

CANDIDATE PACK

Reader in Finance and/or Accounting

Westminster Business School, School of Finance
and Accounting

UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER 



OUR UNIVERSITY

Under the inspirational leadership of Professor Peter Bonfield OBE, the University of Westminster is a place where discoveries are made, barriers are broken, diversity is celebrated and where everyone is welcome. Serving more than 21,000 undergraduate, postgraduate, apprentice and executive students, our mission is to transform the lives of young people from all backgrounds. We seek to make the world a more inclusive, sustainable, better and healthier place through our educational, research and knowledge exchange endeavours.

Since our founding in 1838 we have stood out as innovators, committed to tackling social inequalities. In 2021, our University ranked 2nd in England out of more than 100 higher education institutions for social mobility. The ranking - produced by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Sutton Trust - compares the number of students from low-income backgrounds at universities, and the extent to which their studies helped them to move up the income ladder. Westminster has the second highest performance among universities in England.

As we focus forward to 2029, we will continue to do so in a way that is true to our progressive, compassionate and responsible values. Our education offer will be more personalised and authentic, giving students from all backgrounds an opportunity of transformative learning, helping them succeed in their studies and professional lives. Our curriculum will be employability-linked, leading to stronger outcomes and helping prepare our graduates for the world of work and for life. Our research and knowledge exchange will enable us to maximise our positive impact on societies in the UK and around the world in an environment where everyone is inspired to succeed. Our priorities of wellbeing, inclusion and sustainable development will help us as we navigate through the challenges and opportunities towards 2029.



OUR PRIORITIES

The University's 2022-2029 strategy, Being Westminster, sets us apart and builds on our unique history and achievements. In our University, we value social justice, moral conscience, inclusivity and equality, acting positively together to make change for good.

The University of Westminster has three priorities.

WELLBEING

Working and studying together at Westminster as a community of students and colleagues is a big part of our lives – doing so in an environment that places our wellbeing front and centre helps us to be safe and feel safe. We care for the safety, health and wellbeing of those around us as well as ourselves.

INCLUSION

All Westminster, colleagues and students are in a supportive and safe learning and working environment which is equitable, diverse and inclusive, is based on mutual respect and trust, and is a place where harassment and discrimination are not tolerated. As a responsible institution, we strive to ensure and to champion equality. As a progressive institution, we take pride in our diversity. As a compassionate institution, we commit to an inclusive culture that allows students and colleagues to reach their full potential.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We take inspiration from the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in how we drive our actions and activities and governance across our University. As a community, we bring together our collective energies to play our part in addressing the climate crisis and inequalities to enable a more sustainable and socially just world. We are one of the top 20 universities in the world in SDG 5 for providing equal access and supporting the academic progression of women. We are one of the top 25 universities in the world in SDG 10 tackling economic, health based and international inequalities. We are in the top 50 universities in SDG 12 for promoting resource and energy efficiency, having a sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services for all.



OUR OBJECTIVES 2022-2029

Against a backdrop of a changing and challenging higher education environment, the University has recently completed a major review of its objectives and strategy, and has published its commitments for the period 2022-29.

EDUCATION

We will offer personalised and authentic education, underpinned by an inclusive curriculum, to enable all our students, from all backgrounds, to engage in transformative learning and to succeed in their studies and professional lives. We will address global, political, and social challenges through a relevant demand-led and forward-looking portfolio. We will do this by offering authentic teaching, learning and assessment modes which immerse students in the wider-world through live projects, work-based learning and global opportunities. We will invest in our people to enable all teaching colleagues to plan and deliver exceptional learning experiences and professional colleagues to offer exceptional support. Students will be empowered by working in partnership with colleagues and fellow students to shape the Westminster experience. We will develop an integrated physical and digital environment that supports excellent practical, active and collaborative learning for all our students.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Research and knowledge exchange are fundamental to our commitment to making a positive difference to the world and transforming lives. We are committed to research in four priority areas: Diversity and Inclusion; Health Innovation and Wellbeing; Sustainable Cities and the Urban Environment; Arts, Communication and Culture. Our excellence in research and knowledge exchange will infuse our education endeavour, inspiring and equipping our students as agents of change locally as well as globally. We will continue to grow our community of PhD researchers, ensuring that the Westminster postgraduate research experience remains sector leading and the foundation for great careers. In knowledge exchange we will focus on engagement with government, business and with the public and local community. We will achieve more when we identify shared interests and build partnerships with our communities and collaborate for the public good with a clear civic purpose.

