

Edge Hill University 

Applicant Information Pack

Director of Digital, Data
and Technology

Welcome



Thank you for your interest in joining Edge Hill University at this exciting stage in our journey.

We are embarking on an ambitious new phase, as we prepare to launch a new five-year strategy that will shape our future direction. We are looking for an exceptional leader who is passionate about education and understands the powerful role universities play in creating opportunity, driving growth, and enabling positive change.

Ours is a community rooted in a strong sense of identity and shared purpose. We are dedicated to delivering an outstanding student experience, advancing research and innovation, and building meaningful partnerships with the communities we serve.

We take pride in our longstanding commitment to widening access, ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed. At the same time, we are strengthening our research profile and external partnerships so that the knowledge we generate influences policy, informs professional practice, and drives innovation beyond our campus. We embrace our civic responsibilities, collaborating with employers, industry, public services, and global partners, while also prioritising digital advancement and sustainability to meet future challenges.

The role you are considering will be central to achieving these goals. We are seeking a leader with both strategic clarity and the ability to motivate and unite colleagues across the university and beyond. You will join a supportive and collaborative senior team that values new ideas, constructive challenge, and shared accountability for our mission. We are a university that embraces change - ready to explore new ideas and make a meaningful difference.

Equally, we are a university that places great importance on people. We strive to create an inclusive environment where staff and students can flourish, where diverse perspectives are valued, and where everyone feels a genuine sense of belonging. We are looking for leaders who reflect these principles - individuals who combine ambition with empathy and who can both support and challenge those around them.

Should you decide to apply, you will find a welcoming and supportive community, a growing reputation nationally and internationally, and a university with the confidence to shape its future. This role offers both challenge and opportunity, with the potential to make a lasting impact on our students, our region, and beyond.

We hope you will feel inspired to join us and help shape the next chapter of our journey.

Lynn Hill

Chief Operating Officer

About the University



Founded in 1885 and gaining University Title in 2006, Edge Hill University is a multi-award-winning University based on a 160-acre campus in Ormskirk, Lancashire. An educational community, providing high quality teaching, support, and transformational opportunities; it's a place where students discover ideas, attain subject knowledge, and achieve their full potential.

The University has over 15,000 students studying at both undergraduate and postgraduate level and employs more than 1,600 staff.

Edge Hill's significant success in achieving its mission is recognised by a range of awards. It is one of the select few to have held the coveted Modern University of the Year title (2022), awarded by the Times and Sunday Times and is the Daily Mail's University of the Year for Student Experience, 2026.

It was ranked in the UK Top 35 universities (Guardian University Guide 2024), 5th in the UK (Uni Compare 2026) and is a Top 4 North West Institution (Complete University Guide 2025). It is also the safest campus in the North West according to the same guide. In 2024, it was the first University to achieve Ofsted Outstanding for all phases of its Initial Teacher Training provision.

Edge Hill has expertise in supporting students from non-traditional higher education backgrounds, with the University winning the 2023 Educate North Social Mobility Award for widening access and participation. 70% of Edge Hill's undergraduate students have at least one widening participation characteristic.

The University's researchers are addressing some of society's most pressing problems today and providing expertise to develop solutions and enact change. And there is a strong commitment to sharing that new knowledge through Knowledge Exchange and partnership working and through a significant number of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships.

From promoting inclusive societies and encouraging wellbeing for all, nurturing creativity and innovation, to tackling some of the world's biggest challenges to secure a sustainable future, Edge Hill's research builds new partnerships, enhances understanding and enriches lives. 62% of the University's research was classed as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework.

The University in Numbers



University of the Year for Student Experience

University of the Year for Student Experience (Daily Mail University Guide 2026).



Gold
rated

Gold for Student Experience, and Silver overall in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) run by the Office for Students.



World leading

More than half of Edge Hill's research is classed as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021.



Top **4**

Top four in the North West in the Complete University Guide 2025.



