

Finance Business Partner – Professional Services

Department	Finance (www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/finance/)		
Directorate	Finance Directorate (www.strath.ac.uk/finance/)		
Staff Category	Administrative and Professional	**Reference No**	865790
Reports To	Deputy Finance Director	**Grade**	9
Salary Range	£61165-£68817	**Contract Type**	Open Contract
FTE	1 (35 hours/week)	**Closing Date**	30/11/2026
Working Arrangements	Hybrid. The standard requirement across the University is that at least three days per week (based on 1FTE) will be spent working on-site (with flexibility as appropriate).		
Work Location	John Anderson Campus		

Job Advert

The University of Strathclyde is seeking a Finance Business Partner to support its Professional Service Directorates. The post holder will play a crucial role in the financial management of the Directorates, in line with the University's overall financial strategy.

The Finance Directorate is responsible for the effective stewardship of the University's financial resources, providing strategic financial leadership, advice and support to enable the University to deliver its academic and strategic objectives. The Directorate leads on financial planning, budgeting and forecasting, financial accounting and reporting, management information, treasury and cash management, taxation, procurement, research and project finance, and the maintenance of robust financial controls and governance arrangements.

The postholder will provide management information for both strategic and operational purposes, and undertake financial planning, budgeting and forecasting, risk analysis and financial option appraisal, driving forward financial management

strategies and plans for Professional Services Directorates. The post holder will assist in identifying income generation and funding opportunities for Professional Services Directorates, working in conjunction with the leadership teams and senior Departmental teams. The post holder will provide information on financial planning to the key decision making bodies and manage the directorates financial resources. This role provides the opportunity to play a key part in shaping the Professional Service Directorates strategy and to support delivery of Strathclyde's ambitions as a leading international technological University seeking to provide high quality teaching and research, and to provide an outstanding student and staff experience.

You should be educated to degree level with membership of a recognised accounting professional body and have extensive post-qualification experience. A strong financial management and accounting background in a large organisation is essential, as is experience in developing strategic and operational plans, and in capital and revenue project costing. Enthusiasm, commitment, and strong collaborative interpersonal skills coupled with a high level of problem-solving and decision making will make the role a success.

Applicants may use tools such as AI to support their application; however, all submissions must accurately reflect their own experience and understanding. The University reserves the right to verify the authenticity of application materials and may reject applications where concerns arise.

Job Description

Brief Outline of Job:

Reporting to the Deputy Director of Finance, and Senior Finance Business Partner, you will partner with Professional Services Directorates Senior Officers and Directorate senior management teams to provide strategic finance leadership and direction, focused on supporting the achievement of the directorate's annual plan in line with the University's overall financial strategy, and promoting a better understanding of financial challenges with your Directorates.

You will contribute significantly as a senior member of the Finance and Directorate teams to the development and delivery of Directorate strategy, policy, operational plans and continuous improvement in the context of ambitious strategic objectives.

You will provide management information for both strategic and operational purposes, and undertake financial planning, budgeting and forecasting, risk analysis and business plan development and appraisal, driving forward financial management strategies and plans for Professional Services Directorates. You will assist in identifying income generation and funding opportunities for the Directorates, working in conjunction with the management teams. You will also provide information and recommendations on financial planning and business plans to the Directorate's key decision making bodies and manage the Directorate's financial resources. You will have line management responsibility for the Assistant Faculty Finance Business Partner for Professional Services.

The role is key in ensuring Professional Services Directorates provide an environment which reflects the University's ambitions as a leading international technological University, providing an excellent student and staff experience while recognising the need for effective and efficient utilisation of facilities.

Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1.	Provide the key financial expertise to underpin the development and delivery of the Professional Services Directorates strategy in line with the University's overall financial strategy, directly supporting Senior Officers in undertaking the financial management of their areas of budgetary responsibility.
2.	Provide timely and clear management information in relation to the Professional Service Directorates, for both strategic and operational purposes, including financial planning, financial governance and control, budgeting, forecasting and monitoring in respect of Directorate activity, supporting the reporting and presentation of financial information to all relevant stakeholders and governing bodies.
3.	Provide expert professional advice and guidance to Senior Officers, Professional Service Directors and their teams, including producing, communicating and delivering robust financial plans; setting parameters for annual

