

Senior Finance Business Partner

Welcome from the Chief Financial Officer



Thank you for expressing an interest in the role of Senior Finance Business Partner.

The University of Greenwich is a very special place and is rightly proud of its heritage in providing transformative experiences for students from all walks of life. We are equally proud of our high standards of applied research and enterprise which support economic growth, social impact and sustainability.

As we move into a new era, we are passionate and focused on the future and our collective ambition is to become the best modern university in the UK by 2030. We will achieve this by focusing on student experience and success, investing in our knowledge exchange capability and building upon our existing achievement in applied, impactful research.

We have ambitious plans for our three campuses in London and Kent and these are founded upon our commitment to build successful partnerships, providing sector leading facilities and attracting talent on a global scale. We are particularly proud of our diverse student and staff body and our explicit commitment to equality, equity and inclusion.

We are looking for a Senior Finance Business Partner to actively input into the development and deployment of the Finance strategic priorities to support of the University's 'This is Our Time 2030' strategy. The Senior Finance Business Partner will contribute to the CFO team's vision "to become a forward thinking, inclusive CFO Team consistently offering excellent service delivery, uncompromising on quality, delivering value and ensuring the financial sustainability of the University".

If you have a drive for excellence, ambition, professional credibility, and share our passion for higher education and its power to create opportunities and change lives for the better, I encourage you to make an application for this role.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Louise Watson'.

Louise Watson
Chief Financial Officer

Great things about the University of Greenwich

- We have more than 125 years of experience providing quality education.
- We have won five Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education, including a prize in 2019 for our Natural Resources Institute's ground-breaking work to find smart solutions for pest control in the developing world.
- Our Greenwich Campus is based on a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and we are custodian of 16 listed buildings of special architectural or historic interest.
- 90% of our students are in employment or further study six months after graduation.
- In the 2019 National Student Survey, more than 82% of our final-year undergraduate students said they were satisfied, overall, with their course, one of the highest scores among universities in London.
- We have won nine Times Higher Education awards, including Most Innovative Teacher and Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology.
- Nobel Prize winner Professor Charles Kao, pioneer of fibre optics, was educated here.
- We are proud of the diversity of our international student body and our engagement in transnational education. The university has around 15,000 students in ca.31 partnerships across 19 countries. Our UK-based students come from more than 146 countries, and in 2018–19 22% were domiciled from outside the UK.
- In 2018, we established the University of Greenwich International College (UGIC) in partnership with Oxford International. Located on our Greenwich Campus, UGIC is an embedded college which offers an exciting range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses for international students leading to progression to the university.
- We've a 1st class environment rating from the People & Planet University League for our environmental and ethical performance.
- The university is well positioned for attracting students. QS Best Student Cities ranked London as the world's most student-friendly city in its 2018 edition.
- Improvements in our student experience include Dreadnought Building, a £25 million conversion which brings together all student-facing services on Greenwich Campus in one place for the first time; the Medway Student Hub, a new on-campus entertainment and social space; our award-winning Stockwell Street Building, which houses the main library; and the Cooper Powerhouse, a research, enterprise and teaching hub supporting student entrepreneurship.
- Our Teaching Excellence Framework Silver rating indicates that we provide our students with engaging, personalised teaching that encourages their commitment to learning and study.
- Our academic staff includes recipients of the prestigious National Teaching Fellowship, which recognises and rewards individual excellence in teaching in higher education.
- Ofsted has given us its 'Outstanding' rating for the quality of our training in primary education.
- Two of the recent winners of the British Journal of Midwifery's Student Midwife of the Year award have come from the University of Greenwich.
- The university has two Guardian University Awards for Research Impact. Guardian University Awards showcase world-class teaching, research, leadership and engagement within the higher education sector.
- Life-saving research carried out by the university includes projects to reduce loss of life during fire evacuations and to develop a trap for a malaria-carrying species of mosquito.
- Our alumni excel in every walk of life. They range from lawyer Shabina Begum, a campaigner for the empowerment and protection of women, to composer Guy Penwill, a member of a double Oscar-winning special effects team, and Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and winner of the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. Our annual Greenwich Portraits exhibition recognises some of our most outstanding alumni.



