

Chair of the Board

The Chair of the Board of Directors has a general responsibility to lead the Board, ensuring that it fulfils its responsibilities for the governance of Independent Higher Education (IHE) and for the development of its strategy and forward planning, working in partnership with the Chief Executive to achieve the aims of the organisation.

The Chair will also be, along with the Chief Executive, the public face of Independent Higher Education. They will therefore be required to represent the association from time to time at public functions and in the media, when either the Chief Executive is not available or it is desirable for the voice of a provider to be heard.

Specifically, the Chair:

1. working with the Board, ensures that IHE works within its organisational objects, delivers benefit to members and, as a company limited by guarantee, abides by all applicable laws;
2. helps with profile raising and representational work on higher education issues and for IHE itself;
3. raises with ministers or senior officials – or heads of other agencies – any major aspects of concern or substantial proposals for changes to policy or practice;
4. chairs meetings of the Board (at least four per year), chairs the Annual General Meeting, attends the Annual Conference each autumn, and chairs ad hoc working groups if the need arises;
5. takes Chair's action between meetings in consultation with the Chief Executive, other Board members and chairs of sub-committees as appropriate;
6. represents the organisation from time to time at meetings, events and receptions;
7. provides advice and guidance to the Chief Executive;
8. conducts annual appraisal of Chief Executive and settles pay (and any conditions of service issues) along with other honorary officers (Vice Chair and Honorary Treasurer), and reports to the Board on an annual basis;
9. leads search for a new Chief Executive when the need arises and helps find his or her own successor, other honorary officers and Board Members.

Person specification

Given the rising profile of independent providers, the widespread reforms taking place in the higher education sector, and the increasing public and media focus on us, this is an important national leadership role within and on behalf of the sector. The Chair (and Vice Chair) will therefore be a prominent Vice-Chancellor, Principal, CEO or Managing Director of an independent university, college or other HE provider which is a member of IHE.

INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION

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In addition to experience and expertise in strategy and resource management, and a knowledge of the obligations of company directors, the individual must above all have a personal interest in, and be an influential and authoritative voice on, IHE and related matters of educational quality, reform and innovation. In order to achieve this, the Chair will be expected to demonstrate personal integrity, a strategic vision and good, independent judgement, while also being aware that what they say in public will be generally interpreted as reflecting the organisational view of IHE.