Guidance and Criteria for the Award of the Title of Personal Chair

1 Introduction
The title of Personal Chair may be awarded to academic grade 10 or equivalent staff. Candidates also seeking promotion to grade 10 should read this guidance in conjunction with the Academic Grade 10 Profile. A Personal Chair is the highest mark of distinction for the advancement of an academic discipline, the University and Student Education.

2 Essential Criteria
- Sustained achievement of the highest distinction, in the advancement of knowledge and understanding or its creative or professional application
  - evidenced by peer-reviewable output;
- Expectation of continuing contribution at that level;
- The ability to influence, stimulate and inspire others;
- Demonstrating academic leadership and acceptance of that responsibility.
- Sustained Recognition in an international context.

3 Additional Criteria
Where additional criteria are invoked the quantity (but not the quality) of the achievements required by the criteria in 0 above may be correspondingly reduced. The additional criteria may be any or all of:

3.1 Additional Criteria for all Chair Appointments
- Significant contribution to the strategic goals of the University;
- Professional standing commensurate with significant international recognition, as demonstrated by:
  - Advisory work;
  - Recognition by learned societies, professional bodies etc;
  - Other forms of external recognition and awards.
- Advancement and promotion of the subject or discipline through
  - Clinical or hospital service;
  - Leadership through administrative or managerial duties.
- Significant contribution to Public Understanding of academic research and/or scholarship
- Outstanding and sustained contribution to knowledge transfer

3.2 Additional Criteria for Chair Appointments with a Strong Focus on Education
- Outstanding contribution to student education, including practice in the field, which may include:
  - Advancement of disciplinary teaching (for example curriculum development);
  - Excellence as a teacher (including the ability to stimulate and inspire students at all levels);
  - Other forms of educational development (for example, assessment practice, digital learning);
  - Development of teaching materials including, influential textbooks.

3.3 Additional Criteria for Chair Appointments with a Strong Focus on Research
- Outstanding and sustained contribution through methods other than publication, which may include:
  - Applied research;
  - Consultancy;
  - Advanced professional practice;
  - Creative work;

4 Chair Title
The title of a Personal Chair will reflect either the detailed research area of the appointee or, for a Chair of Student Learning, will take the form Professor of Student Learning (Name of Subject).

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1 e.g. Clinical Academics at grade 10 level on the relevant Clinical scale
2 Academic leadership can be in any combination of education, research (and knowledge exchange) and management.
3 Exemplars of high-level achievements in education are given in the Exemplars of Excellence in Student Education.
4 The University website offers guidance for cases involving Knowledge Transfer and Interdisciplinary work.
5  History and Review

The structure and format of the Guidance and Criteria for the Award of Personal Chairs document was reviewed and revised by Professor Alan Murray (Assistant Principal- Academic Support). The revised document was subject to consultation with a wide range of senior academic colleagues across the three Colleges and published in July 2015.

In 2016 a number of further minor edits were made as part of the review of the Criteria for the role of Reader.

Feedback is welcome to: uhrs@ed.ac.uk

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