

Duties and Responsibilities of Members

1. The powers of the University derive from Section 125 of the Education Reform Act 1988 and are set out in the Articles of Government. The Board of Governors is the supreme governing body of the institution.
2. The Board is the employing body and is responsible for the overall organisational structure of the University and for its finances, property, investments and business. The Academic Board is responsible to the Board of Governors for regulating and directing the academic work of the University in teaching and research, including the award of degrees.
3. The University is an educational charitable corporation, exempt under the terms of the Charities Act 1993. The members of the Board of Governors as individuals are the managing trustees of that charity, although they are not in strict legal sense, trustees. As managing trustees, members have a duty to ensure that the University restricts itself to whatever may be reasonably necessary to carry out its duties of teaching, examining and research. Members are personally responsible for any breach of trust and this includes wilfully exceeding their powers or spending University funds on something outside the University's charitable objects. The Audit Committee will, of course, act vigorously to ensure that the University's spending of funds will be in strict compliance with their charitable objects.
4. Members of Council as managing trustees must at all times act in the best interests of the University and within the scope of their powers. Provided they do so as individuals, members will be indemnified by the University against the results of their actions or decisions. Members of the Board will not be held personally liable for debt in the event of the University becoming financially insolvent.