

## Royal Agricultural University Chair of Governing Council

The Royal Agricultural University (RAU), set on the edge of Cirencester in the beautiful Cotswold countryside, has been at the forefront of agricultural education and a key contributor to the land-based sector for more than 170 years. Its small size provides an exceptional sense of community, which supports, develops and encourages students from all backgrounds to achieve their ambitions.

The RAU is an acknowledged leader in teaching and research across agriculture, agri-business, equine, food, and land and property management. Awarded full University Status with Taught Degree Awarding Powers in 2013, it offers courses at foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate level to more than 1,200 students from some 40 different countries. Deep academic expertise is combined with practical application and industry connectivity. Students are taught leadership, enterprise and entrepreneurship, and leave the University well prepared for successful careers in their chosen field.

The new Chair, who will take up post in early 2020, will lead the Governing Council in shaping the nature and strategy of the University, supporting and holding to account the Executive, and ensuring the effective governance and scrutiny of all activity. He or she will also play an important and visible role in University life, attending functions and events and developing strong relationships with the RAU community, external stakeholders and funders.

It is expected that the Chair will offer a relevant executive and non-executive track record in organisations of comparable scale and complexity, ideally in areas such as agri-business, land management, animal health, food production and/or related supply chains. He or she should be a powerful and compelling advocate for the RAU, with broad-based national and/or international networks. Financial and commercial acumen is essential, as is empathy with higher education and a commitment to the RAU's mission. Prior experience of education management or governance is, however, not a prerequisite.

Further information is available at <http://www.odgers.com/73656>

Expressions of interest are invited by close of business on **Monday 11 November 2019**.