

FALMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

SENIOR
APPOINTMENT

Chief Finance Officer





WELCOME

to Falmouth University and thank you for your interest in this role.

With over 120 years' creative arts higher education experience, we are on a quest to offer the highest standards of teaching, research, and knowledge exchange, for both our on-campus and online provision. With over 7,000 students, our portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate courses and postgraduate research represents the breadth of the creative and cultural industries. We blend creativity and technology in a distinctive way that prepares us for the future. We are headquartered in Cornwall, where we benefit from the vibrant creative community that makes this place special.

We have refreshed our 2030 Strategy, learning from the challenges and successes of the last few years so that we can take positive steps into the future and ensure that we are providing our students and communities with the very best that creative and technical higher education has to offer. Our Mission, Vision and Values statements define who we are, what we do and why we do it, and will underpin all of our decision-making over the years to come.

Creative thinking is evident in every corner of our vibrant campuses, and online provision, delivering vitality to everything we do. It emerges in countless ways: it thrives in our studios and workshops, and it flourishes and creates magic where it meets technology— on screen, in digital designs and physical artefacts and through new innovations.

This is an exciting opportunity for you to move to your next senior role and to join a team working hard to deliver the future of Falmouth University.

I look forward to your application.

Professor Emma Hunt
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

Our Mission

- To deliver exceptional higher education and research, harnessing the fusion of creativity and technology as foundations of the future economy
- To use our knowledge and expertise in these disciplines to generate positive and sustainable opportunities for all

Our Vision

- To be the leading institution for the nexus between creativity and technology
- To establish Cornwall as the County for Creative Learning, using innovative and open pedagogies as an integral part of its education and business eco-system
- To develop the next generation of creative leaders and explorers, who will change the world through their curious minds, creative impact and unique skillsets
- To build on our strengths in research and knowledge exchange to deliver experimental, environmental and societal impact

Our Values

Creative

Knowing that creativity is the vanguard of progress, we're constantly seeking new ways of thinking, doing and creating.

Achieve

We value the pursuit of excellence and enrichment as a collective aspiration to be the very best we can be.

Respectful

We have an open mind, we respect differing views, we listen and enable, and work towards an equitable and diverse world.

Sharing

We collaborate and share knowledge to co-create a positive impact.

OUR CAMPUSES

Living in Cornwall

Located on the UK's southwestern edge, Cornwall has long inspired creative minds. With more than 400 miles of coastline to explore and enjoy, the county attracts people who value a healthy work/life balance.

In the neighbouring towns of Falmouth and Penryn you'll find beaches, spectacular scenery, specialist shops and a whole host of independent bars and restaurants. The area is well known for its year-round events calendar including Falmouth Week, Falmouth Oyster Festival, Penryn Arts Festival and the ever-popular International Sea Shanty Festival.

Thanks to the area's famously creative heritage you'll also find galleries, studios and venues, including The Poly – a vibrant cultural centre that hosts theatre and cinema.

Falmouth Campus

Nestled in lush, leafy, sub-tropical gardens, Falmouth Campus is truly one of a kind.

Artists and designers are drawn to its magical setting, which affords a level of creative and intellectual space not easily found in big, bustling metropolitan universities. Airy studios and workshops, a dedicated writers' room and a recording studio provide the perfect context to think clearly and independently. It's a campus that crackles with creative energy.

Penryn Campus

Penryn Campus is a contemporary creative hub, home to multimillion-pound facilities for photography, gaming, business, design, film, fashion and performing arts. This centre of excellence is a truly inspiring environment, equipped with new and emerging technology and alive with ideas.

Situated just 10 minutes apart by bus, our campuses are within easy reach of the town and some of the region's best beaches.

Although owned by Falmouth, we share this wonderful setting with the University of Exeter's School of Mines and Environmental Sciences Institute and the Tremough Innovation Centre (run by Plymouth University).



OUR PROFILE

Our Portfolio

At Falmouth, we want our graduates to thrive in both the Creative and Technological Industries of the future and also bring their skills and experience to other high-growth sectors and emerging markets. Our portfolio development anticipates both the market opportunities ahead and the skills that will be most highly valued in the future economy.

We also know that in today's workplace it's important to be flexible. So, in addition to our on-campus portfolio, we also offer online degrees that can be completed anywhere in the world and fitted around a career or other responsibilities.

Between our three faculties, we have nine academic departments which offer over 75 undergraduate and postgraduate courses ranging from games, computing, animation and film to art and design, fashion and photography; and from performance, theatre, music and writing to business, marketing and events.

Our industry standard facilities across both our campuses are accessible to all and designed to give students the toolkit they need to bring their ideas to life and thrive in the workplace.

