



# Working with us

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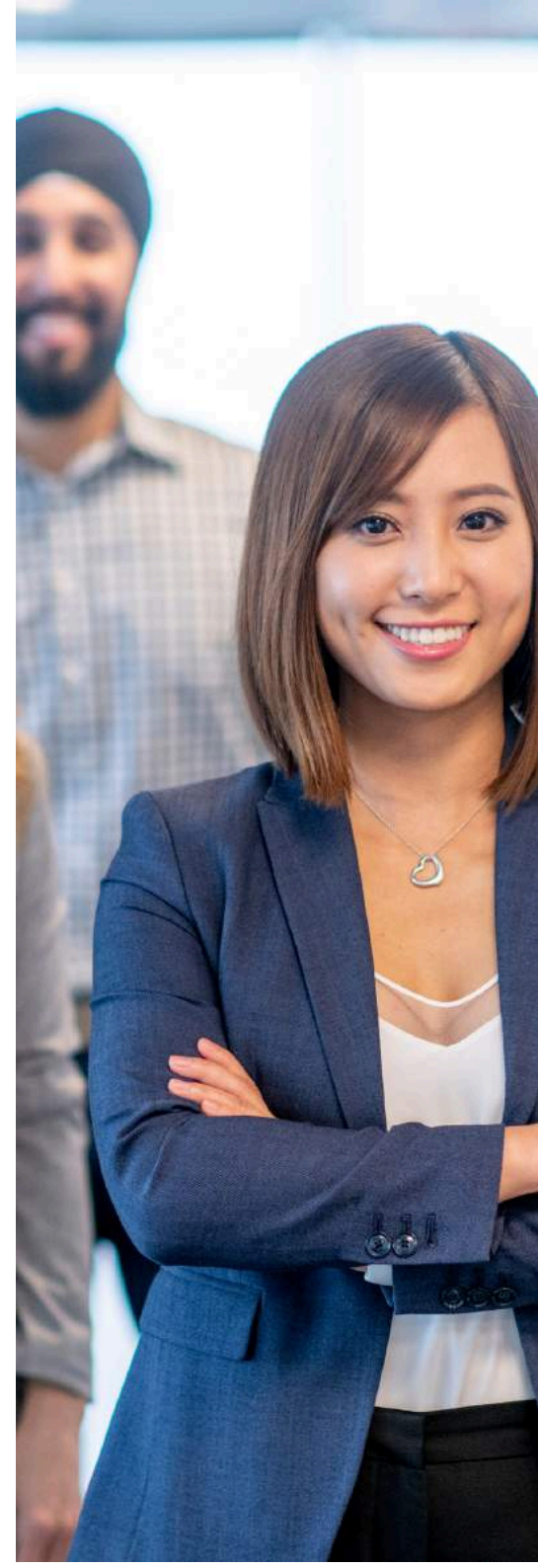
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# Who are we?



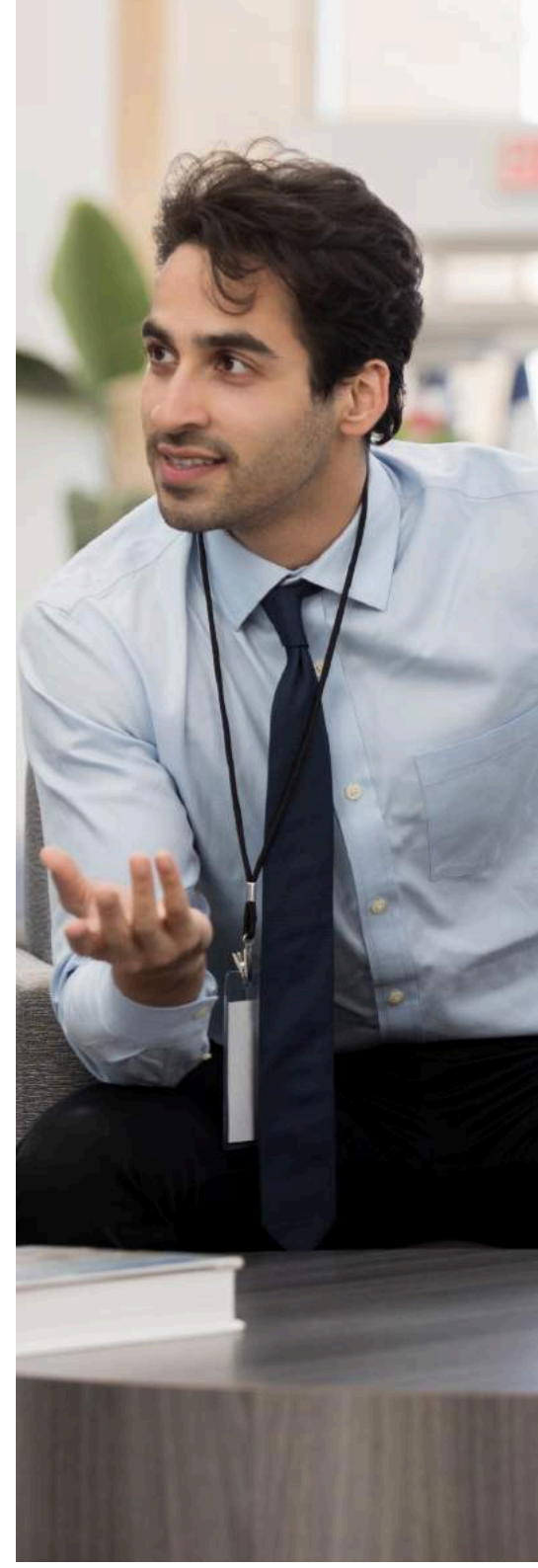
Governors for Schools is a national education charity that finds and supports skilled people onto governing boards across England and Wales. We have over 20 years of experience in the sector, supporting high-calibre volunteers to apply their knowledge to school boards – and help younger generations thrive.

