Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean

The University of Toronto Mississauga is conducting an extensive international search for its next Vice-Principal (Academic) and Dean, and invites expressions of interest, nominations, and applications. The appointment will be effective January 1, 2016, or as soon thereafter as possible.

The University of Toronto

“The University of Toronto is committed to being an internationally significant research university, with undergraduate, graduate and professional programs of excellent quality.”

– U of T Mission

Established by royal charter in 1827, the University of Toronto ranks among the best in the world and is the top-ranked university in Canada. U of T attracts top faculty and students who seek a mark of excellence acknowledged around the globe. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings, which measure the institutional excellence of the world’s top 400 universities in research, teaching, and knowledge-transfer, list the University of Toronto as the top university in Canada and 19th in the world. In 2014, the prestigious Shanghai Jiao Tong University’s Academic Ranking of World Universities put U of T first in Canada and 24th in the world, and the QS World University Rankings placed U of T 20th in the world and first overall in Canada.

The historical strengths that have shaped the University’s progress and achievements include: excellence across a wide array of disciplines; leadership in professional education; pre-eminence in graduate education; three federated universities (Victoria, Trinity, and St. Michael’s); and decentralized management. The quality and range of the University’s programs—undergraduate, graduate, and professional—span the disciplines and professions, and attract top students from all parts of Ontario, Canada, and the world, with international students from more than 150 countries.

The University of Toronto encompasses 18 Faculties and Schools, more than 100 departments, 170 research centres and institutes, and three campuses. Its teaching programs are delivered on the historic St. George campus in the heart of cosmopolitan Toronto, on growing campuses in Mississauga and Scarborough, and in nine fully affiliated teaching hospitals in Toronto. The University and its affiliated teaching hospitals attract over $1.3 billion per year in research grants and contracts. U of T has created a vibrant
entrepreneurial ecosystem and has emerged as a leading university in North America in the creation of new start-up companies.

With more than 20,000 faculty and staff, some 84,500 students enrolled across the three campuses, and an annual operating budget of $2.2 billion, the University of Toronto contributes $15.7 billion to the Canadian economy each year. In 2015, the University of Toronto was named one of Canada’s top 100 employers for the eighth consecutive year. Its library system is one of the top three in North America, with over 13.5 million holdings and 44 libraries.

The University’s Boundless Campaign is well on its way towards its $2 billion goal, setting a new high-water mark for philanthropy in Canada. Additional information is available at www.utoronto.ca.

The University of Toronto Mississauga

The University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM; www.utm.utoronto.ca), one of three U of T campuses and the University’s second-largest division, was established in 1967. The campus is the leading provider of university education in the western Greater Toronto Area through its 15 academic departments; an Institute for Management and Innovation with its distinct emphasis on sector-oriented interdisciplinary management education; and an Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology. Its 147 programs cover 90 areas of study. The campus is also home to the Mississauga Academy of Medicine—a medical education and research facility involving collaboration among UTM, the Faculty of Medicine and three major hospitals. The campus population numbers approximately 13,700 undergraduate students and 575 graduate students, along with 2,300 full- and part-time employees, including 915 permanent faculty and staff. In accordance with the University’s strategic vision outlined in Towards 2030, UTM is expected to see substantial further growth in undergraduate and graduate programs and enrolment within a differentiated campus model.

UTM offers learning opportunities within a research-intensive environment—a defining feature of U of T’s undergraduate experience—and a strong emphasis on student success. The latter is aided by a series of curricular and co-curricular transition programs through the Office of Student Transition, language and academic-culture bridging through ACE@UTM, and Facilitated Study Groups through Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre and numerous other initiatives. I-CUBE, a business incubator to support student entrepreneurship was established in 2014.

The campus is located in the city of Mississauga on 225 acres of protected greenbelt along the Credit River, 33 kilometres west of U of T’s downtown Toronto campus. The modern campus boasts a number of award-winning facilities, including the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (library and information complex), and the Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre.
Mississauga (www.mississauga.ca) is Canada’s 6th largest city, with a culturally diverse population of approximately 750,000, vibrant economy, and excellent educational and recreational facilities. Mississauga is consistently rated as one of the safest cities in Canada, has a diversified high-tech and knowledge economy, and hosts the Canadian headquarters of approximately 60 Fortune-500 companies.

The Opportunity

UTM seeks a new Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean to provide entrepreneurial leadership in academic programming and services, preserve and build upon UTM’s reputation as an exceptional student-centric learning environment, and continue the tradition of close linkages between academic programs and the community.