EMPLOYABILITY

We will ensure that all our students benefit from employability-led learning and purposeful engagement with employers, business and industry, to give students from every background the best possible preparation for the world of work and enable the best possible employability outcomes. We will do this through the further extension and embedding of programmes such as work-based and placement learning; the Westminster Employability Award; Westminster Working Cultures; mentoring; and student enterprise. Employability-related learning will be a core and critical part of the courses and curriculum we offer, right across the University. It will be front and centre of life at the University for students and colleagues.



A key priority will be the development of a dedicated Centre for Employability and Enterprise at 29 Marylebone Road, intended to transform our student experience and our engagement with business, industry and employers. The Centre will provide a game-changing experience through which undergraduate and postgraduate students from across Westminster will come together and practise enterprise; develop an entrepreneurial mindset and skills; access training, work, projects, business advice and mentoring; and connect directly with employers. The future-focused environment of the Centre will scale up our employability provision, helping our students to be 'fit for the future' in the most challenging of post-pandemic labour markets and economic environments. It will strengthen links between our UK-based and international employer partners and our motivated, bright, work-ready students, affording employers access to a diverse mix of people right for the needs of the contemporary workforce.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

We will raise the international reputation and reach of the University, ensuring that 30% of our undergraduate community and 70% of our taught postgraduates come to us from overseas. Overseas partnerships will remain central to our global engagements. We will prioritise the outward mobility of our students to partner institutions, Contributing to students' development of employability skills and competences. We will extend and deepen our Trans-National Education relationships. These partnerships, particularly that with Westminster International University in Tashkent, will move beyond franchised or validated arrangements to embrace employability, alumni-related research, CPD and knowledge exchange connections.



OUR STRUCTURE

ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

Our structure is built to deliver an enhanced learning environment, stronger and broader industrial, international and professional connections and pioneering and impactful research. The University comprises three Colleges:

Westminster Business School

- School of Organisations, Economy and Society
- School of Finance and Accounting
- School of Applied Management
- School of Management and Marketing

Design, Creative and Digital Industries

- School of Architecture and Cities
- Westminster School of Arts
- School of Computer Science and Engineering
- Westminster School of Media and Communications

Liberal Arts and Sciences

- School of Social Sciences
- Westminster Law School
- School of Humanities
- School of Life Sciences

The University Executive Board comprises:

- Vice Chancellor and President
- Deputy Vice Chancellor (Employability and Global Engagement)
- Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education and Students)
- Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Exchange)
- Chief Operating Officer and University Secretary
- Three Heads of College

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Our Professional Services teams support the effective and professional delivery of our teaching, research and knowledge exchange and the management of student residences and sports facilities.

- Academic Registry
- Business Engagement
- Estates
- Finance and Commercial Activities
- Global Recruitment, Admissions, Marketing and Communications
- Information Systems and Support
- People, Culture and Wellbeing
- Strategy, Planning and Performance
- Student and Academic Services
- Research and Knowledge Exchange Office
- Graduate School
- Learning Innovation and Digital Engagement



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Reader in Finance and/or Accounting

Reports to: Assistant Head of School

Department: Westminster Business School, School of Finance and Accounting

Grade: PL

ROLE PURPOSE

To play a leading role in advancing the College, particularly the research work of the school through their individual record and input, by fostering the work of others and through the supervision of research students.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To take a leading role in improving the quality of the research record and research profile and external reputation of both the College and the University.
2. To develop proposals for research projects and contribute to the development of the long term (3-5 year) research strategy of the School, contributing to strategic planning at School, College and institutional level in relation to research work.
3. To act as principal investigator on major research projects and themes, providing academic leadership and mentoring support in these areas and co-ordinating the work of others to ensure that research projects are delivered effectively and to time against agreed project plans and milestones.
4. To lead and develop internal and external networks to encourage and disseminate the output of their research, encourage collaborations, knowledge transfer and funding bids, and ensure that colleagues are aware of the outputs of research in order to enhance the curriculum and teaching and learning materials for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
5. To make a contribution to the College's teaching as agreed with the Head of College or nominee and TIER programme (Teaching Informed and Enhanced by Research) at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. This will include development and delivery.
6. To regularly produce high quality and accessible peer reviewed outputs of international standing.
7. To plan and deliver research, consultancy and similar programmes, ensuring that significant external funding from research bids is achieved to support their own and colleagues' research work.



8. To establish and develop team-based research both within and between Schools, and develop their potential for knowledge transfer and consultancy activities.
9. To develop links with external contacts and bodies including research councils, other national and international funding agencies, professional bodies, industry and commerce.
10. To carry out other duties as appropriate and within the competence of the post.

