

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

1 Introduction

The award of the title of Personal Chair may be made to academic grade 10 or equivalent staff¹ of the University of Edinburgh. For anyone also applying for promotion to grade 10 this guidance should be read in conjunction with the [academic grade 10 profile](#).

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;
- The capacity for academic leadership² and acceptance of that responsibility.
- 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 2 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 international recognition, as demonstrated through:
 - 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

3.2 Additional Criteria for Chair Appointments with a Strong Focus on Education

- Outstanding contribution to student education, including excellence in 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 undergraduate and postgraduate students at all levels);
 - Other forms of educational development (for example, assessment practice);
 - Development of teaching materials including influential textbooks.

¹ e.g. Clinical Academics at Professorial level on the relevant Clinical grade as opposed to grade 10

² Academic leadership may include providing an inspirational lead in any combination of education, research and management.

3.3 Additional Criteria for Chair Appointments with a Strong Focus on Research

- Outstanding contribution through methods other than publication, which may include:
 - Applied research;
 - Consultancy;
 - Advanced professional practice;
 - Knowledge transfer;
 - 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)*.

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, Dean of Students, College of Science and Engineering. This revised document was subject to consultation with a wide range of senior academic colleagues across the three Colleges and published in July 2015.

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