



UNIVERSITY
OF LEEDS

Chief Information Security Officer

Candidate brief



Welcome

*from Professor
Shearer West, Vice
Chancellor and
President of the
University of Leeds*



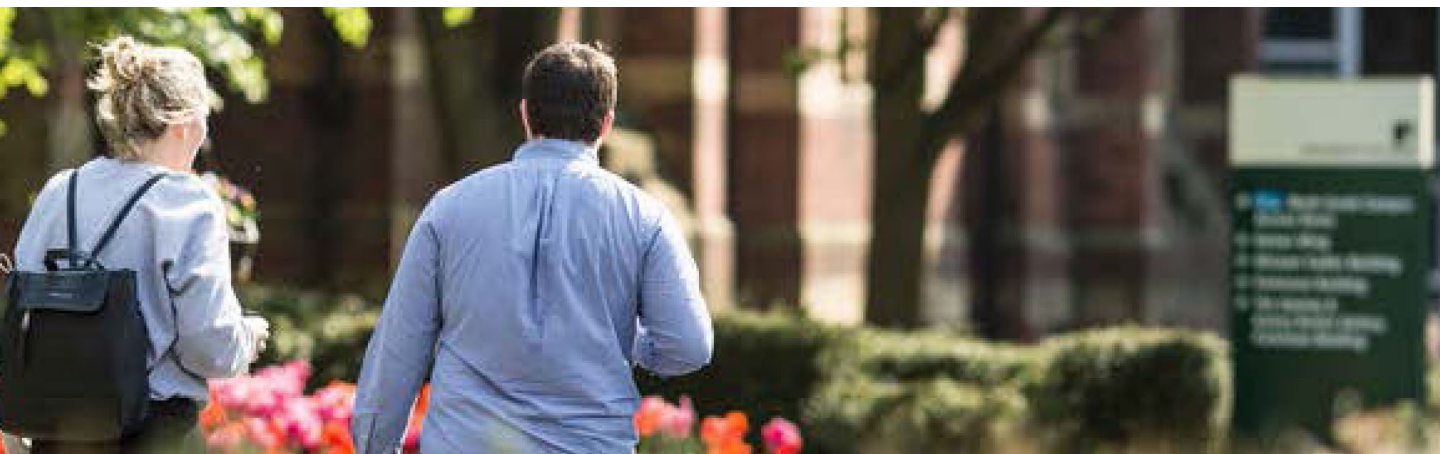
Thank you for your interest in this crucial role at the University of Leeds.

We are a world-leading institution recognised globally for the quality of our research, the strength of our teaching and the commitment we demonstrate to tackling global challenges. Our community is united by a shared purpose; to harness our collective expertise and address the most pressing challenges of our time – locally, nationally and globally. As we implement the next phase of our strategy, [Universal Values, Global Change](#), through its mid-term review, we are committed to building a digitally enabled, inclusive and agile institution, aligned around our mission-critical goals and the evolving demands of society.

In this context, the role of Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) is fundamental. We are looking for a strategic, values driven leader who can not only protect and strengthen our digital environment, but who will help shape the transformation of our research, teaching and operational capabilities, across our large and complex institution.

We look forward to welcoming a collaborative, empowering leader who shares our belief that security, resilience and innovation go hand in hand in creating a better future.

Professor Shearer West CBE



Shaping a better future

The University of Leeds, established in 1904, is one of the largest and most respected research-intensive higher education institutions in the UK. As part of the Russell Group, our ambition is to harness the power of collaboration to tackle inequalities, drive sustainable development and make a real difference in the world.

Through our 10-year strategy and our *One Leeds* mid-term refresh, we are reimagining how we deliver research, education and societal impact. Our aim is to reduce barriers to collaboration, focus energy on what truly matters, and build cross disciplinary strength in our mission-critical areas. Digital transformation, transnational education, and AI are central to that vision.

Cyber resilience underpins all of this. Whether enabling a major curriculum reform through [Curriculum Redefined](#),

ensuring continuity in life-saving and globally impactful research, or supporting our engagement with local, national and international partners, we recognise that secure digital infrastructure is foundational to delivering our long-term ambitions.

The strategic role of cyber leadership

As our digital estate continues to grow in scale and complexity, spanning AI-enabled teaching platforms, integrated student lifecycle systems and high-performance research infrastructure, the need for visionary cyber leadership has never been greater.

This isn't just about safeguarding our systems; it's about enabling innovation and embedding good security practices in the design of our digital estate.