96.2%

96.2% of our students are employed or in further study within 15 months of graduating, according to Graduate Outcomes data released 2025.



Ofsted Outstanding

Ofsted outstanding across all three initial teacher training age phases.



2nd

2nd in the North West for Learning Resources and top 5 in the North West for Student Voice. (National Student Survey 2025).



Best in the UK

1st in the UK for accommodation, voted for by students in the Uni Compare UK rankings in 2023, 2024 and 2025.



14
Successive years

Campus is recognised as one of the UK's best green spaces. Green Flag Award for 14 successive years (2025).



Campus, Community and Place



The University's stunning, vibrant and green campus sits at the heart of the North West of England, nestled within the market town of Ormskirk, with the dynamic and lively cities of Liverpool and Manchester within easy reach.

It is a distinctive environment that combines a strong sense of community with growing regional and national influence.

The University has invested over £350m in the campus over the last two decades, creating a modern, high-quality setting for teaching, research and student experience. Construction has recently finished on a new £17.4m Life Sciences Building alongside a £35m investment in brand new accommodation and a Students' Union building which opened at the beginning of October 2024. This continued investment reflects both the scale of the institution's ambition and its commitment to providing an environment in which students and staff can thrive.

Positioned within a diverse and fast-evolving regional ecosystem, Edge Hill plays an important civic role across Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester. Its strong partnerships with public services, industry and health organisations support collaboration, innovation and impact, and reinforce its contribution to the social and economic development of the region.

In addition to the Ormskirk campus, the University has satellite campuses at St James' in Manchester city centre, Aintree Hospital and Alder Hey Children's Hospital, supporting its work in areas such as health, professional education and regional engagement.



Strategy



The University is entering a new cycle of strategic planning. Our Connected Futures (2026–31) sets out Edge Hill University’s direction for the next five years, anchored in its founding mission of opportunity through knowledge and shaped by the challenges and possibilities of a changing higher education landscape.

The new strategy will focus on Edge Hill as a connected university where every student succeeds, graduates thrive, ideas deliver impact, communities grow stronger, and digital and sustainable practices power how we work.

Sustainability and inclusion will be woven through every aspect: in curricula, staff and student experience, partnerships and operations.

University Mission Statement

In Scientia Opportunitas (through knowledge, opportunity)

This simple, founding mission sits at the heart of what the University strives to achieve. Edge Hill seeks to provide an intellectually stimulating, creative and inclusive environment for its community. Teaching and learning of the highest standard, supported by pure and applied research of international significance, will provide a firm foundation for its graduates and other stakeholders in a rapidly changing world. Knowledge and understanding, a global perspective, and a life-long capacity to learn and adapt are the surest ways of securing the individual’s, and the nation’s, future.



About the Role

Director of Digital, Data and Technology

The University has taken an important step in strengthening its digital, data and strategic capabilities with the recent creation of a new Digital, Data and Technology (DDaT) Service, for which we are now looking to appoint a permanent Director.

This new service aligns with our wider ambitions as detailed in our new University Strategy (*Our Connected Futures*), which places digital transformation, business optimisation and data-informed decision making at the heart of how the University will work in the years ahead.

DDaT brings together our applications, web, digital learning, Power Platform, infrastructure, cybersecurity, helpdesk and AV/IT into one provision, alongside a strengthened data function responsible for management, ownership, quality and storage.

This is a unique opportunity for the **Director of Digital, Data and Technology** to be at the heart of Edge Hill University's digital transformation, working in close partnership with senior stakeholders across the institution, promoting a strategic and centralised approach to the provision of digital, data and technology services aligned to the aims of the University.

You will take a leading role to deliver the University's digital transformation strategy and roadmap. You will lead and establish the new digital, data and technology teams, and you will be part of a dedicated team of digital professionals, driving the adoption of cutting-edge infrastructure, technologies, data and digital services to position Edge Hill University at the forefront of innovation in the sector, thereby enhancing the University's reputation, brand, and user experience.