About the university

The university takes its name from the Royal Borough of Greenwich in London. Greenwich has a long and rich history which forms the backdrop and inspiration for today's university. Many of the buildings on Greenwich Campus were designed at the end of the 17th century by Sir Christopher Wren, one of Britain's greatest architects, and the work was overseen by Nicholas Hawksmoor and Sir John Vanbrugh, both towering figures in their field.

The £76 million Stockwell Street Building continues this tradition of innovative architecture within the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site.

Altogether, the university is custodian of 16 listed buildings, including the grand former Royal Naval Barracks at Chatham Maritime, now home to the Medway Campus.

More information on [Governance and University Leadership](#) is available on our webpages.

Our vision, our values and our strategy

Our vision for 2030 is to be the best modern university in the UK.

Our university is a community of people from many walks of life. We take pride in the diversity of our subject expertise, the lived experience of our staff, students and alumni, and the diversity of campus experiences we offer. This diversity is our strength and enables us to say we are a university that empowers others to make a difference locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, with equal intensity.

What makes the university distinctive is that we proactively support our students and staff to achieve their ambitions because of rather than despite, their backgrounds.

The University of Greenwich Strategy is driven by the vision of Education without Boundaries, underpinned by the values of inclusivity, collaboration and impact

and principles of creating opportunities, building partnerships and delivering impact.

The University has four Strategic Priorities:

- 1 Student Success
- 2 Inclusivity and Culture
- 3 Research and Knowledge Exchange
- 4 Connected Sustainable Campuses

Education Without Boundaries means:

Widening access to higher education for individuals who may otherwise not aspire to experience and benefit from it.

Fighting for improved social mobility and equality, diversity and inclusions in everything that we do.

Empowering our students to use their lived experience to stand out in their chosen vocation in the workplaces of tomorrow.

Empowering our staff to innovate in a way that makes a difference academically, commercially and socially.

Providing physical and digital campus services that foster a sense of community to build networks, peers, friends and connections that set our students up for life.

Breaking down boundaries that exist within and between academic disciplines, locations and borders.

Ensuring an equitable focus on local (civic), regional, national and global agendas.

4th in the UK

for delivering degrees around the world

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Over half of our new students come from some of the most deprived areas in the country

Office for Students access and participation data, 2021

Study at a university with internationally recognised green credentials

1st class rating for our environmental and ethical performance



(2021 People & Planet University League)

1st Class rating by the People & Planet University League for our environmental and ethical performance

57% of our new students come from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background

Office for Student access and participation data, 2021

11th worldwide in the category of reducing inequalities

(The 2021 Times Higher Education Global Impact Ratings)

#1 modern London uni for graduate prospects

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES
GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE
2022

Our faculties

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences provides courses in architecture, landscape architecture and the built environment; design, drama, film and media; humanities and social sciences; and law and criminology.

The faculty is based on the historic Greenwich Campus, part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site in south-east London. Students who study here have easy access to the capital's rich cultural life, with world-famous theatres, galleries and museums within easy reach.

Among the faculty's impressive facilities are industry-standard computer labs, video and film-making studios, a 100-seat theatre, and a mootings space for law students.

Many of its courses are accredited by professional bodies, ensuring students graduate with the skills and knowledge required by their chosen professions.

Greenwich Business School

Greenwich Business School's international focus fits perfectly with today's global economy. It offers dynamic courses that combine academic learning with hands-on experience, preparing students for successful business careers and leadership roles.

A major benefit of studying at the school is its location. Greenwich Campus is within easy reach of Canary Wharf, one of the world's key financial districts and a major provider of business internships, work experience and placements.