We're committed to supporting volunteers in their development as governors, running regular campaigns and an annual conference to improve school governors' knowledge about the education sector. We also provide free eLearning courses and host regular webinars with experts in the field.

We work hard to encourage people from underrepresented communities to apply, as we know that diverse boards help schools deliver the best education possible for all pupils.

**6,161 volunteers appointed in the last 3 years...**  
**into 3,850 schools...**  
**across 171 local authorities**

Over the past 20 years we've worked with many universities to strengthen school governance and the education sector. There is no financial ask to work with us as a university or higher education organisation – this is because we aim to build a mutually beneficial relationship through working with you. School governance gives university staff and alumni the chance to support lifelong learning for children and young people. In addition to this, it also gives higher education organisations the opportunity to publicly affirm their commitment to social engagement and their future learners. We also offer paid for programmes that may be of interest to you and we're always keen to discuss any ideas you may have for collaboration.





# Who are we?

## **Our mission**

We're committed to providing those responsible for appointing governors with the best governor and trustee recruitment service in the sector.

## **Our vision**

We're working to ensure that every school in England and Wales has excellent governance, driving improved educational outcomes for all children and young people.

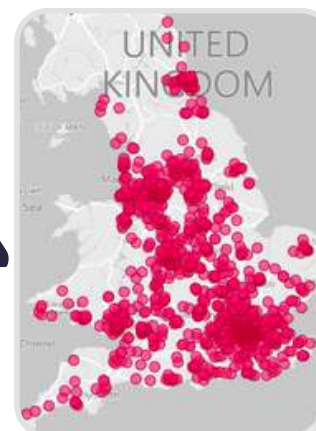
**"I had been a bit nervous about applying to be a governor, but the support offered by Governors for Schools encouraged me to take the leap. The process was really smooth. After filling in a simple application form, then a couple of short calls with Governors for Schools, I was put in touch with the school. I have found the webinars and resources offered by Governors for Schools really valuable in getting started as a governor."**

