



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



## Position Description and Candidate Profile - DRAFT

Vice-President, Research & Innovation  
University of British Columbia

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February 2017

## The Position – VP Research and Innovation



### The Opportunity

The University of British Columbia (UBC) aspires to enhance its research capacity, strengthen its research performance, promote its research findings to the wider community, and become the leading research university in Canada and one of the leading research universities in the world. The role of Vice-President, Research & Innovation is central to the implementation of UBC's strategic vision for the future.

### The Position

The Vice-President, Research & Innovation (VPRI), who reports to the President and is a member of the University's senior management team, will provide leadership in the development, administration and the promotion of research and innovation at both UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan. The VPRI will be an articulate, credible advocate for the full range of the University's research, and will establish and maintain effective liaison with external funding agencies, business, industry, government, and the broader community. More specifically, the VPRI is expected to:

- Be a champion and advocate for research by articulating and promoting the University's research strengths, goals, and achievements to UBC's internal and external communities;
- Function as a key member of the University's senior administrative team, spearheading a cohesive, focused approach to the research portfolio consistent with the University's academic mission;
- Advance the University's innovation strategy, working in partnership with industry and government. UBC's innovation strategy aims to leverage the university's research and educational activities in order to further contribute to job creation, economic growth and social benefits in BC and beyond.

- Have administrative responsibility for the Office of Research Services, the University-Industry Liaison Office, Animal Care, the UBC Press, the Networks of Centres of Excellence, and research centres and institutes designated by the President;
- Foster an environment that ensures that Faculties, Schools, and the Library are provided with efficient support services relating to research administration and information on funding sources, grants procedures, and other relevant matters;
- Understand the diverse nature of research across the University; foster collaboration in research and creative scholarly and professional activities among scholars in various fields, both within and outside UBC;
- Play a major role in the enhancement and oversight of UBC health research, conducted within the provincial health authorities and through unique partnerships with the University of Victoria and the University of Northern British Columbia;
- Establish and maintain effective liaison with agencies and institutions such as the national granting councils, research foundations, the four affiliated teaching hospitals, the health authorities, TRIUMF, and external research institutes and centres, as well as business, industry, and government;
- Enhance the institutional reputation through the active support of awards and recognition for research scholarship;
- Foster international linkages and research collaboration;
- Promote and ensure ethical research practices;
- Ensure a commitment to diversity and cultural awareness in research practices;
- Promote knowledge transfer and oversee the management of intellectual property issues, including the financial, legal, ethical and social implications of research for the wider community; and
- Engage in fund development for research and seek out appropriate funding opportunities, including granting agencies, new government initiatives, foundations, industry and other partnerships.

## Reporting Relationships

Reports to:	President & Vice Chancellor
Direct Reports:	Associate Vice President Research
	Associate Vice President Research & Vice Principal Research (Okanagan)
	Director, Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation
	Director, Office of Research Ethics
	Director, Office of Research Services
	Associate Director, Operations (Animal Care Services)
	Director of Veterinary Services & Research Support
	Director, UBC Press
	Director, Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies
Senior Advisors:	Senior Advisor on Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Research
	Senior Advisor on External Relations, Research



## Candidate Profile



**Excellence to Eminence:** An unrelenting commitment to excellence within the academy. Sets the highest academic standards in facilitating and supporting research and scholarship (basic, applied, interdisciplinary and creative) across a range of fields. A commitment to leading UBC from excellence to eminence.

**Academic Credentials:** An exemplary record as an educator and researcher. Eligible to be appointed as a full professor at UBC. A personal record of success in attracting support for research.

**Research Leadership Experience:** A proven track record of success in senior, research leadership roles at a well-respected, research and teaching intensive university. A passion for research, broad scholarly interests, and the capacity to derive satisfaction from nurturing scholars outside of one's own discipline. A thorough grasp of research opportunities and challenges in Canada and globally. Ideally, brings a successful track record working with government and industry in Canada.

**Administrative Leadership Experience:** Demonstrated experience in bringing structure and organization to the research process in order to ensure effective implementation of the university's research agenda. Proven success in providing leadership to, and working with a variety of management committees.

**Strategic:** Capacity to envision and champion where the University of British Columbia can lead as a major research institution in today's rapidly changing global higher education environment. A record of success in developing and implementing a research strategy for a complex organization in a challenging context. Experience with strategic and academic planning. A global vision for higher education.

**Innovation:** A proven history of developing and implementing a proactive innovation agenda within the context of a complex, research intensive university; one that is attuned to the rapid changes in society and technology. An ability to advance a research strategy plan that is based on innovation and technology transfer.

**Values Based Leader:** A values-based leader who is able to mentor and develop a strong team to support research across the university. A clear commitment to the values of the University of British Columbia. Evident integrity and demonstrated strength of character. A strong sense of fairness.

**Relationship Builder:** Approachable, engaging, respectful and sincere. Able to develop highly productive and trusting relationships with a broad range of people including students, faculty, staff, board members, alumni, and donors. Able to manage competing interests within a large institution.

**Research Advocate:** Proven ability to advocate for the research needs of the entire University community. The energy, ability, and commitment to build partnerships outside of the University, and to identify and take advantage of funding opportunities from granting agencies, governments, foundations, industry and other potential partners in the University's research enterprise.

**Collaborative Approach:** A track record of working with others in a collaborative, collegial, inclusive and transparent manner to achieve great things. Works with faculty, staff and students to reach consensus on important discussions, and willing to make the tough decisions when needed.

**Equity and Inclusion:** A proven track record of championing equity and fairness throughout the University. Demonstrates an inter-cultural understanding and a commitment to equity and diversity in research, employment activities, and community engagement. Experience working in partnership with aboriginal groups is a definite asset.

**Student Focused:** Has a genuine interest in students and a desire to enhance the undergraduate and graduate students' experience through engagement in research. In previous roles, has created a sense of excitement about research that has motivated students to want to attend the institution for their higher education.

**Faculty Engagement:** As the Chief Research Officer of the University, has demonstrated in past leadership roles a passion and commitment to engaging faculty at all levels in activities in promoting research and scholarship at the University. Has created a research culture that is inclusive and motivating for faculty.

**Communications Skills:** Known as a good listener. Strong communications skills with groups and individuals, including an ability to communicate in a direct manner, where appropriate.

**Tenacity:** Willingness to pursue institutional goals while working through obstacles that may present themselves. Resilient and takes a long term view towards success. Able to make those difficult decisions that enable an organization to move forward.