	financial planning; leading regular forecasting activities and producing robust financial reports and analyses together with expert recommendations on key areas of focus.
4.	Ensure that Directorates comply with any relevant governance and compliance requirements, including: - ensuring compliance with any relevant Funding Council directions (e.g. the Financial Memorandum) - acting as primary contact in relation to internal or external financial audit of Directorate activity
5.	Provide appropriate and timely input for Professional Services Directorates into the University's major financial planning and reporting exercises: Annual Plan / Budget, long-term Forecasts, Quarterly Reviews, annual Financial Statements.
6.	Undertake financial analysis and financial risk assessment of all major new initiatives, reviewing the financial impact of available options, and providing robust financial challenge to business plans/business cases to ensure that all business cases progressed withstand scrutiny and contain measurable delivery criteria.
7.	Assist in identifying income generation and funding strategies to support improved financial performance, working in conjunction with Professional Services Directorates management teams.
8.	Identify areas where financial efficiencies could be achieved, through objective financial review and challenge, seeking improved use of resources and continuous improvement towards best practice, working in conjunction with the Professional Services Directorates management teams.
9.	Ensure that all Professional Services Directorate activity is subject to rigorous budgetary monitoring, forecasting and control, so that decision-makers are confident in the financial information they receive and understand the business drivers underpinning the figures.
10.	Act as the key link between the Professional Services Directorates and Finance on all aspects of expenditure.
11.	Promote financial awareness and a culture of financial accountability across the department to ensure financial sustainability is central to all business activities.
12.	Promote a culture of continuous improvement, applying appropriate professional standards and demonstrating a culture of ownership and accountability to ensure the delivery of excellent services.
13.	Participate fully in the work and activities of Finance, and contribute to the development of University-wide finance solutions in support of the wider University community and delivery of the University's objectives.

Person Specification

Educational and/or Professional Qualifications

(E=Essential, i.e. a candidate must meet all essential criteria to be considered for selection, D=Desirable)

E1 Educated to degree level (or equivalent)

E2 Membership of a recognised accounting professional body with extensive experience, ideally gained in a large complex organisation.

Experience

E3 Substantial proven experience in a financial/management accounting or audit role in a large complex organisation.

E4 Significant knowledge and experience of financial and budgetary control systems.

D1 Experience in developing and reviewing business plans, with strong financial modelling skills.

D2 Experience of working within a Higher Education Finance environment

D3 Extensive Agresso Finance experience, with comprehensive hands-on capability across all Finance modules including P2P, S2C, GL, Expenses, PCB & Commitments.

Job Related Skills and Achievements

E5 Excellent written and presentation skills, able to present complex financial information to a wide audience, including non-financial colleagues, clearly and comprehensively.

E6 Excellent administrative and organisational skills with the ability to work to tight deadlines and prioritise and manage multiple tasks.

E7 High level of IT skills, especially Word and Excel with the ability in particular to structure, analyse and interpret complex financial data.

Personal Attributes

E8 Excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to:

- engage and collaborate effectively
- communicate with a broad range of internal and external stakeholders, at all levels of the organisation
- influence effectively in order to negotiate any perceived barriers or constraints to support the achievement of agreed objectives
- challenge constructively where required

E9 Proven analytical and problem solving skills with the ability to make well-considered decisions, resolve conflicts and demonstrate sound, professional judgement.

E10 Self-motivated, able to work effectively under pressure and to tight timescales, whether independently, as part of a team or leading a small team, with an aptitude for prioritising priorities and manage competing demands.

E11 Strong commercial awareness with a clear understanding of strategic objectives and key business drivers and to work effectively in partnership with senior managers to deliver agreed objectives.

E12 Strategic focus, able to develop and implement strategy and policy, and to drive forward and deliver change in line with strategic and operational objectives and priorities.

E13 Approachable and enthusiastic manner, coupled with a positive "can do" approach to work, as well as personal impact, giving the ability to maintain credibility at all levels of the University.

E14 Enjoys varied and challenging work, working outside own areas of comfort in support of wider team objectives if required.

Application Procedure

Applicants should visit Strathclyde's vacancies portal and complete an online application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted without further permission, unless you indicate you would prefer otherwise. Applicants should also submit a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter detailing the knowledge, skills and experience you think make you the right candidate for the job. Applicants should also complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

The University of Strathclyde encourages the recruitment of disabled and neurodivergent candidates. If you require any reasonable adjustments or support at any stage of the recruitment or application process, please contact us at humanresources@strath.ac.uk, and we will be happy to assist you. This includes supporting you with the option to submit a paper application or a CV instead of completing the online application form.

Interviews

Formal interviews for this post will be held on Thursday, 10 December 2026

The University is a Disability Confident Employer and operates a guaranteed interview scheme for disabled candidates who meet all the essential criteria for the post that they are applying for.

Other Information

Further information on the application process and working at Strathclyde can be found on our website (http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr/workforus).

Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Jennifer Atkinson, Senior Finance Business Partner (jennifer.atkinson@strath.ac.uk).