The new Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean arrives at a time when UTM is undergoing unprecedented enrolment growth and physical expansion. Aided by a significant support team, she/he will provide academic direction and foster scholarly collaborations via a team of direct reports that include two Vice-Deans, an Assistant Dean, 15 department Chairs and two institute Directors. As a key member of the senior administration, she/he will work closely with leadership teams at UTM and broadly within UofT’s differentiated tri-campus model to advance the academic mission of UTM in accordance with the broader framework led by the Vice-President & Principal (UTM’s chief executive). This includes a particular focus on diversification of academic programs in alignment with community’s evolving needs and seizing broader national and international opportunities.

An academic planning exercise, led by the new Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean within a broader vision articulated by the Vice-President & Principal, will drive the future development of UTM. An external academic review presently in progress will also inform the future academic direction. It is expected that a redoubled emphasis on integrative and applied sciences, greater onsite presence and activity in humanities and social sciences, sector-specific management programs, research and innovation, internationalization, and experiential learning in its various forms will constitute the core of the next plan.

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for a strong academic leader to guide UTM’s academic portfolio at this pivotal moment in its history, and help shape its future direction.

The Role and Responsibilities

The Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean is the senior academic officer of the University of Toronto Mississauga, and is responsible for all aspects of academic administration, vision and leadership on the campus. She/he consults with members of the campus on academic direction and policy, and reports directly to the Vice-President & Principal of UTM, to whom she/he is ultimately accountable for all academic and administrative decisions within her/his jurisdiction and authority. She/he also works closely with the university Vice-President (Academic) & Provost to ensure that there is coordination and alignment of UTM’s academic activities within the broader context of UofT. For further information on the University of Toronto please visit www.utoronto.ca.
Academic programming is the crucial driver of the overall development of UTM campus. Accordingly, the Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean is a key member of UTM’s executive team, and is actively involved not only in academic developments but in the very development of the campus itself.

Fifteen Department Chairs and two Institute Directors report directly to the Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean, as do Directors of the Professional Accounting Centre, the Centre for South Asian Civilizations, and the Mississauga Academy of Medicine (co-report with Dean of the Faculty of Medicine). Internally, the Office of the Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean is supported by a team of ten, including two Vice-Deans and an Assistant Dean reporting directly to her/him. There will be an opportunity to establish a new structural and process framework in the Office of the Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean, including creating and developing the team.

As the senior academic officer of one of the three campuses of UofT, the Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean sits on several university boards and committees, the UTM Campus Council and its Academic Affairs and Campus Affairs Committees; meets regularly with Principals and Deans of other university faculties and campuses; and represents UTM on the Tri-campus Decanal Committee.

Within the broader UofT community, the Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean is required to represent effectively the policies and viewpoints of UTM, and to make independent judgment on university matters. Within UTM, she/he promotes the teaching, research and scholarship of faculty members, the career development of academic and administrative staff, and the overall wellbeing of students. The new Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean will be required to assume a key role in maintaining the present momentum of UTM in the face of changing economic circumstances and demographics; engage with faculty members around the development and introduction of new undergraduate and graduate programs; and attend to the continuing evolution of the U of T tri-campus structure, including finding ways to enhance relationships, communications and administrative efficiencies.

The Candidate Qualifications

The Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean will have an outstanding academic record and the ability to serve as an intellectual leader; successful experience in academic administration and proven organizational skills; a deep knowledge of and experience in dealing with the issues and challenges facing universities; successful experience in academic and budgetary planning, strategic resource allocation, and managing change; experience in serving on university-wide committees; and the ability to establish and communicate priorities and implement faculty-wide initiatives. UTM is proud of its diversity, and the Vice-Principal (Academic) & Dean will nurture this distinctive quality of the campus.

In addition, the successful candidate will possess the following qualities and capacities:

- Proven ability to work collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams and other senior administrative portfolios;
• Demonstrated capacity to consult and listen carefully, and to build consensus;
• An eye for academic excellence across a wide spectrum of disciplines;
• Demonstrated ability to develop and sustain successful relationships and partnerships with colleagues and with members of the external community;
• An entrepreneurial spirit with an openness to taking calculated risks to seize opportunities;
• Vision, creativity and open-mindedness; and
• Enjoyment in working with faculty, students and staff, engaging them regularly, and motivating them.

The Search Process

Recently named one of Canada’s Top 100 Employers and one of Canada’s Best Diversity Employers for each of the past eight years, the University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. Please note that all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply, but, in accordance with Canadian laws, applications from Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

The Search Committee will begin its consideration of individuals immediately and will continue until the position is filled. The successful candidate will be expected to take office by January 1, 2016, or as soon thereafter as possible.

All inquiries, applications and nominations regarding this position will be treated in strict confidence. Please email Colleen McColeman at the address below for copies of Towards 2030, UTM’s academic plan, and other information. Applications including a letter of introduction, curriculum vitae and five references (who will not be contacted without the consent of the applicant) should be forwarded to her, in confidence, at the following address:

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