Our Partnerships

At Falmouth University we work in partnership with several specialist institutions from the UK and around the world to create more opportunities for our students.

Current partners include the Academy of Multimedia Design & Technology in Sri Lanka, Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts, the Fashion Retail Academy, WaterBear in Brighton and Sheffield, the Eden Project and Gorton Studio in Cornwall.

Falmouth Online

Our creative culture is not limited to our campuses in Cornwall. Since 2016 we have offered online degrees that let people explore their creativity in their own way. With our portfolio of online undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, students can prepare for the future - switch to a new career - in a flexible way that suits them.

Our online degrees were created to be studied online from the beginning by our award-winning digital learning team, providing the same quality teaching as our on-campus degrees. Our Falmouth creatives around the world are shaping the future with their creativity and innovation.

All our online courses foster creativity and innovation, taught by academic staff who have real industry connections and know how to make an impact. Students develop the skills to use their creativity effectively, giving them an advantage in their chosen industry.



ROLE DESCRIPTION

Responsible to:

Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive

Functional relationships with:

University Senior Colleagues
Falmouth Exeter Plus (FX Plus) Colleagues

Job Purpose

The Chief Finance Officer (CFO) is responsible for overseeing the financial strategy, management, and sustainability of Falmouth University. The CFO will ensure the institution's financial health, support strategic initiatives, and contribute to the overall cultural mission, vision and values of providing high-quality education and research. Additionally, the CFO will play a crucial role in steering Falmouth's business success by optimising financial performance and supporting entrepreneurial, investment and commercial activities.

Key areas of responsibility

- **Financial Strategy & Planning**
Develop and implement financial strategies to support Falmouth's strategic goals. Lead the annual budgeting process, and longer-term financial strategies ensuring alignment with institutional priorities. Provide financial forecasts and analysis to inform decision-making. Identify and pursue opportunities for revenue generation and cost saving controls.
- **Financial Management**
Oversee all financial operations, including accounting, procurement and treasury. Ensure compliance with financial regulations and reporting requirements. Manage Falmouth's investment portfolio and endowment funds. Optimise financial performance through effective resource allocation and cost management.
- **Risk Management**
Identify and mitigate financial risks. Develop and maintain robust internal controls and financial policies. Ensure Falmouth's financial practices adhere to ethical standards and best practices.

- **Regulatory Compliance**

Ensure Falmouth complies with all relevant financial regulations and reporting requirements. Stay updated on changes in financial legislation and regulations affecting the higher education sector. Liaise with regulatory bodies and auditors to ensure compliance and address any issues. Implement and monitor policies and procedures to ensure regulatory compliance.

- **Modern Financial Controls**

Implement and maintain modern financial control systems to enhance transparency and efficiency. Promote data-driven decision making through real time financial reporting and analytics. Foster and embed a culture of continuous improvement and innovation in financial practices.

- **Stakeholder Engagement**

Collaborate with academic and professional services leaders to support financial planning and resource allocation. Communicate financial performance and strategy to the Board of Governors, faculty, staff, and external stakeholders. With the Vice Chancellor foster relationships with donors, government agencies and financial institutions. Support entrepreneurial initiatives and partnerships that enhance Falmouth's financial sustainability.

- **Leadership and Development**

Inspire, lead and mentor the finance team, promoting a culture of excellence and continuous improvement. Support professional development opportunities for finance staff. Contribute to Falmouth's leadership team, providing financial insights and strategic advice. Encourage innovation and entrepreneurial thinking within the finance team, and other related teams.

- **Business Development**

Contribute to the development and execution of business strategies that enhance Falmouth's market position. Support the creation and growth of revenue-generating programmes and services. Collaborate with external partners to explore new business opportunities and ventures. Monitor industry trends and best practices to ensure Falmouth remains competitive and financially robust.

- **Planning and Business Intelligence**

Provide strategic oversight of Planning and Business Intelligence Services, focusing on data quality, regulatory compliance, and strategic alignment. Ensure collaboration with other departments to align with the university's financial and strategic goals. Support the Director of Planning and Business Intelligence in developing and implementing innovative data management and business intelligence strategies that contribute to the university's mission, vision, and values.

