

Academic Staff Member Election 2022

Pankaj Pankaj

My interest in becoming an Academic Staff Member of the University Court emanates from the belief that I can make a strong contribution to a number of areas of our University's strategic focus – teaching and learning, research, investing in and valuing its people, and developing innovative global partnerships.

I have been an academic at this University for 25 years – starting as a lecturer and being promoted to Senior Lecturer, Reader and then Professor. For the past 7 years I have also had an administrative role as International Dean for South Asia. While I am based in the School of Engineering, my teaching, research and administrative activities have spanned all three Colleges of the University and consequently I have a good understanding of the strengths and aspirations of colleagues at different career stages and in different parts of the University.

As a teacher I have developed several new courses and degree programmes – one in collaboration with the University of Glasgow. I have been nominated for EUSA teaching awards numerous times. I have been frequently invited to deliver guest lectures in CMVM and lectured in the “Edinburgh Orthopaedics Basic Science Course” for several years. In CAHSS I deliver guest lectures to architecture students.

As a researcher with expertise in solid mechanics, I established and lead the Computational Biomechanics group. My group has successfully exploited computational modelling to address real clinical problems. I collaborate with CMVM and have numerous joint publications with colleagues there. I have supervised MD and PhD theses of orthopaedic surgeons and delivered invited talks to clinicians in the UK, USA, The Netherlands, Spain, India and Taiwan. I have supervised and undertaken projects in collaboration with colleagues in the Edinburgh College of Art. I am on the Steering Committee of the Centre for South Asian Studies and have contributed to its activities.

As an International Dean for South Asia I have enhanced University's global engagement. Our University's engagement in South Asia has increased in the past few years with a number of major partnerships being established. My experience has shown that the key to establishing an innovative global partnership is internal discussions and buy-in from colleagues. I instigated and developed a unique partnership between the University of Edinburgh and the Government of Gujarat in India in the establishment of a new institute, the Gujarat Biotechnology University (GBU). GBU, due to start admitting students this year, will have Edinburgh designed curricula, co-created research programmes and industry engagement. This is perhaps the biggest partnership any European university has in India. The development of the GBU project has involved extensive high impact influencing and negotiations with the government and the industry in Gujarat and colleagues (both academic and professional services) in Edinburgh.

I believe that my engagement across the University in a wide range of its activities provides a strong background for making a positive contribution to the working of the Court.