Students choose from a wide variety of courses, including MBAs and research degrees. Subjects include accountancy and finance, business studies, economics, financial services, international marketing and personnel management. The school works with employers to develop courses that are accredited by the relevant professional bodies.

Faculty of Education, Health and Human Sciences

The Faculty of Education, Health and Human Sciences has provided high-quality education for more than a century.

The faculty focuses on giving students the skills they need to start or boost their careers and meet the requirements of the relevant professional bodies. Many of its students go on to become teachers, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, psychologists and public health professionals, or find other rewarding careers that bring real benefits to society.

Teaching and research facilities range from clinical skill laboratories that replicate NHS wards to innovative spaces for learning to teach PE, design technology, music and science. Tutors are active in research and are leading authorities in their fields.

Faculty of Engineering and Science

The Faculty of Engineering and Science is a hub for innovation on both our Medway and Greenwich Campuses. Its students study engineering and construction; science; pharmacy; and computer science, mathematics, and games and digital media.

The faculty's close-knit community includes academics who are active in life-changing research with impacts in the UK and around the globe. Teaching is supported by industry-standard labs, a replica pharmacy, crime scene examination rooms, and a range of IT facilities.

Many of the faculty's courses combine academic learning with hands-on experience, including our range of Integrated Master's Degrees with industrial placements.

The faculty includes the Natural Resources Institute, a multidisciplinary organisation that provides award-winning research in areas such as food, agriculture and the environment.



Senior Finance Business Partner

Job Purpose:

To inspire and lead a high performing team to oversee the financial performance management across core finance disciplines including capital accounting, research, income, cost, and contribution for a portfolio of Faculty and Directorates. Ensure financial sustainability consideration is at the centre of insight, analysis and decision making. Owning the relationship with the Senior Management Team (SMT) of the Directorates and Faculty in their portfolio, the role holder will need a strong business partnering mindset exemplifying excellent service delivery and being uncompromising on quality. A forward-looking outlook that proactively provides decision support, and critical friend approach to advice and support Faculty and Directorate financial decisions. Excellent commercial acumen and filter to know when to escalate financial concerns. The role will work within a business partner community that operates collaboratively to enhance service delivery and decision making. This role will also require an individual with a passion for developing and coaching team members to reach their potential.

Key Responsibilities:

Finance Performance Management

- Responsible for working with the Faculty and Directorate Senior Management teams, to provide decision support in the development of their budget, 5-year financial planning, and quarterly forecast plans. Oversee inputting of Faculty and Directorate owned plans into finance system.
- Providing strategic advice in developing business cases, decision support on strategic initiative. Proactively exposing and testing scale of risks and opportunities within context of strategic direction of University and other external factors
- Providing financial strategic thinking and planning to Faculty / Directorates across core financial disciplines including capital, research, revenue, cost, and contribution
- Oversee analytical review and insight into monthly management account processes, working with Finance, Planning & Analysis team as appropriate.
- Oversee provision and review of data and information required for statutory and regulatory reporting including audit backing and documentation for financial statements

- Overseeing the support of local audits (e.g., of research grants, other external funding) ensuring positive outcomes as required

Business Partnering

- Act as the Finance representative at key senior leadership meetings for their Faculty/Directorate. They own the relationship with Faculties and Directorate on behalf of Finance
- Facilitates deployment of strategic Faculty/ Directorate led projects, new programmes and initiatives.
- Work collaboratively with Faculty/Directorate to lead on developing cost saving and revenue optimisation initiatives
- Work collaboratively with Senior Finance BP community leading on a technical or leadership themes to set standard practices and guidance on behalf of the BP community
- Work alongside the other Senior Finance Business Partners, FP&A Manager and Deputy Finance Director to define and model the culture, ways of working and service delivery standards for the Finance Business Partnering community.

