

Professor Peter Mathieson



The Principal is responsible for the overall operation of the University

He is President of the Senatus Academicus and ex-officio, a member of the University Court.

The Principal is nominated by the Curators of Patronage and appointed by the University Court.

As Vice-Chancellor he confers degrees on behalf of the Chancellor HRH The Princess Royal.

Professor Peter Mathieson MBBS(Hons)(London), PhD(Cambridge), FRCP(London), FMedSci FRSE assumed the office of Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh in February 2018.

Peter Mathieson was born and educated in the United Kingdom. He went to a state grammar school in Penzance, Cornwall and was the first member of his family to go to university. He read Medicine at the London Hospital Medical College and qualified with First Class Honours from the University of London in 1983. After junior medical posts in London, he obtained a research training fellowship from the Medical Research Council (MRC) to study at the University of Cambridge. He was awarded a PhD by the University of Cambridge in 1992. He became Director of Studies for Clinical Medicine at Christ's College, Cambridge following his PhD. After a further MRC fellowship he moved to Bristol in 1995 as the foundation Professor of Renal Medicine at the University of Bristol and Honorary Consultant Nephrologist, North Bristol NHS Trust. In 1999, he was elected to Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences. In 2021 he was elected as Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He was knighted in the 2023 New Year Honours for services to higher education.

In the past, in 2007 Peter was Head of the University Department of Clinical Science at North Bristol, was appointed as Director of Research & Development for the North Bristol NHS Trust, and was elected President of the Renal Association (the UK's national speciality association for nephrologists and renal scientists) in a competitive ballot of the membership, being the youngest President in its history. He served the full three year term as President and remained a Trustee for a further two years as Immediate Past-President. He was delighted to be recently made an Honorary Life Member of the Renal Association, a rare distinction awarded to only 16 people currently.

In 2008 Peter was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Bristol, serving most of a sixth year after his initial five year term. He played a major role in the formation of Bristol Health Partners from 2008 onwards and was appointed as its founding Director in May 2012, a role he undertook alongside that of Dean.

In April 2014, Peter assumed office as the 15th President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, a post he held until January 2018.

In 2011 he was awarded honorary life membership of the Australian & New Zealand Society of Nephrology. In March 2015 he was awarded Honorary Fellowship of Hughes Hall, Cambridge and in October 2016 Honorary Fellowship of Hong Kong College of Physicians. In 2023 he was elected to an honorary fellowship of Christ's College Cambridge.

Of the various prizes and academic awards that he has received, he is most proud of being voted "Teacher of the Year" by Cambridge medical students in 1992; the Milne-Muehrcke award from the Renal Association and the National Kidney Foundation of USA for "most promising young researcher from UK" in 1997; the UK Renal Association Lockwood Award (for contribution to academic renal medicine) in 2004; and being voted "top teacher 2011-12" by Foundation doctors at University Hospitals Bristol.

[Register of Interests](#)

Committee Memberships

- University Court
- Exception Committee
- Policy & Resources Committee
- Nominations Committee