are short, and the overall cost of living is significantly lower than in many other UK urban centres.

For those relocating, Belfast offers a range of attractive residential neighbourhoods, from the leafy suburbs of South Belfast to the vibrant city centre. The city is well connected by public transport and is just a short flight from London, Dublin, and other major European cities. Its compact size makes it easy to navigate, while its growing economy and investment in infrastructure continue to enhance its appeal as a place to live and work.

Whether you're drawn by the career opportunities, the cultural life, or the stunning natural surroundings — including the nearby Mourne Mountains and Causeway Coast — Belfast offers a unique and rewarding lifestyle. It is a city on the rise, with Queen's University Belfast at its heart.

"Queen's is one of the top 10 most beautiful universities in the UK" (Times Higher Education, 2025)

ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS

SEARCH AND SELECTION PROCESS

Applications or enquiries should be made with WittKieffer, the executive search firm exclusively engaged to assist with the appointment.

Applicants should submit a CV accompanied by a Cover Letter (maximum 2 pages) outlining their suitability for the position and addressing how they satisfy the person specification criteria.

Applications should be submitted by **5pm 19 September 2025**

Please submit your application to gdrummond@wittkieffer.com.

For a confidential discussion about the role and the expectations, please contact:

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