MANYA BUCHAN

PROFILE

Experienced software product manager, strategic planner, and university governance committee member with a career spanning higher-education strategy, research policy and research-management technology. Elected to the University of Edinburgh General Council Business Committee in 2023 and Convenor of its Finance & Services Standing Committee since 2025. Brings an understanding of institutional priorities, research funding and performance, and university governance, alongside experience working with universities internationally to support research management and institutional strategy.

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE & SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

CONVENOR, FINANCE & SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE **2025 - Present**
MEMBER, GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE **2023 - Present**

- Convene the Finance & Services Standing Committee and lead its consideration and discussion of matters within its remit.
- Introduced greater transparency and inclusivity by opening Finance & Services Standing Committee meetings to the wider Business Committee membership.
- Contribute to the work and deliberations of the General Council Business Committee, drawing on professional experience in university strategy, governance and research management.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DIGITAL SCIENCE

PRINCIPAL PRODUCT MANAGER, ELEMENTS **2023 - Present**
SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER, ELEMENTS **2019 - 2023**

Provide product leadership for Elements, a research management platform supporting universities and research organisations internationally. Lead development of the product roadmap aligned with strategic business priorities.

- Chair the REF Steering Group, working with strategic university customers to agree development priorities and respond to evolving research assessment requirements.
- Led delivery of major initiatives including Item Evaluation, the Open Access Monitor redesign, REF2021 functionality and Awards Management.

- Lead customer interviews, feedback analysis and discovery workshops; develop prototypes for validation with clients. Contribute to go-to-market activities, tender responses, customer engagement and product demonstrations.
- Investigate opportunities for AI in research-management products and use AI tools to improve internal workflows and processes.

ELSEVIER

SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER, PURE **2018 - 2019**
PRODUCT MANAGER, PURE **2014 - 2017**

Led product strategy and delivery for Pure Reporting and Assessment capabilities, working closely with university customers and multidisciplinary development teams. Delivered national research assessment modules for Australia, the Netherlands, and the UK, redesigned the Reporting module, and led delivery of the UK REF Results Analysis Tool.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

HEAD OF RESEARCH POLICY AND PLANNING SERVICES **2012 - 2014**
SENIOR STRATEGIC PLANNER **2008 - 2012**
RESEARCH ASSESSMENT EXERCISE OFFICER **2006 - 2008**

Led the Research Policy and Planning unit within Governance and Strategic Planning, contributing to institutional strategy, research policy and performance monitoring. Planned and managed national research assessment submissions (REF and RAE); analysed assessment outcomes and associated government funding allocations; and provided executive-level advice, analysis and reporting to University committees. Contributed to the development and implementation of the University's Strategic Plan 2008–12.

EDUCATION

MBA • THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH **2006**
Top of Class, Year 1
Dissertation awarded Distinction: "Managing change: Semesterisation at the University of Edinburgh"

BA (HONS) ARCHAEOLOGY • SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY **1999**
University Honour Roll 1998
Honours thesis awarded A∗: "Time Since Death: A Review of the Current Status of Methods used in the Later Postmortem Interval"