Western University invites applications, nominations, and expressions of interest for the position of Vice-President (Research), with the appointment to be effective summer 2020. Committed to nurturing a culture of research excellence and innovation, Western aspires to the highest levels of achievement as a research-intensive University and is now seeking a visionary and collaborative research leader to build on its successes and lead the next phase of development.

With an enviable national reputation and an expanding international profile that ranks among the top 1% of universities worldwide, Western pushes the boundaries of pedagogical and scholarly excellence while creating a student experience that engages, challenges, and informs. Western is a founding member of Canada’s U15, serves as a hub for more than 500 international research collaborations, and is recognized as one of Canada’s Top 100 Employers. There are approximately 40,000 students, including more than 5,800 international undergraduate and graduate students from 128 countries, within Western’s 12 Faculties and Schools and three affiliated university colleges. Approximately 4,000 faculty and staff work in partnership to deliver more than 400 specializations, majors, minors, and innovative modular programs at the undergraduate level, and 160 programs at the master’s and doctoral levels. Further information may be found at www.uwo.ca.

Western University has a long history of leadership in research and continues to pursue innovation and discovery across the disciplines. Covering the gamut from fundamental and applied scientific research to world-renowned scholarship in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, Western’s profile and reputation as a research-intensive institution is rising on the global stage. Western attracted more than $260 million in total annual research funding in FY 2018 from government and private-sector sources. The University is currently home to 52 active Canada Research Chairs, 70 endowed research chairs, and more than 60 research institutes and centres. For more information about the research enterprise at Western, please visit https://www.uwo.ca/research/.

Reporting to the President and Vice Chancellor as part of Western’s senior leadership team, the Vice-President (Research) (VPR) is the University’s internal and external advocate for research. Providing leadership and vision in shaping strategic research directions and ensuring effective support of scholars through collaboration, communication, and service, the VPR will build upon Western’s core areas of research strength and advance opportunities to further accelerate research growth, funding, and overall success in all areas of scholarship. The VPR will be on the senior team that represents Western externally with government, industry, and relevant provincial, national, and international bodies and funding organizations.

Western is seeking a Vice President (Research) who is passionate and curious with a proven record of leadership in a complex research environment, current knowledge of the many changes and opportunities in the global research context, and the credibility to function successfully at all levels of the University. A track record of personal research achievement and of developing and promoting interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research initiatives, a sophisticated understanding of the relationships among research, innovation, and knowledge mobilization, and of connecting and translating research impacts to the community are all essential. With exceptional organizational and interpersonal skills, and a record of building collaborative teams and solving problems across disciplines, the new VPR will excel in the ability to engage other stakeholders, and will be able to consolidate internal and external support for research and innovation while partnering effectively with other educational institutions, government, communities, and industry.

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/visible minorities, Indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, persons of any sexual orientation, and persons of any gender identity or gender expression. The University provides support in its recruitment processes to applicants with disabilities, including accommodation that takes into account an applicant’s accessibility needs. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and Permanent Residents will be given priority.

The search committee will begin consideration of candidates immediately and will continue until the role is successfully filled. Applications should include a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and the names of three references (who will not be contacted without the consent of the candidate), and be submitted electronically, in confidence, to the University’s executive search consultants:

Laverne Smith & Associates Inc.
WesternVPR@lavernesmith.com

Western University acknowledges that its campus 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.