Leadership & Team development

- Create an inclusive and diverse environment, role model and set expectations to lead a high performing team that embodies excellent service delivery and uncompromising quality
- Motivate, develop, and empower individual members of the team to realise their potential at both a personal level and as a key contributor to the team's performance.
- Manage and develop the team's service delivery model with it's business partners ensuring excellent service delivery, uncompromising on quality and embodying values of UoG
- Take on roles and responsibilities across the Finance Team as required
- Actively supporting CFO transformation programme and encouraging the team to take on activities that embrace the values of collaboration, inclusivity, and collaboration

Benchmarking and best practice

- Continuously identifying new and innovative finance management and leadership approaches which enhance stakeholder experience whilst meeting University needs. Present constructive challenge to traditional ways of working where scope for improvement in processes is identified.
- Proactively engage with peer networks to benchmark the performance of the service against other UK Universities, identifying ways to achieve better overall value outcomes for Faculties, Directorates and the University.
- Support and champion the adoption of the Oracle cloud-based platform and associated best practices across the Finance Directorate and Faculties and Directorates
- Work collaboratively with the Senior Business Partners and Faculty / Directorate senior leadership teams to enhance EPM's capability and use.

Managing Self

- Develop and exhibit excellent organisational, planning and time management skills.
- Display logical thinking with creative problem-solving.
- Excellent communication and negotiation skills.
- Able to build positive, collaborative relationships with a variety of stakeholders.
- Ability to work well with others and to provide leadership to a variety of internal and external stakeholders.

Key Performance Indicators

- Insightful and timely production of management information for their portfolio's leadership team
- High performing team standards/principles agreed with team are in place and KPIs/monitoring methods identified
- Development plans for all team members in place
- Ways of working and key deliverables agreed with partners / customers
- Voice of Customer satisfaction survey results are highly satisfied with the service provided by each team
- Continuous improvement plans in place to enhance business processes

Additional Requirements:

- The post holder will have access to a range of sensitive and key University systems, it is therefore

essential that they demonstrate a high level of professional integrity and discretion.

- Any other duties appropriate to the post and grade.

Key Relationships (Internal and External)

- Professional Services Directors / Faculty Senior Management Team
- Financial, Planning & Analysis Manager
- Other Senior Finance Business Partners
- Financial Controller

Person Specification

Essential

Experience:

- A CAAB qualified accountant (ACA, ACCA, CIMA, etc) with up-to-date knowledge and relevant management accounting experience
- Experience of leading Finance Teams / Professionals
- Track record of providing financial partnership to Senior managers

Skills

- Track record of developing and empowering individuals to realise their potential
- Excellent interpersonal skills/ emotional intelligence with the ability to constructively challenge at senior manager level adopting a customer focused approach
- Able to operate both at detail level and the summarise into clear, impactful insightful analysis for quick and informed decision making at senior manager level
- Comfortable dealing with ambiguity and developing solutions in an agile and flexible way
- Able to prioritise, organise and deliver a complex and changing workload under pressure to tight deadlines, without constant supervision
- Change agent, leading on improvement initiatives across different stakeholder groups
- We are looking for people who can help us deliver the values of the University of Greenwich: Collaboration, Inclusivity, Impactful, Desirable

Experience:

- Experience of working within Higher Education
- Experience in developing high-performance teams
- Oracle EPM Cloud experience
- Leading people or processes
- Educated to degree level or equivalent

How to apply

This is an exciting time to join us. If you share our commitment to Education Without Boundaries, we want to hear from you. Please review the full job description, candidate specification, role descriptors and details of how to apply, by clicking on the following link: <https://jobs.gre.ac.uk/3378-E>

For an informal discussion, please contact Matt Davidson at uog@pro-recruitment.co.uk / 020 4549 9942

Should you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact **Olakunle Taiwo** (Senior HR Recruitment Officer) - shrrec@greenwich.ac.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications is **Monday 12 December 2022**

A competitive salary commensurate with the post and generous terms of conditions of employment will be offered.

We are under-represented by BAME colleagues at this level and would encourage and welcome applications from BAME candidates.

We are looking for people who can help us deliver our mission of transforming lives through inspired teaching and research, through our values.



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