

WESTERN ACADEMY for ADVANCED RESEARCH

is seeking outstanding candidates for a

DIRECTOR

Western University in London, Ontario, Canada seeks applicants for the position of Director of the [Western Academy for Advanced Research \(WAFAR\)](#). Applicants who currently hold an academic appointment at Western (tenured or continuing academic appointment at the rank of Associate or Full Professor) and who demonstrate outstanding leadership in interdisciplinary research, training, and outreach are encouraged to apply. Applicants should hold a PhD, MD, DDS, or equivalent with relevant professional designation or licensure. Candidates should also be recognized internationally for their research, contributions to knowledge mobilization, and commitment to interdisciplinary research. The successful candidate will hold a Western Research Chair (Leadership) and join an interdisciplinary network of collaborative researchers, clinician-scientists, postdoctoral fellows and/or graduate students for a 3 to 5-year term that is renewable once. An alternate workload arrangement may be negotiated with the Dean. The position will commence as soon as January 1, 2025, or as negotiated.

Reporting to the Vice President (Research), the Director will advance the Academy at Western as an entity that bring together diverse voices from academic, public, and private sectors worldwide to engage in research, scholarship, and creative activity to find solutions to major problems facing humanity. To contribute towards this goal, the Director will identify and enable access to opportunities that expand the Academy's research mission through the development of partnerships and fund-raising. The Director will also engage regularly with the VPR's office and establish organizational structures within the Academy that optimizes its ability to fulfill its strategy and visionary aims in accordance with Western best practice and guidelines. The Director will inspire research excellence and actively implement processes that mobilize and support interdisciplinary research teams as part of the Academy. The Director will be supported by the Academy's administrative team in implementing programs/activities. The Director will be expected to lead their own research program as part of an interdisciplinary network of collaborative researchers and partners.

The ideal candidate will have some combination of the following attributes:

- Excellence in interdisciplinary research and training at all academic levels
- Research leadership experience including financial oversight, leadership of diverse research teams, and familiarity with the Tri-Council and other external funding sources
- Strong communication skills that foster relationships within and external to the academy
- Experience in building a community amongst multiple stakeholders
- Commitment to open science
- Excellence in building effective teams of interdisciplinary researchers
- Commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization (EDID)
- Ability to attract, establish and sustain diverse internal and external partnerships
- Experience with fund-raising

The WAFAR was launched in 2021 and has hosted scholarly teams focusing on a variety of topics including: examining mathematics of neural networks, climate-resilient infrastructure and buildings, nature-inspired solutions for carbon transformations, and smart cities and communities, and will soon be launching a theme on exploring possibilities for peace in the 21st century. Each theme brings together an international team of scholars, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students, addressing a globally significant issue through an interdisciplinary lens. The academy provides the intellectual and physical space, the financial means, and the gift of time to spark ideas and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. Themes are competitively selected based on relevance in Canada and the world as well as for their prospects of making significant steps forward. As such, wide community engagement and knowledge mobilization are key aspects of the work, with a focus on national and global impact.

Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a complete application package to Jann Paquette-Warren at jpaquet3@uwo.ca, in confidence, as a single PDF file containing:

- Cover letter that outlines the candidate's interest in and qualifications for the role – refer to ideal candidate attributes listed above (up to 3 pages)
- Curriculum vitae
- Names of 3 referees

ALL MATERIALS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE SEARCH COMMITTEE. APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL THE POSITION IS FILLED. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS WILL BEGIN ON OCTOBER 1, 2024.

Positions are subject to budget approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. The University invites applications from all qualified individuals. Western is committed to employment equity and diversity in the workplace and welcomes applications from women, members of racialized groups, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, persons of any sexual orientation, and persons of any gender identity or gender expression.

Accommodations are available for applicants with disabilities throughout the recruitment process. If you require accommodations for interviews or other meetings, please contact Kristina Fornelos at kfornelo@uwo.ca.

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