# **Executive Search and Recruitment Services**





# **1** About FEA

Our dedicated permanent executive search and recruitment services division will ensure our approach matches your needs and expectations and that the candidates we present have a solid understanding of the organisation's priorities.

FE Associates is the UK's most progressive further education and skills specialist, dedicated to offering expert insight, collaboration and guidance from an unrivalled network of sector-leading experts. FE Associates offer over 20 years of specialist sector intelligence, spanning the entire breadth of further education and skills.

Through our exceptionally well-networked recruitment and management consultancy practices, we understand the challenges and issues further education and skills providers face throughout the UK. Our executive search and recruitment practitioners have a deep insight into the skills required to make a difference and to drive colleges and providers forward.

Our permanent executive search and recruitment services division focuses solely on the further education and skills sector. Our people are in colleges and providers daily, so our contacts and networks are stronger than those of our competitor organisations.

We aim to be your trusted business partner, focusing on adding value throughout the process. We wish to support and deliver the search and recruitment process with a fully tailored service, backed up by real and current sector expertise, with an eye to ensuring value for money and successful outcomes.



# 2 Our Purpose, People and Principles

Our purpose, people and principles make us stand out and set us apart from others in the senior FE recruitment space.

**Our purpose is simple** – we build outstanding leadership teams by attracting great talent, caring for candidates and delivering great results for our clients.

**Our people are what sets us apart** – we are not just recruiters. Yes, we are experts in recruitment, but we are so much more than this. We are experts with senior college leadership experience, we have experience as governors, we are experts in FE strategy and policy, our team has senior-level HR expertise and we have a deep insight into what the sector faces today.

#### Our approach to working with you is based on our core principles:

**Partnership** – when we recruit for you, we are your partners, trusted advisors and confidants. We have your reputation in our hands and we take that responsibility extremely seriously.

**Understanding** – we seek to build an in-depth understanding of the challenges and opportunities your organisation is facing and build a deep understanding of your culture, values and aspirations.

**Fun** – we work with a sense of fun. We seriously enjoy what we do and our enthusiasm and passion for the sector shines through on every assignment we handle.

**Challenge** – we believe that part of our role is constantly challenging ourselves to deliver the best possible results for our clients. We also believe that our knowledge of the sector and the candidate market enables us to challenge our clients occasionally.

**Care** – at the core of everything we do is care and empathy. We have a dual responsibility to you as clients but also to candidates. Through our people-centred approach, we build enduring relationships with clients and candidates and judge our success by the ongoing relationships we maintain.

## 3 Meet the Team

**Our Key People** - we have the most talented search and recruitment team in the FE sector today. Leading the team is our Director of Recruitment Jo Johnston, supported by our senior consultants Amanda Hart, Suzanne Thurlow and Claire Gehlig, and their Personal Assistant Beth Jefferies who also supports Alison Edwards, our Recruitment Operations Manager and Rachael Collier, our Recruitment Operations Officer. Strategic advice is provided to the team by our Managing Director Matt Atkinson.

Together, we make a great team and share the same level of commitment and passion for our work with clients and candidates. As experts in the further education and skills sector, our key personnel have an unrivalled network of contacts across colleges and training providers. This, coupled with the balance and breadth of experience, skills and strengths that the team possess, is what sets us apart and makes us successful.



Jo Johnston Director of Recruitment

Jo has an extensive background in search and recruitment. As the former Managing Director of AoC Create, she is one of the sector's best-known search and recruitment consultants and her skills, experience and contact book are real strengths to our recruitment team.

As well as leading the team, Jo provides expert search and headhunting support to our clients, designing and delivering assessment centres and selection events to secure the best talent on offer.

Jo is highly focused on representing the college with absolute professionalism and providing exceptionally high levels of support to clients and candidates.



Suzanne Thurlow Senior Recruitment Consultant

Suzanne is a professional HR expert with over 25 years' senior leadership experience in further education in positions as HR Director, Assistant Principal and, more recently, as Vice Principal. As a senior HR strategist, Suzanne has successfully led on all aspects of HR and organisation development whilst supporting leaders to transition into their roles and develop their people skills to enable them to effectively support, motivate and inspire others.

Suzanne has led on a number of search and recruitment campaigns for senior leaders and governors, and consistently provides excellent levels of support and outstanding communication for both clients and candidates.