## **Chris Duffy**

Governor, The Godolphin Junior Academy

**90% of schools would recommend us**  
**90% of volunteers would recommend us**

**Here's a heatmap of all our successful appointments nationally in 2022-23**



# 2 What is a school governor?

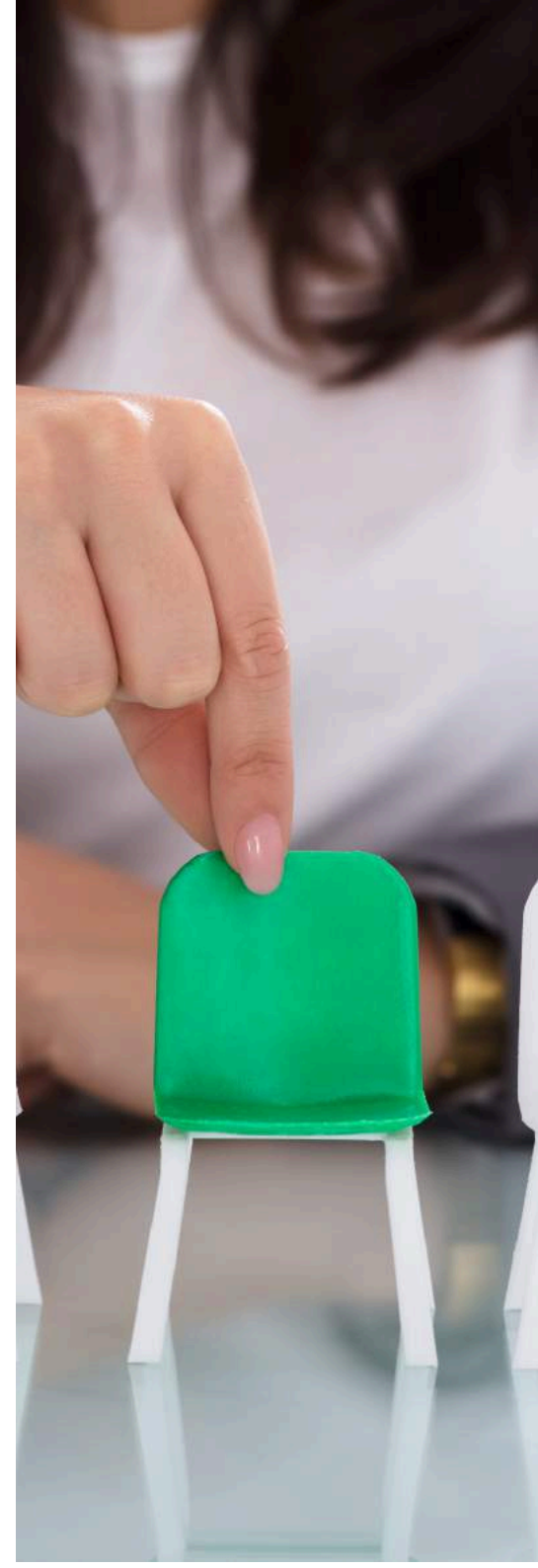
School governors set the strategic direction of a school and hold its senior leaders to account, with a view to providing the best education possible.

Schools need governors with a broad range of skills and experiences to help them run effectively. School governors don't need to be parents or to have worked in education. We work with university partners to find volunteers with a broad range of skills, allowing them to tap into wider expertise and networks to help the school succeed.

Every school across England and Wales has a governing board. Around two thirds of schools have at least one vacancy on their board. Our service works to address this problem by building links between education and industry, ensuring every pupil receives an education that prepares them for the future.

**Over 6,000 vacancies registered across England and Wales each year.**

**Research suggests more schools have 2 vacancies than have 1.**



### What can school governors get involved with?

One of the ways I've helped the school is by applying my professional skills in analytics and logistics to my governance role. I've looked at financial data and compared it to other schools' spending, identifying discrepancies and areas of potential overspending. I'm really pleased the board has helped the school move from a deficit to a surplus in their budget. It's also been great to see the school go from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good' in the most recent Ofsted inspection. We're keenly working towards 'Outstanding'.

It's been fantastic to gain experience in skills like chairing and project management. These are things that I never had the opportunity to do in my role at Sainsbury's. Developing these skills will give me something substantial to talk about in interviews.

#### Aleister Wallace

Alumni volunteer - Chair of Governors, Wolf Fields Primary School

### Hear from an existing partner...

Being a governor has been such a worthwhile role. It's enabled me to develop my skills in data and report analysis and ability to think strategically; increased my confidence in asking challenging questions and having difficult conversations...I also get to see first-hand the impact excellent educational interventions and pastoral support can have on a young person's life, especially if their home life has its own challenges. Being able to play a small part in this is hugely rewarding and I'd really encourage colleagues to apply to be a governor.

#### Roz Webster

The University of Manchester





Volunteering as a school governor gives both higher education employees and alumni networks the chance to partake in board-level decision making and develop their leadership skills. Volunteers ideally stay in the role for 4 years, providing challenge and support to the leadership team and gaining financial oversight of large budgets. Our university partners tell us if they would like us to work with their staff, alumni or both.

## **Staff governor initiatives**

Skills based volunteering helps organisations enrich their training and development offer. As well as providing your staff with opportunities to practise and gain new skills, school governance can broaden their networks and offer new experiences.