You will provide expert advice to the Board, Senior Executive, and University Committees, to drive digital innovation, manage organisational and technical risk and compliance, to ensure excellence in the delivery of digital, data and technology services.

This senior leadership role leads a broad, multidisciplinary portfolio encompassing all aspects of digital, data and technology provision across the university. Operating with a high degree of autonomy, the role sets strategic direction, establishes strategy and policy, delivers institutional change, leads and manages service delivery, and ensures alignment between institutional priorities, regulatory obligations, and evolving user needs. As Director, you will provide institutional leadership on digital, data and technology service management, continuous improvement and innovation.



About the Role

This role is a nexus of strategic digital leadership and transformation, operations and technical excellence, service delivery and customer experience. It brings together operational insight and digital-first thinking to ensure digital, data and technology services are highly available, accessible, inclusive, scalable and future-ready.

The Director acts as a senior institutional authority on digital, data and technology strategy, innovation, delivery, operations and services, and represents the Service at senior forums, committees, boards, and project groups.

Working Arrangements

This role may be offered on a hybrid basis, with an expectation of attendance on site. Working patterns can be discussed and agreed with the recruiting manager upon appointment.

Duties and Responsibilities

Leadership, Governance and Strategy

- Provide strategic leadership for the University's digital, data and technology vision, shaping and delivering an institutional digital strategy that enables transformation and aligns with long-term organisational priorities.
- Set strategic direction for all digital, data and technology functions, ensuring integrated planning, transparent governance and alignment with academic, professional services and corporate priorities.
- Act as the University's senior authority on digital and data strategy, providing expert advice to the Executive, governing bodies and senior forums on innovation, risk, policy and strategic investment.
- Lead the embedding of a values-led, service-oriented culture for the new Digital, Data and Technology Service that promotes user-centred design, operational resilience, and continuous improvement at institutional scale.
- Champion the strategic value of digital, data and technology, influencing senior stakeholders and shaping a digitally confident culture across the organisation.
- Represent Digital, Data and Technology at senior leadership boards, sector networks and strategic partnerships, shaping the external profile and reputation of the University.

Service Delivery and User Experience

- Ensure robust compliance with regulatory, statutory and external reporting requirements, providing assurance to the Executive and governing bodies.

- Lead the development of responsible data and AI practices, ensuring ethical, transparent and secure use of data assets across all university functions.
- Drive continual improvement in data quality, maturity and reliability, ensuring data assets are trusted, secure and optimised for decision-making.
- Provide strategic leadership for the design, development and evolution of the University's digital and data architecture, according to enterprise architecture principles, ensuring the environment is scalable, secure, resilient and future-ready.
- Oversee the development and management of interoperable technology platforms and systems that enable a unified, integrated digital ecosystem and support a "single version of the truth".
- Lead the long-term roadmap for cloud services, enterprise systems, data platforms, cyber security and infrastructure, ensuring alignment with institutional objectives.
- Ensure operational resilience, business continuity and disaster recovery arrangements provide robust protection for critical digital and data services.
- Lead the delivery of high-performing, user-focused digital and data services that support teaching, learning, research and business operations.
- Ensure digital, data and technology services are accessible, inclusive, reliable and designed around the needs of students, staff and partners.

Procurement, Assets and Financial Management

- Provide senior leadership for strategic financial planning across the digital, data and technology Service, ensuring sustainable and evidence-based investment.
- Lead the management of capital and operational budgets, ensuring effective prioritisation, value for money and alignment with strategic goals.
- Lead the development of business cases for programmes of institutional change to support delivery of the digital strategy.
- Oversee strategic supplier, vendor and managed service relationships, ensuring performance, governance and benefits realisation at institutional level.

