The University of Washington invites applications for the position of Vice Provost for Research.

We invite applicants with a vision for successful research at the University of Washington to apply for this exciting opportunity to conceive, lead and implement strategic initiatives, operations, policies and partnerships that will support and promote the advancement of the University of Washington’s premier and thriving research programs across the University as a whole. Applicants with a strong background in strategic planning, an understanding of the importance of research support, a vision for long-term success, successful experience leading highly qualified staff, and a passion for diversity, equity and inclusion at all levels are strongly encouraged to apply.

Reporting to Provost Mark Richards, the Vice Provost for Research (VPR) leads the University of Washington’s research mission through the Office of Research (OR). In addition to central OR, the VPR directly oversees four large administrative units: Human Subjects Division (HSD), Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP), Office of Animal Welfare (OAW) and Office of Research Information Services (ORIS) and two major research units: The Applied Physics Laboratory and the Washington National Primate Research Center. In addition to the main campus at Seattle, the VPR supports the growing research portfolios at the Tacoma and Bothell campuses.

The VPR advises the President and Provost on emerging initiatives and policy issues involving research, facilitates research initiatives that cross School and College boundaries and serves as the lead advocate for research both within the UW and externally. The VPR works closely with Deans’ and Chancellors’ Offices to facilitate initiatives, recruit and retain faculty, help build new programs and solve problems broadly across the research enterprise.

As the administrative head of OR the VPR is responsible for the fiscal and human resource management of the Office of Research. The VPR provides leadership and oversight for the core OR programs including the Royalty Research Fund (RRF), Bridge Funding, Limited Submissions, Research Misconduct, Export Controls, Matching Fund Requests, Outside Work and the DEI STEM Faculty Recruitment Initiative. The VPR serves as the Chair of a number of university wide research focused committees, including the Research Advisory Board, Foreign Agreements Vetting Committee and the Primate Center Internal Advisory Committee. The VPR maintains the UW’s research statistics, metrics and rankings for the university’s academic and administrative units and provides periodic reports to the Board of Regents and other entities. Working with our Offices of Federal and State Relations, the VPR advises and advocates for the UW on research policy and priorities. The research environment at UW is vital to the undergraduate experience and the VPR may coordinate with the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (UAA) to enhance that connection.

The VPR serves as a member of the President’s Cabinet and sits on the Activity-Based Budgeting (ABB), Indirect Cost Negotiation and Space Advisory Committees as well as the IT Strategy Board and the Faculty Council on Research (as the President’s representative). Externally, the VPR represents the UW on the Senior Research Officers (SRO) Groups for the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The VPR works closely with both internal partners (including CoMotion, the Graduate School, OMAD, UAA, ASA, OPB, OGA, MAA, GCA, the AG’s Office, the Office of
External Affairs) and external partners (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Washington Research Foundation, and Murdock Trust among others).

Central to this mission is the active support and promotion of a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion both within the Office of Research, by working closely with the OR DEI Committee, and more broadly across the entire university community to help address and mitigate institutional racism in research.

The next Vice Provost for Research should be a strategic and inspiring leader with outstanding experience in university or research administration and an active and high level research portfolio. They should enjoy playing a central administrative role with leadership experience in working beyond their own research group. They must be able to view the university’s research mission through a broad lens and have the credibility and stature to represent the University’s research portfolio and mission locally, within the State and at a Federal level. They should have a demonstrated record of advocacy for diversity, equity and inclusion and the ethical conduct of research. The successful candidate will be a team player who is able to build consensus across a broad group of constituents. They will be able to continue the excellent work carried out within the Office of Research, placing a high value on the hundreds of faculty, research and administrative staff who work there. They will have the energy and commitment to tackle some of the big challenges that are part of the current and future landscape of research at the University of Washington. This includes a rising concern over foreign influence, issues of data security, privacy and storage, need for additional resources for research support services and the need to facilitate and convene institutional partners to raise visibility on, and address issues of, inclusivity in research.

The new VPR will continue to prioritize the need to minimize the bureaucratic burden that is placed on individual researchers by internal and external forces, allowing them to focus on their research. They will view the research and undergraduate and graduate educational missions of the university as deeply intertwined and will be a strong and effective advocate for enhancing that relationship.

Confidential review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. For best consideration, a curriculum vitae, letter of interest and a statement of contributions to equity, diversity and inclusion should be submitted by April 21, 2021. Additional information may be requested from finalists as the search process progresses.

Applications should be submitted confidentially, via email at vpr_applications@uw.edu.

University of Washington is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, protected veteran or disabled status or genetic information.