

Charlie Atkinson **BEng, MBA, CDir, SHRM-SCP**

Strategic leader and Edinburgh alumnus with over 25 years' experience in higher education and global organizational leadership. Currently Operations Director at Harvard Business School Executive Education, overseeing 80 programs for 6,000+ participants annually. Combines academic insight, governance experience, and operational excellence to strengthen learning cultures, institutional reputation, and alumni engagement. Committed to fostering collaboration between academia and business to advance Edinburgh's global standing and community.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Harvard Business School Executive Education - Boston USA (2023 – Present)

Operations Director / Portfolio Director

- Lead operations for global leadership programs serving 6,000+ senior executives annually.
- Collaborate with faculty and international partners to ensure program excellence.
- Drive initiatives in digital learning, inclusion, and participant engagement.
- Mentor and develop professional staff to sustain high performance and collaboration.

PeopleFactors, Boston MA – Boston USA (2018-2023)

Founder, President

- Founded and scaled an HR Tech platform used by major global organizations.
- Integrated behavioral analytics and machine learning to strengthen leadership capability.
- Partnered with universities and corporations to measure impact and promote inclusion.

Human Factors International – Boston USA / London UK (2009-2018)

President, North America / Managing Director, EMEA

- P&L responsibility for a boutique global clients in multi-year leadership and organizational development programs.
- Built cross-regional teams focused on excellence and collaboration.

Earlier Career

Lecturer in Strategy and Innovation, Lancaster University Management School (UK).

- Taught strategy, critical reasoning, and innovation to MBA and MSc students.

Field Engineer, Schlumberger Wireline

- Early career experience in data-driven decision-making and cross-cultural leadership.

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration - University of Warwick, UK

BEng (Hons), Electrical and Mechanical Engineering - University of Edinburgh, UK

Chartered Director (CDir) - Institute of Directors, London

SHRM-SCP - Society for Human Resource Management, Alexandria VA

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND INTERESTS

Professional Engagement

- Advocate for inclusive and evidence-based leadership development.
- Experience serving on cross-institutional committees and advisory boards.
- Mentoring professionals and students through alumni and leadership networks.

Interests

- Mountain Rescue volunteer, experienced mountaineer and expedition leader.
- Sailor and scuba diver with a lifelong interest in environmental conservation.