

Professor Nick Taylor

I'm standing for re-election to Senate.

I have been a member of Senate for 18 of my 30 years at Heriot-Watt and I have served on a variety of committees and project boards at various times. As Head of Computer Science from 2008 to 2014, I was a member of the MACS Management Committee and learnt much about the other departments in the School. I also gained experience of the university's overseas operations, especially the Dubai campus and ALPs, during that time. I am currently the Deputy Director of the Edinburgh Centre for Robotics at Heriot-Watt and work closely with our partner institution, the University of Edinburgh, along with colleagues in MACS and EPS, to deliver the Robotics and Autonomous Systems Centre for Doctoral Training and the Robotarium national robotics facility. Down the years I have also collaborated on teaching and research initiatives with colleagues in all of the university's schools and I was a founder member of both the former Faculty of Textiles Board and the Undergraduate Studies Committee. I have participated in reviews of, and appointments to, a variety of other disciplines and developed a good understanding of the university's mission and diversity.

Heriot-Watt has come a long way since the granting of its Royal Charter but the next few years are likely to be some of the most uncertain it has faced. As we navigate our way through this testing period we need to combine the prudence essential to the management of risk and maintenance of standards with the confidence and audacity necessary to capitalise on emerging opportunities. I am keen to continue contributing the experience I have gained, both at Heriot-Watt and elsewhere, to the academic governance of the university as an elected member of Senate.