Conditions of Employment

Conditions of employment relating to the Administrative and Professional staff category can be found at: Conditions of Employment.

Rewards and Benefits

Our comprehensive benefits package, including generous annual leave, family-friendly benefits, flexible work options, and a commitment to continuous learning, reflects our appreciation for the valuable contributions of our colleagues.

We understand that each staff member has unique priorities and lifestyles, so our diverse benefits ensure there is something for everyone, details of which can be found on our Rewards and Benefits webpage.

- **Financial Rewards:** We provide attractive financial packages, including competitive salaries, relocation support for employees and a generous pension scheme, with university contributions of 14.5%.
- **Work-Life Balance:** We are dedicated to enhancing healthy work-life balance for our employees. We offer generous annual leave, an additional annual leave purchase option, flexible and agile work arrangements.
    - Annual Leave: Generous entitlement of 31 days, in addition to 11 public holidays and University closure days.
    - Additional annual leave purchase: Option to request purchase of 2 weeks' additional annual leave per year.
    - Flexible and agile working: The University provides flexible work arrangements. You can request arrangements that fit you and your role, such as hybrid, part-time, compressed hours, term-time, adjusted shifts, staggered hours. These requests can be made from the first day of your employment.
- **Family Friendly Benefits:** We offer a variety of enhanced family-friendly benefits to support our employees in balancing work and family responsibilities. These include Maternity Leave, Paternity/Maternity Support, Adoption Leave, Shared Parental Leave, Parental Leave, Carers Leave and support, Family Friendly Research & Scholarship Leave, and access to our on-campus nursery.
- **Career Development:** Our commitment to personal development is reflected in initiatives such as professional courses, subsidised educational programs, coaching and mentoring, leadership development, secondment opportunities, and access to our library.
- **Health & Wellbeing:** We place high importance on the safety, wellbeing, and health of all our staff and offer discounted Strathclyde Sport membership, an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), Occupational Health Service, and Cycle to Work scheme.
- **Recognition Awards:** At Strathclyde, we place a strong emphasis on acknowledging and rewarding our staff's commitment and exceptional contributions. This is demonstrated through our Long-Service Awards and our Values-based Strathclyde Medals.

Pre-Placement Health Screening

If you are offered a job with us, you'll be encouraged to let us know about any disability, medical condition, or neurodivergence you have by completing a confidential pre-placement health questionnaire. Completing the questionnaire is entirely voluntary but by doing so we can put in place the right support and make any reasonable adjustments before you start.

Probation

Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 12 month probationary period.

Pension

The successful applicant will be eligible to join Universities' Superannuation Scheme. Further information regarding this scheme is available from Payroll and Pensions.

Relocation

Where applicable, the University offers a relocation package to support new employees who meet the eligibility criteria. The relocation package is offered as a contribution towards costs incurred, and is designed to be flexible, allowing staff to use the financial support available in the way that will be most helpful to them. Further details are outlined in the Relocation Policy.

Equality and Diversity

The University of Strathclyde is a socially progressive institution that strives to ensure equality of opportunity and celebrates the diversity of its student and staff community. Strathclyde is people-oriented and collaborative, offering a supportive and flexible working culture with a deep commitment to our equality, diversity and inclusion charters, initiatives, groups and networks.

We strongly encourage applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnicity, women, LGBT+, disabled candidates and candidates from lower socio-economic groups and care-experienced backgrounds.

The University currently holds an Athena Swan **Silver award**, recognising our commitment to support and transform gender equality within higher education and research.

University Values

The University's Values capture what we're all about: who we are, what we believe in and what we stand for. Our Values have been derived from how we act and how we expect to be treated as part of Strathclyde.

In delivering **our People Strategy**, we will contribute, act, and make decisions guided by these values.

- **People-oriented:** committed to our staff and students, providing opportunities, and investing in their development.
- **Bold:** confident and challenging in what we do, and supportive of embracing appropriate and managed risk in our decision-making.
- **Innovative:** focused on discovering and applying knowledge with impact and encouraging creative thinking and new ideas.
- **Collaborative:** working together, with our colleagues and external partners, with integrity and in an open, respectful way.
- **Ambitious:** for our institution, staff and students as well as supporting the ambitions of our partners.


Athena Swan
Silver Award
GENDER CHARTER

disability confident
EMPLOYER

CARER POSITIVE
Employer in Scotland
EXEMPLARY

Happy to talk
Flexible
Working

Miscarriage UK
Pregnancy
Loss Pledge

Working Families
Employer
Member
2025 - 2026

HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

ARMED FORCES
COVENANT