**“Being analytical, persuasive, and adept at problem-solving are vital skills to have on a governing board; that’s why university staff make excellent school governors. Those working at a university already have valuable education knowledge and experience. By volunteering their skills as school governors, university staff can continue to impact education locally.**

**Wherever a school governor is in their professional career, volunteering also offers invaluable learning opportunities that might not otherwise be encountered in working life. These opportunities should be celebrated as playing a key role in personal growth and development, as well as supporting career progression. Governors for Schools provides those volunteers with the necessary tools to kickstart their growth.”**

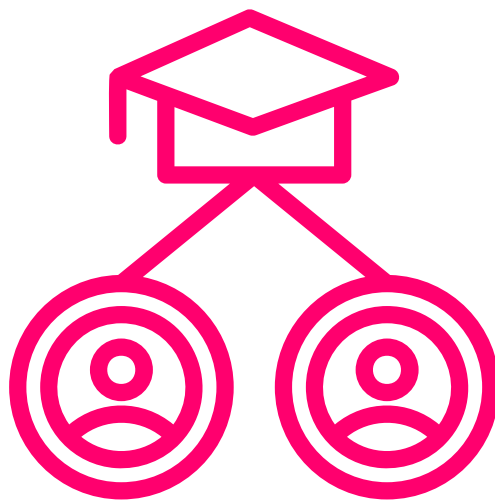
**William Durham**

Head of Impact



## Alumni governor initiatives

Promoting school governance to an alumni network is a great way to signpost towards a professional development opportunity that will play an important part in skill development for recent graduates. For others in alumni networks, it may be seen as an effective way to volunteer time utilising the skills they've developed across their studies and career.



## Creating connections

When a vacancy is filled by a member of your staff or alumni, a link is forged between the school community and the university. These strategic links help to provide outreach opportunities and raise aspirations through exposure and integration.





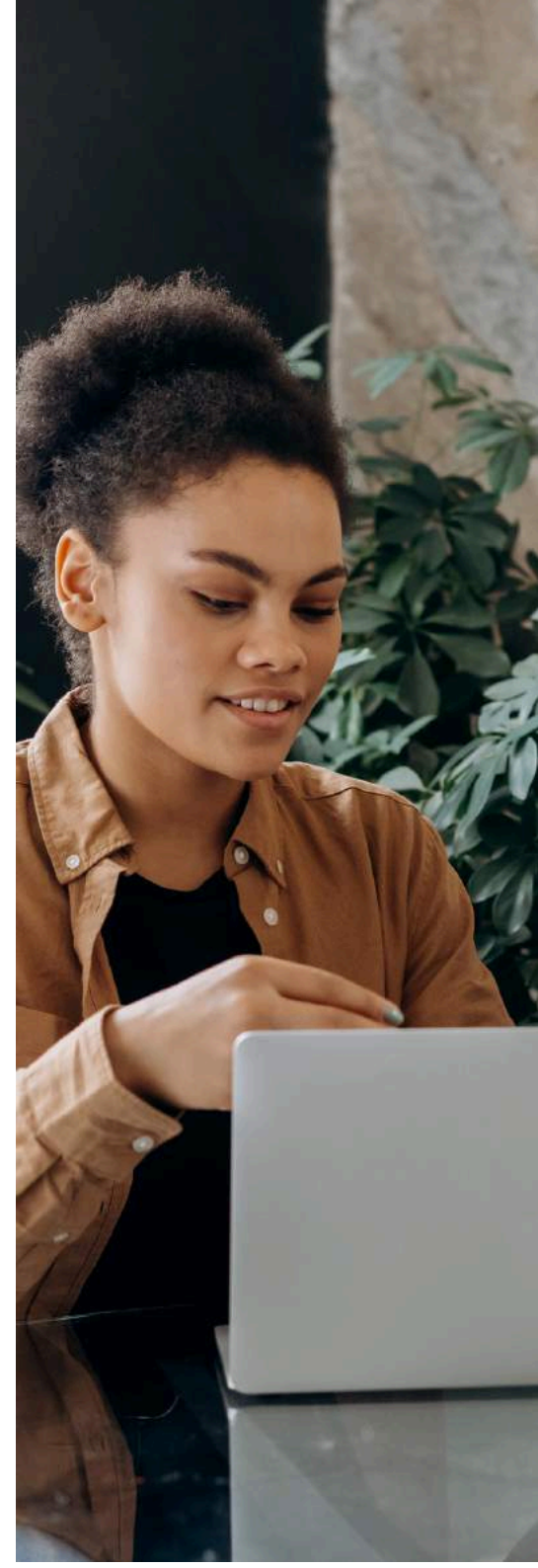
**“We’re proud to work with universities to facilitate and grow positive connections between higher education providers and schools. Through working with us, universities are able to evidence a commitment to improving educational achievement in their local community and beyond.**