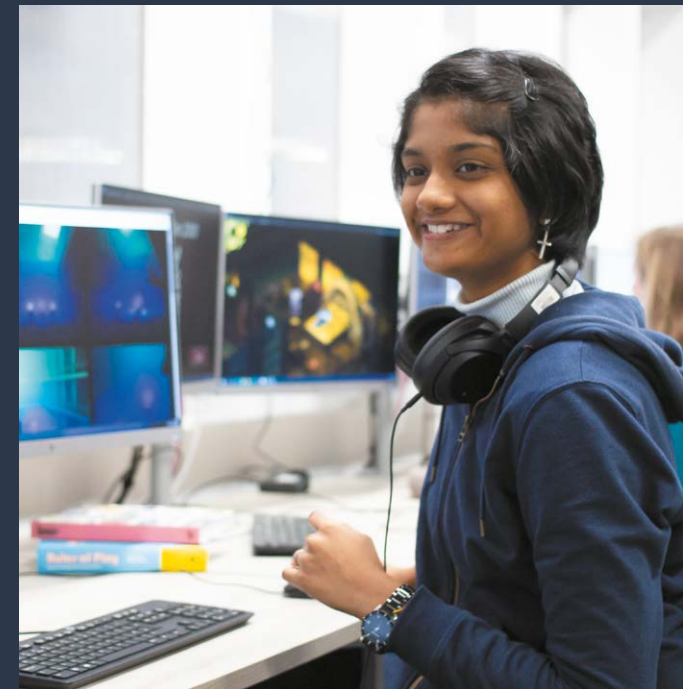
Overarching responsibilities

- Ensure up-to-date knowledge of the UK HE context and the potential effects of trends, policies and other external factors on the University.
- Work within and actively support the equality and diversity policies and practices of the University.
- Notify the Vice Chancellor or UEB of any errors or concerns at the earliest opportunity.
- Participate in the University's Performance Development Review process.
- Be responsible for own continuing self-development.
- Work within a framework of effective governance, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations, legislation, policies and procedures.

University Executive Board (UEB) Guiding Principles

- (We will) focus on open, respectful and constructive conversations that will always assume positive intent to enable us to reach our shared collective accountabilities.
- (We recognise) that our personal approach has to be shared and that we need work towards developing as a high performance team that holds ultimate trust in each other.
- (We will) remain, creative, flexible, acknowledge that times change, and people change and that our ability to be agile with empathy will stand us in good stead.
- (We strive to) act like this because we want to be clear as to what decision is being made, how best to communicate that decision and that we can effectively enable the whole university, our students and our colleagues to achieve their very best.
- (We will) take collective responsibility for the implementation of the university's Mission and Vision, upholding its Values.

[See our website for details of the senior team](#)



PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are seeking a colleague who will complement the aims of the University as a modern, vibrant place to work and learn, and who really wants to make a positive difference every day.

Qualifications

- A degree in finance, accounting, business administration, or a related field, master's degree preferred.
- A professional accounting qualification (e.g. ACA, ACCA, CIMA)

Experience, Knowledge and Skills

- Extensive experience in financial management, preferably within the higher education sector or a similarly complex organisation.
- Strong knowledge of UK financial regulations, funding models and reporting standards for OfS, HESA, MHCLG (or equivalent).
- Working knowledge of taxes (VAT and corporate), purchasing (including public procurement legislation) and corporate finance systems.

- Knowledge of investment and venturing processes and policies to support Falmouth's commercial activities.
- Strong commitment to Falmouth's mission, vision and values.
- High level of integrity and ethical standards.
- Excellent analytical, communication and interpersonal skills.
- A demonstrable and proven ability in leadership and change management utilising technology and digital approaches as relevant.
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders and drive strategic initiatives.
- Committed to developing talent and embracing diversity.
- Adaptability in a dynamic and evolving higher education environment.

Key Attributes

- **Visionary Leadership**
The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of leading financial transformation and driving strategic initiatives that align with our broader educational objectives.
- **Adaptability**
In a rapidly changing higher education environment, our CFO must be adept at navigating uncertainty and making informed decisions that balance risk and opportunity.
- **Modernisation Expertise**
Our CFO will be instrumental in modernising and shaping the future finance team operating model, with a focus on talent and standards, while leveraging the latest thinking, systems and best practices to enhance efficiency, transparency and responsiveness.
- **Collaborative Spirit**
We value a leader who can work seamlessly with other executives, fostering a culture of collaboration and shared purpose across academic and professional services departments.
- **Strategic Partnership with the Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive**
The CFO will serve as a strategic advisor to the Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, providing critical financial insights to support decision-making and drive Falmouth's mission, vision and values forward.
- **Commitment to Sustainability**
As we integrate sustainability into our core operations, our CFO will play a crucial role in aligning financial strategies with our environmental and social goals, ensuring that our institution remains a leader in sustainable practices.



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HOW TO APPLY

Submit your CV and covering letter via:
falmouth.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for all applications
is Sunday 12 January 2025.