CONTEXT AND DIMENSIONS

The University expects to sustain research activity at least at levels of national excellence in all major subject areas in which it engages in teaching. Readers are expected to provide this local leadership and to provide a focus and a source of expertise and funding to advance excellence in research can be encouraged to grow and develop. They should identify strategic opportunities for the development of new research, for collaborations internally and externally, and should champion the cascading of new research into postgraduate and undergraduate learning materials. They should be able to lead new initiatives in fundraising, consultancy and knowledge transfer, and thus reduce the dependency on state funding for teaching. Readers are expected to undertake a balance of academic activities as agreed by their Head of College in consultation with the Head of School which will include teaching. Successful Readers will be expected to apply for and achieve the status of Professor within three to four years of appointment, and good opportunities for career progression are available to support and enable the realisation of the University's Research and Knowledge Transfer Strategy.

The postholder has responsibility for ensuring that suitable and sufficient risk assessments are undertaken for the activities for which they are responsible and that measures to control risk are identified and implemented and communicated to all affected.

They must ensure the provision of adequate supervision and training, to include: the responsibility to work with due regard for the health and safety of themselves and others; familiarity with actions to be taken in the event of emergency; and the duty to report accidents and hazards appropriately.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

QUALIFICATIONS

Essential

- Applicants will be graduates and hold a higher degree and/or a relevant professional qualification and would normally hold a PhD.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Essential

Appointment to a Readership acknowledges distinction and achievement in the conduct, outcome and dissemination of research.

Applicants should have the following:

- Excellent research: the emphasis must be on high quality output which is open to public audit (publication of scholarly articles, textbooks and related publications);
- Experience of supervision of PhD students to completion as a main supervisor/Director of Studies or joint supervisor.
- Evidence of success in securing research funding into the University and/or of establishing research links outside the University.
- High professional standing; as demonstrated by knowledge transfer work; contributing to raising the national / international reputation of the University (e.g. invitations to present at conferences and seminars, assessed public lectures).
- High professional standing amongst peer subject group; as demonstrated by membership at a senior level or significant contributions to professional bodies; active participation in subject groups or other scholarly activity.
- Experience of external research degree examiner activity.
- Substantial teaching experience delivered to a high quality.
- Evidence of undertaking academic management or academic leadership.

APTITUDES, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

Essential

The applicants will possess excellent communications skills, with the ability to communicate information clearly, and produce high quality work to tight deadlines when required. They should possess good interpersonal and leadership skills, with the ability to guide, lead and collaborate effectively with colleagues both within and external to the University.



The applicants should demonstrate high levels of energy, enthusiasm, flexibility and commitment to the work of the University and exemplify its core values in their approach to their work. Applicants should also be fully committed to creating a stimulating learning and working environment which is supportive and fair, based on mutual respect and trust, and in which harassment and discrimination are neither tolerated nor acceptable.



HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this vacancy, please visit our [vacancies page](#) where you will be able to download our application form template. You will then be requested to complete a quick registration before being able to upload completed application form and any supporting documentation.

Applications should include:

- A concise statement in support (ideally no longer than two pages), addressing the criteria in the Person Specification and motivation for applying.
- You may also include an up to date curriculum vitae;
- names and contact details of two referees (although referees will only be approached at offer stage).

The deadline for receipt of applications is midnight on 8th February 2026.

Interviews will take place on 8th March 2026.

An appointment will be made subject to proof of eligibility to work in the UK and satisfactory references being obtained.

At the University of Westminster, diversity, inclusion and equality of opportunity are at the core of how we engage with students, colleagues, applicants, visitors and all our stakeholders.

We are fully committed to enabling a supportive and safe learning and working environment which is equitable, diverse and inclusive, is based on mutual respect and trust, and in which harassment and discrimination are neither tolerated nor acceptable.

The University has adopted Smart Working principles to support and further our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion aims of being an inclusive, collaborative and flexible employer. Further details of Smart Working can be discussed at interview stage.



OUR BENEFITS

The University offers a range of wellbeing and work-life balance benefits to recognise and reward the essential contribution our colleagues make to success and growth. Our benefits are inclusive for colleagues of all backgrounds including LGBTQ+ colleagues, disabled colleagues, pregnant colleagues, parents and carers, as well as colleagues of all genders, age, ethnicities, nationalities, religion and beliefs, and marriage and civil partnership status.

- 35 days annual leave per year, plus bank/national holidays and University of Westminster closure days (pro-rata for part-time staff).
- A generous occupational pension scheme.
- Annual incremental progression and/or cost of living reviews.
- Generous maternity, paternity and adoption leave.
- Flexible working and smart working.
- Learning and development opportunities.
- Free membership rates for a wide range of sporting facilities, including gyms at Regent Street and Harrow campuses, as well as the Chiswick Sports Ground.
- Employee assistance programme.
- The opportunity to participate in other attractive employee benefit schemes such as Cycle to Work, Eye Care Vouchers, Season Ticket Loans, and Give As You Earn.





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