**Many of our partner universities reference their commitment to school governance in their Access and Participation Plans, demonstrating how their involvement can improve education opportunities for under-represented and disadvantaged pupils across England and Wales.**

**We’ve worked with a wide-range of universities to increase attainment in schools through school governor-specific programmes. It’s now our aim to broaden the reach of this work, connecting with as many universities as possible to support and develop their relationships with schools.”**

**Emma Harris**

Head of Partnership Development



# Access and Participation plans

**“Historically the University has had strong links with a variety of schools through staff members being involved in school governorship. A number of schools include a representative of Durham University as a fixed member of their governing bodies and there are many more members of Durham staff who volunteer as governors of schools outside of their working life. The University sees this as a valuable opportunity to strengthen links with schools, particularly in the North East.”**

## **Durham University**



Governors for Schools works with universities by providing termly reports documenting volunteers that have applied via the engagement with the university. Our progress reports share the names of volunteers who have been successfully placed in a governance role through our service, as well as data on the number of volunteers who have applied and are in the process of being matched.

We supply our university partners with key reporting metrics, including approximate hours donated by volunteers, approximate children impacted (those in attendance at the schools with placed university volunteers), and an approximate financial value of the volunteer time given. The data we provide can be used in your own reports and communications to help evidence your commitment to the education sector.



Our partnerships with those in the higher education space play an important part in our work. We will celebrate these partnerships when reporting on the impact of our work around ensuring schools have access to excellent governance.

Through both staff and alumni networks, your university can have a huge impact on the educational outcomes of thousands of pupils. This includes the areas local to your university and further afield across England and Wales.

**Quick take-aways from our five-year Impact Report:**



**85% of appointed volunteers had a positive experience in their governance role**



**86% have used or are using our support resources to develop themselves in their role**



**33% felt their governance role had helped develop their careers**



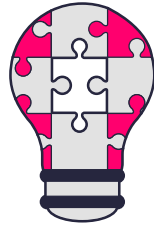
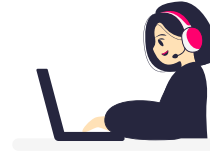


# Benefits for your people and alumni networks



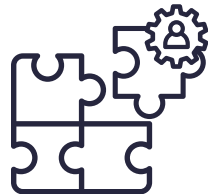
the opportunity to share their expertise with schools and support their community

a dedicated point of contact who will support them through the process



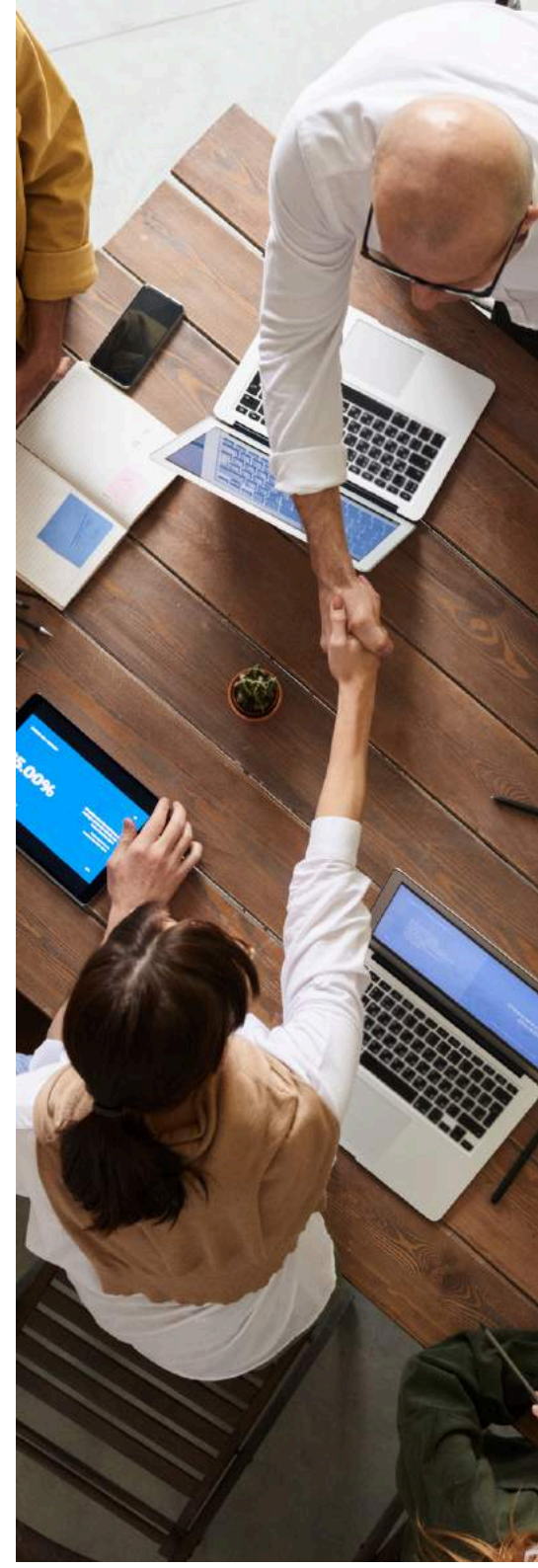
the opportunity to broaden their expertise and bring new skills back to the workplace