Claire Gehlig Senior Recruitment Consultant

Claire brings many years experience in the FE and Training sector, particularly in apprenticeships, curriculum management, and leadership development. Her deep understanding of colleges and training providers and her passion for guiding organisations to build visionary leadership teams makes her an invaluable member of our executive recruitment team.

Having worked with FE Associates as a highly successful specialist apprenticeship consultant since 2022, Claire's skills are a major strength to our executive recruitment team.



Asma Ahmad Senior Recruitment Consultant

Asma brings over 20 years' experience in the FE sector, particularly in curriculum and people management, as well as leadership and management development of large provisions.

Her deep understanding of colleges and the environments in which they operate provides her with valuable insights in guiding organisations to build visionary and sustainable leadership teams, making her an invaluable member of our executive recruitment team.



Amanda Hart Senior Recruitment Consultant

Amanda was previously Group Director of HR at the largest college group in the sector and also led HR teams in the independent training provider arena. Her strengths lie in her ability to build relationships and to quickly gain an insight into the needs of the organisation. Her ability to work with candidates, building their confidence whilst rigorously assessing their skills and abilities, are second to none.

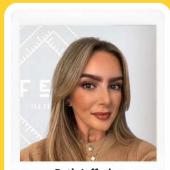
As a senior HR expert, Amanda will ensure that your selection processes are designed and delivered to ensure success.



Alison Edwards Recruitment Operations Manager



Rachael Collier Recruitment Operations Officer



Beth Jefferies PA to the Consultants

Alison manages and coordinates our permanent recruitment activities, delivering expert operational management across our processes. Together, Alison and Rachael will coordinate the campaign including advertising, website development, applicant tracking and processing and where we support clients with assessment centres, she will take care of all scheduling, process design and document production. Beth provides a high-level of support to our consultants.



Matt Atkinson Managing Director & Strategic Advisor

FE Associates' Managing Director Matt Atkinson provides strategic oversight of our executive recruitment services and supports our assignments with his expert knowledge of the candidate marketplace. Since 2016, Matt has led over 175 senior sector appointments, utilising the expertise and networks he built and maintained throughout an 11-year career as a college principal and chief executive.

He has extensive experience as a governor and trustee and is currently the Chair of South Gloucestershire and Stroud College Corporation. He views things through the eyes of the client and his personal experience and professional credibility are a significant strength to senior appointment processes.

# 4 Sustainability

FE Associates believe in the value of sustainable actions.

As part of our commitment to sustainability we plant ten trees per month, through **treeapp**, to offset our organisation's printing carbon footprint.



## **5 Our Experience**

Each year we handle a large number of senior appointments covering all aspects of college and provider leadership positions.

#### **Principal/CEO**



#### **Deputy/Vice Principal**

Visit www.fea.co.uk/hruc-hcp/ FEA



FEA v date: Thursday 23 May 2024



Visit www.fea.co.uk/bc-pce/

Closing date: 9am on Thursday 4 April 2024 Interview date Thursday 18 & Friday 19 April 2024





1 October 2024

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www.fea.co.uk/wtc-apc

#### **Chief Finance Officer/Finance Director**



#### Inspiring futures, realising dreams.

Across multiple campuses, Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMet) offers vocational courses, apprenticeships, A-levels and access courses.

We are seeking to appoint a fully qualified senior finance professional to provide outstanding leadership. In this high-impact role, you will be responsible for ensuring we achieve strong financial outcomes whilst delivering an excellent service that supports the delivery of exceptional education for all of our students.

We have engaged FE Associates to support us with this important appointment. Prior to submitting an application, contact our lead consultant, Amanda.Hart@fea.co.uk, to discuss this exciting opportunity before the closing date.

Closing date: 9am Tuesday 30 April 2024	
Interview date: Friday 10 May 2024	
Visit: www.fea.co.uk/bmet-fd/	FEA





Director of People & Organisational Development Salary: 805K- 570k per annum (depending on experience)

College and Highbury College and is well positioned to provide a united and seamlass offer for the communities and businesses of Portsmouth and its wider regions.

Our new Director of People 9 Organisational Development will provide strategie and operational leadership across the Collage. Using your extensive experience as a senior leader of Human Resources in a large, complex organisation, your contribution will make a significant impact to implementing our new strategy.

As a member of the Senior Leadership Team, reporting to the Chief Operating Officer, you will use your expertise to drive our post-merger harmonisation and people agenda.

