

James MacKenzie

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Forward-thinking Academic Executive with over 15 years of experience leading mid-sized higher education institutions. Proven track record in securing £50M plus in research grants and increasing student retention by 22 per cent through curriculum innovation. Expert in navigating complex UK regulatory frameworks and building high-performing faculty teams committed to student outcomes.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Vice-Chancellor | University of Central Lancashire | Preston, UK

Jun 2018 - Present

- Spearheaded a £120M capital development project that exceeded its target by 15 per cent within three years.
- Reorganised the university administrative structure to reduce overhead costs by £4.5M annually.
- Launched four new degree programmes in high-demand STEM fields, increasing student recruitment by 25 per cent.
- Managed a diverse workforce of 450 faculty and professional service staff during a complete campus renovation.
- Maintained 100 per cent compliance with all Office for Students (OfS) reporting requirements and safety protocols.

Principal / Head of Institution | Manchester City Institute of Technology | Manchester, UK

Aug 2012 - May 2018

- Negotiated 12 new partnerships with local FTSE 100 companies to provide student industrial placements.
- Improved student retention rates from 68 per cent to 84 per cent through the implementation of a peer-led wellbeing programme.
- Directed a £35M facility expansion project including the construction of a new state-of-the-art engineering laboratory.
- Overhauled the healthcare curriculum to align with updated professional standards resulting in a 95 per cent employment rate for graduates.

Dean of Academic Affairs | University of Glasgow | Glasgow, Scotland

Sept 2007 - Jul 2012

- Coordinated the successful Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission for the faculty, improving rankings by 20 per cent.
- Managed a departmental budget of £12M while consistently staying 5 per cent under projected spend.
- Developed and implemented faculty development workshops that increased research publication output in high-impact journals.
- Led a task force to integrate blended learning models which expanded international student reach by 35 per cent.

EDUCATION

University of Oxford | Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) | Higher Education Management

Sept 2003 - May 2007

University of Leeds | Master of Arts | Educational Leadership

Sept 2001 - May 2003

SKILLS

Strategic Planning, Budget Management, Board Relations, Crisis Management, Fundraising & Philanthropy, QAA & OfS Compliance, Curriculum Development, Faculty Governance, TEF & REF Strategy, Academic Research Oversight

CERTIFICATIONS

Principal Fellow (PFHEA) | Advance HE (2016)

Senior Executive Leadership Programme | London Business School (2014)

LANGUAGES

English (Native)

German (Fluent / C1)

ACTIVITIES

Universities UK (UUK)

Active contributor to national policy discussions regarding sustainable funding and student mental health.

Advance HE Strategic Group

Regular guest speaker on the topic of governance and leadership in modern UK universities.