People Leadership and Culture

- Lead, inspire and develop multidisciplinary digital, data and technology teams, fostering a culture of collaboration, innovation and continuous learning.
- Provide strategic workforce planning to ensure capability, capacity and resilience across critical functions, supporting a high-performing and empowered workforce.
- Champion a culture of service excellence, operational maturity, accountability and user-centred delivery across the Digital, Data and Technology directorate.

Risk, Compliance and Incident Response

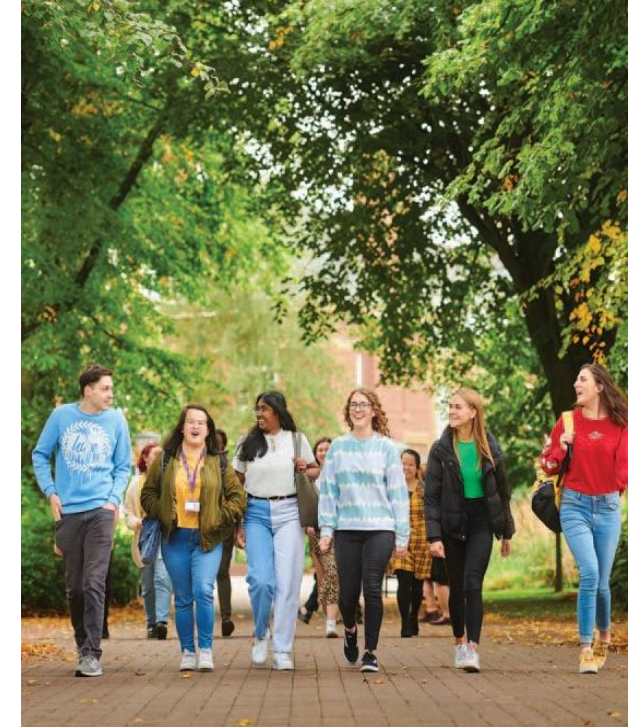
- Provide senior leadership and authoritative decision-making during major incidents, ensuring effective escalation, communication and recovery.
- Oversee enterprise-wide risk management for digital, data and technology services, ensuring clear controls, audit readiness and regulatory compliance.
- Work in partnership with governance, information security, risk and audit functions to ensure transparency, assurance and organisational resilience.

Engagement, Collaboration and Partnerships

- Build strong, strategic partnerships with academic leaders, professional services, students and external organisations to enhance digital capability and alignment.
- Ensure digital and data services are fully integrated into institutional planning, operations and service delivery.
- Work collaboratively with Business Intelligence and Strategic Planning and other key stakeholders to ensure effective flows of data that support institutional performance and strategic planning.
- Represent the University nationally and within relevant sector bodies, strengthening the institution's influence and contributing to wider sector innovation.

Innovation and Impact

- Identify, investigate and assess emerging technologies, ensuring their strategic potential is evaluated and aligned with the University's objectives.
- Act as senior sponsor for major digital transformation programmes, ensuring strategic alignment, adoption of best practice and delivery of impactful outcomes.
- Lead institutional adoption of secure AI, automation and new digital approaches that strengthen user experience, operational efficiency and institutional performance.
- Ensure digital, data and technology capabilities reflect sector-leading practice and enable the University to compete and innovate effectively.





The Person

Please note that applications will be assessed against the Person Specification using the following criteria, therefore, applicants should provide evidence of their ability to meet all criteria. Where a supporting statement is indicated you will be asked to provide a statement of how you meet this criterion within the application form.