We have appointed FE Associates to support us with this important appointment. Prior to submitting an application, interested parties are advised to contact Amanda.Hart@fea.co.uk to discuss the rele before the closing date.

sing date: 9am on Thursday 4 May 2023 For more information visit: Irview date: Thursday 18 May 2023 WWW.f9a.CO.Uk/Copc-dpod/





re nere adjourneer of pasovates to subjour to a must the important, appointment, on a to sourniving an application, interested parties are advised to contact **Suzanne.Thurlow@rea.co.uk** to discuss the role before it closing date.

Closing date: Interview date: 9am Tuesday 21 March 2023 Thursday 30 March 2023

For more information visit March 2023 www.fea.co.uk/hruc-pod/

## **Director of Governance**



#### Director of Governance and Legal Services

(0.6 contract, term time only)

At Stanmore College, our focus is to provide excellence in teaching and learning in an environment where both young and adv learners can achieve their potential through a wealth of provision and top-class teaching from highly skilled staff.

Our new Director of Governance and Legal Services will play a crucial role in ensuing effective governance, compliance and risk management within the college. Your extensive expansions as a governance or compliance professional will enable you to develop, implement and oversee governance and procedures to ensure our college operates with integrity and in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements.

With the ability to confidently and effectively communicate and collaborate with a diverse range of stakeholders, you will provide leadership and guidance to the governing body, locilitaring effective decision-making processes, promoting transportney and ensuring our governors are well equipped to fulfit their relea and responsibilities.

We have retained FE Associates to support us with this important oppointment. Prior to submitting an application, interested parties are acvised to arrange an initial discussion about this exciting opportunity with our recruitment partner, suzane, inturtwey/leace, us before the closed of an

Closing date: 9am on Thursday 15 February 2024 Interview date: w/c Monday 26 February 2024

For more information visit www.fea.co.uk/stanmore-dg/



/est London, we have exciting plans to advance the further education and skills agenda in the nation's capi Ighly effective governance has been key to our success and we are now seeking a new governance professi rovide expert support to our governing body. To succeed in this role, you will be an experienced governance

/e have appointed FE Associates to support us with this crucial appointment. Prior to submitting an application terested parties are advised to contact Suranne. Thurkwaifea.co.uk to discuss the role before the closing date.

Closing date:

FEA

; For more

or more information visit ww.fea.co.uk/hruc-ada/ FEA

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## **MIS Director**





#### Governors





We have appointed FE Associates to support us with these important appointments. Prior to submitting a CV and supporting statement, interested parties are advised to contact Amanda.Hart@fea.co.uk to discuss the role before the closing date.

Governors

Voluntary and unremunerated

Closing date: 9am on Monday 15 January 2024 Interview dates: Tuesday 23 or Wednesday 24 January 2024 (tbc)

STOKE

COLLEGE

For more information visit www.fea.co.uk/sotc-govs/

## **Commercial/Apprenticeships Director**

**Vice Principal** 

Business Growth, Skills and Partnerships COLLABORATIVE CONFIDENT COMMUNITY-FOCUSED

At SCUC and Stratford-upon-Avon College, our mission is to create a reflective and progressive environment which supports and inspires everyone to succeed. One of the key ambitions in our 2022-2025 strategic plan is to futureproof our college through considered income diversification and growth, and this role is key to achieving that

You will be a dynamic and experienced senior leader, able to shape, lead and deliver on our growth strategy, skills agenda and partnerships. You will have the knowledge and expertise to innovate curriculum to meet the skills agenda for the present and future, supporting the productivity of local and regional businesses

Interested parties are advised to contact our FE Associates lead consultant, Apinder.Sidhu@fea.co.uk, to discuss this role before the closing date.





Better Futures Coventry and F E A

#### **Executive Director of Commercial Partnerships**

FEA

Salary: up to £70k per annum Capped performance bonus. Relocation package available

Growth, partnerships and innovation are central to our strategic aims at The Bournemouth & Poole College. We are committed to making an outstanding contribution to leading and delivering skills to drive economic impact in the local area. Our new Executive Director of Commercial Partnerships will use their commercial acumen to strengthen our engagement with local stakeholders and employers and lead on our ambitious targets for growth.

With a track record of building and driving partnerships and growth in the skills and training arena, you will work collaboratively across the organisation to ensure our offer is relevant to the local and regional economies, pursuing new business opportunities whilst building upon the excellent partnerships we have established with our existing employers and stakeholders.