Background to the role

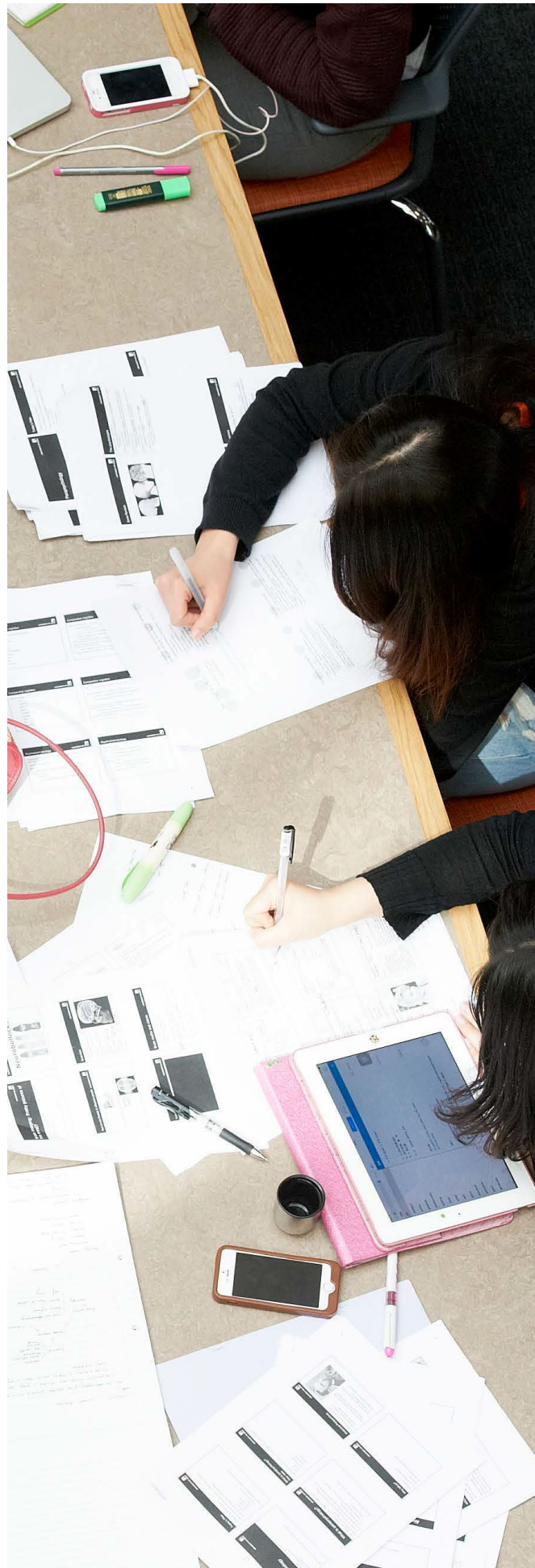
Are you an experienced and influential Information Security professional working at a senior leadership level with a background of delivery in a complex environment? Can you lead and collaborate with colleagues at all levels? Would you like to be at the forefront of sector-defining technology developments at the University of Leeds?

You will be an integral member of the IT Executive Leadership team and will work closely with members of the University Executive Group to ensure our security standards and protocols enable the University to deliver its strategic aims and objectives across student education, research & innovation, and international collaboration.

As the CISO, you will be responsible for embedding the strategic vision for information security at the University. Collaborating with senior leadership, you will guarantee the uniform implementation of information security policies and procedures throughout the University, while promoting a clear, consistent, and effective approach to managing information security.

You will possess the capacity to influence and prioritise strategic objectives, expertly guide and coordinate complex change initiatives through strong leadership, and foster collaboration among executive stakeholders across the University.

If you excel in managing strategic challenges and leading effectively in a complex setting, this is a great chance to impact a top-tier organisation.



What does the role entail?

Reporting to the Chief Digital and Information Officer (CDIO) and with a dotted line to the Chief Operating Officer (COO), the Chief Information Security Officer will:

- Lead and implement a University-wide information and cyber security strategy
- Design modern security architecture and foster a zero-trust approach
- Sustain and empower a high-performing cyber security team
- Collaborate with stakeholders across the University to facilitate change and align security with academic freedom and research integrity
- Represent Leeds in national and sector-wide cyber security initiatives
- Foster a culture of awareness, ownership and proactive cyber hygiene.

What we're looking for

We are looking for an exceptional individual who brings:

- Proven success in senior information security positions in large, complex organisations
- A strategic mindset with the ability to align cyber priorities to business outcomes
- Emotional intelligence and the ability to inspire, influence and empower others
- A collaborative approach to leadership and a commitment to inclusion and diversity
- Deep expertise in areas including information and cyber security governance, risk management, compliance (ISO27001, PCI-DSS, Cyber Essentials), identity and access management, security operations, threat and vulnerability management, and network and cloud security.
- These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.



Remuneration & benefits

The role offers a highly competitive salary alongside generous benefits, including:

- One of the best pension schemes in the UK
- 42 days annual leave inclusive of bank holidays and University closure days
- Family friendly policies
- Access to wellbeing, learning, and lifestyle resources
- Sector discounts
- Opportunities for continued professional development and sector engagement.

Additional Information

To explore the post further or if you have any queries please contact Masud Khokhar, Chief Digital and Information Officer at m.khokhar@leeds.ac.uk

To apply please visit <https://jobs.leeds.ac.uk/PSOIT3265-25>

Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 - A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations on our Criminal Records information page.