support through webinars, eLearning, our annual conference and other training resources



personalised, skills-based matching with governor vacancies, including school outreach as needed

access to a comprehensive governor induction training package supporting the first 12 months in role, including access to GovernorHub Knowledge (previously known as The Key for School Governors)



# Training and support

## eLearning

eLearning modules on a number of topics to introduce you to key elements of the role



## Webinars

Regular webinars so you can continue your learning and have the opportunity to ask our governance experts questions



12 months' free access to online governor resources and knowledge bank from GovernorHub Knowledge (formerly The Key)



# Working with you

Working with Governors for Schools offers many benefits to you as a higher education organisation, as well as your people, networks and alumni.

## For you as an organisation



## For your employees





# Next steps

**Are you interested in widening the opportunities for your staff, students or alumni to develop new skills and play an important role in the education of future generations?**

**Get in touch with us today to start a new, exciting partnership with Governors for Schools.**

You will be matched with a Partnerships Manager who will work with you to ensure successful delivery of your School Governor initiative.

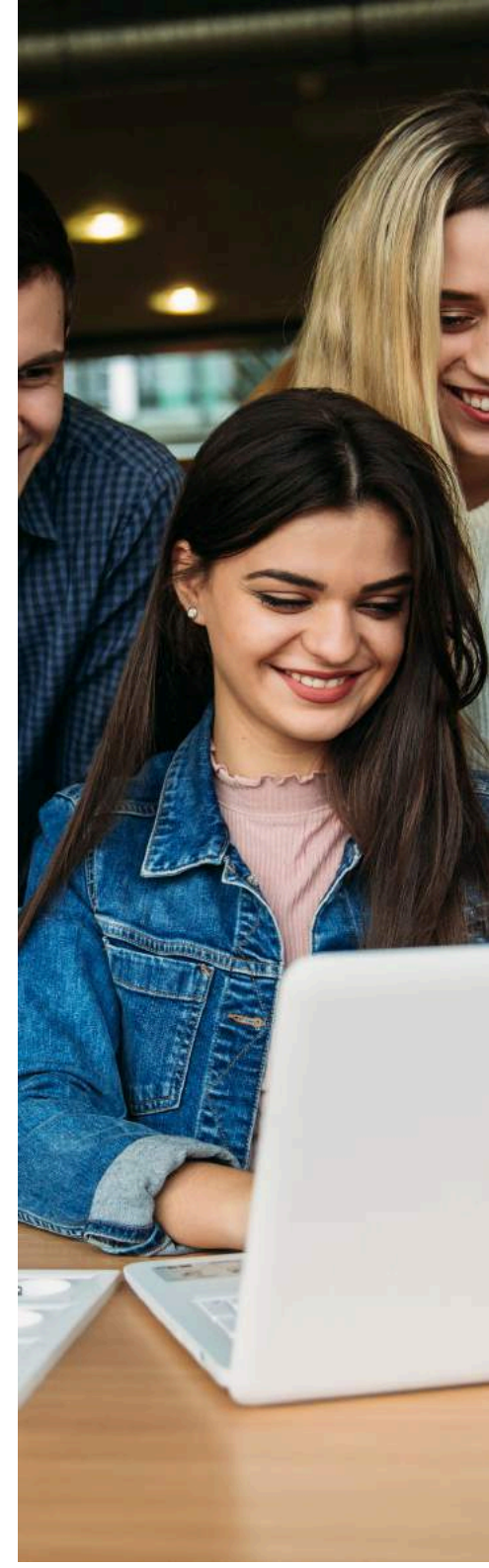


**Charlie Western**

Senior Partnerships Team Manager



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Visit our website:

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