We have appointed FE Associates to support us with this crucial appointment. Prior to submitting an application, interested parties are advised to contact Amanda.Hart@fea.co.uk to discuss the role before the closing date.

For more information visit www.fea.co.uk/edcp/

Closing date: 9am Thurs 20 April 2023

Interview date: Tues 2 May 2023



## 6 Our Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

We are deeply committed to actively improving the diversity of senior leadership teams and boards, and there is a pressing need for senior leadership teams to be more reflective of the communities and student bodies they serve. We are developing our search and recruitment approaches to address the under-representation of minority groups explicitly and to promote equality, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism.

As part of our commitment to addressing imbalances in the diversity of leadership in further education and skills organisations, we will seek to partner with the organisation to develop our search strategies and recruitment campaign to attract the broadest possible range of candidates and to provide additional support for candidates from under-represented groups to give them the best possible chance of success throughout the assessment and selection process.

The promotion of equality and diversity is of fundamental importance to us and we will want to work with you to ensure the organisation is doing everything it can to ensure the leadership team is more diverse and balanced. As well as following best practices in inclusive recruitment, we will ensure we are working within any processes and procedures you have in your organisation.

We are now officially an Affiliated Organisation to the Black Leadership Group, formerly the Black FE Leadership Group. The goal of the Black Leadership Group (BLG) is to engender a truly anti-racist FE system and they have made remarkable progress in alerting the sector to the depth and extent of the challenge in eradicating all forms of racism in FE.

You can find out more about the Black Leadership Group by reading their 10-point plan using the link below.

Black FE Leadership Group <u>Using the Black Further Education Leadership</u> <u>Group 10-point plan (blackfeleadership.com)</u>

## 7 Get In Touch

Thank you for taking the time to read our executive search and recruitment services brochure. We hope we have demonstrated our passion for the work we do, the expertise of our people and our track record in delivering successful search and recruitment outcomes for our clients. We very much look forward to becoming your trusted partner in your assignment.

Matt Atkinson Managing Director

Matt.Atkinson@fea.co.uk

07506677745 I 01454 617 707

Jo Johnston Director of Recruitment

Jo.Johnston@fea.co.uk

07500448282 | 01454 617 707



## 8.1 Testimonials - What our Clients say About us...

I would absolutely recommend FE Associates to anyone who is looking for a great professional company that looks after its clients. Prior to the commencement of the recruitment process, Matt and his team took the time to listen to the brief, which then enabled them to understand the ethos and culture of the College and the calibre of candidates we were seeking to attract.

The support provided to us every step of the way was second to none and we are thrilled to have been able to appoint to this senior position at Chelmsford College.

Beverley Mahoney, Human Resources Manager Chelmsford College



We all know everything we do in Further Education matters. Working to promote and secure the very best people is critical to our mission and for our most critical roles, we have used FEA.

Over recent months, we have used FEA to support our recruitment of four senior roles across our colleges. FEA always deliver a professional and responsive service, tailored to our needs to secure the very best people. I am also really proud that FEA has helped HRUC expand the diversity and talent of our senior leadership team. FEA is a critical strategic partner to HRUC, driving our ambition to be the best colleges to work and learn with.

Keith Smith CEO HRUC



## 8.2 Testimonials - What our Candidates say About us...

FE Associates were key drivers in helping me make the next big step in my career. I am grateful to Matt and Jo, who successfully helped me secure the role of Executive Director of Finance at a well-established college. They took the time to understand my needs and competencies and matched me to a position that would optimise my potential.

Jo explained the role, the organisation and its warm culture, and also took time to assess my strengths and next steps, which I felt was important to have in that initial assessment.

I especially appreciate the preparation work that Matt had gone through with me to ensure that I was confident and well prepared. Matt's transparent communication, professionalism, exceptional guidance and support was the assurance I needed that they were genuinely interested in my career aspirations and progression.

Thank you to FE Associates for helping me start an exciting new chapter of my professional career.

Molly Makota Executive Director of Finance Designate Christ The King Sixth Forms



At York College, we have used FEA for a number of key senior leadership team appointments. Most recently, this was for two Director of Curriculum roles.

Suzanne worked tirelessly to get us a field of candidates for both roles, ensuring that those who were considered for shortlisting were technically competent but also ensured that they would 'fit' with Yor<u>k College.</u>

In the end, we made two excellent appointments to the roles and we look forward to working with FEA for any further senior roles we need to fill.

Ken Merry Deputy Principal and Deputy Chief Executive York College



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