Qualifications

Criteria	Essential or Desirable
A first degree or equivalent current experience of working in a similar role for a large organisation	Essential
Relevant higher degree or professional qualification in a digital, data or technology related field	Essential

Experience and Knowledge

Criteria	Essential or Desirable
Evidence of continuing professional development in digital transformation	Essential
Expert technical knowledge and experience of current digital strategies, infrastructures, operations and services in a large complex organisation	Essential
Demonstrable experience of leading a broad portfolio of digital, data and/or technology services	Essential
Experience of successfully managing technology, data and digital projects, and delivering complex service developments	Essential
Experience of developing and managing stakeholder relations and building relationships to foster advocacy	Essential
Experience of technical governance, compliance and security of digital services	Essential
Experience of preparing and managing strategy, action plans and budgets	Essential

Abilities and Skills

Criteria	Essential or Desirable
Ability to demonstrate a strategic solution focused analytical approach to problem solving that is adapted to the needs of the customer and the continued success of the organisation	Essential
Ability to pivot and reprioritise work quickly to respond to emerging needs and opportunities	Essential
Ability to work effectively under pressure, prioritise and meet multiple and sometimes conflicting deadlines	Essential
Excellent written communication skills with the ability to produce clear, concise and articulate reports, policy and business documents	Essential
Excellent communication skills and ability to inspire, persuade, and motivate	Essential
Ability to work effectively on own initiative displaying flexibility, innovation and proactivity	Essential

The Staff Experience



The success of Edge Hill University is built upon the dedication and talent of its people. The University is committed to creating an environment where innovation, collaboration, and personal growth are not just encouraged but ingrained in the culture.

A Strategic Commitment to Inclusion and Wellbeing

Edge Hill University is proud of the significant progress it has made on the wellbeing and inclusion agenda, underpinned by its comprehensive Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan. As part of its commitment to equity, the University aligns with recognised frameworks such as Athena Swan, helping to ensure a fair, inclusive and supportive workplace for all. Edge Hill is also recognised for its strong reputation in wellbeing, offering wide-ranging support and innovative engagement tools. This commitment fosters a culture in which staff feel valued, supported and empowered to perform at their best.

Exemplary Employee Value Proposition (EVP)

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff with a highly competitive EVP, including:

- **Generous pension schemes**, with leading contribution rates.
- **Substantial holiday entitlements**, far exceeding industry norms, to support work-life balance.
- **Locally managed agile working arrangements**, ensuring staff can balance personal and professional commitments.
- **Comprehensive health and well-being resources** including a robust Employee Assistance Programme, industry leading benefits platform, mental health support and on-campus facilities and initiatives that promote physical activity and wellness.

Career Pathways and Professional Development

Edge Hill University is committed to investing in its staff, with a clear focus on long-term career development. Staff benefit from a wealth of tailored leadership development programmes, structured progression routes, and growing opportunities to engage in coaching and mentoring. This ensures every individual has the tools they need to thrive in their role and prepare for future opportunities.

How to Apply



Edge Hill University has appointed **Veredus**, an executive search agency, to assist with this appointment (<https://www.veredus.co.uk>).

How to Apply

Applications should consist of:

- An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae, including key responsibilities and achievements.
- A Supporting Statement (ideally no longer than two pages of A4) outlining how your skills, experience and personal qualities demonstrate your suitability for the role, with reference to the criteria in the Person Specification.
- A completed Diversity Monitoring Form and Candidate Supporting Information Form, available on the Veredus job page.

Applications should be submitted via the Veredus website – <https://www.veredus.co.uk/opportunities>, quoting reference number **1196**.

Further Information

For a confidential discussion about the role, please contact our advising consultants at Veredus:

- Reece D’Alanno on reece.dalanno@veredus.co.uk
- Nataliya Starik-Bludova on nataliya.starik-bludova@veredus.co.uk

Indicative Timeline

Closing date: **12:00 on Monday, 18th May 2026**

Preliminary interviews with Edge Hill: **w/c 25th May 2026**

Final interviews: **w/c 1st June 2026**

Accessibility Statement

We are committed to ensuring that our application processes are accessible to all. If you require this document in an alternative format, wish to apply in a different way, or need any reasonable adjustments (including at interview), please contact us at education@veredus.co.uk.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

At Veredus, we take care to protect your privacy. For further information, please see our [Veredus Privacy Policy](#).

