Appointment of

Director, UWA Oceans Institute

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Introduction

The UWA Oceans Institute was established in 2010 to further enhance the capabilities of marine research in Western Australia by drawing together the University’s researchers from across Faculties and Schools and collaborators in the fields of marine science, engineering, social sciences and governance.

In addition to catalysing multidisciplinary capacities and excellence in marine science and technology, the Oceans Institute seeks to use its strength to take the extra step required to deliver ocean-based solutions for humanity’s grand challenges; the safe and sustainable provision of food, water, energy and bioresources. The concept of ocean-based solutions is a recent development, and this vision provides an immense scope for innovation and growth of new industries and associated businesses. These opportunities are time-sensitive with a huge scope of advantages for early-adaptors involved in pursuing this vision.

The UWA Ocean’s Institute brings together the strength of UWA’s researchers into a multidisciplinary, integrated research focus capitalising on UWA’s existing research strengths in areas such as oceanography, ecology, engineering, resource management and governance.

The Director will have the opportunity to work with a highly committed group of colleagues and oversee the development of integrated programs of research in marine science and engineering. The appointee is expected to be a leader in the broadest sense with a commitment to high-quality research and the ability to foster and facilitate collaboration in marine and ocean research and teaching at the University and with external partners.

I invite you to consider the exciting opportunities available in this position in a Group of Eight research-intensive University with a reputation for international excellence and the vitality and excitement of innovative research in a 21st century environment.

Professor Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor

The University is now ranked 4th in Australia and 88th in the world by the Academic Ranking of World Universities published by China’s Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Our success continues a trend that has seen us leap 36 places globally since 2008, and keeps us on target to reach our longer term goal of reaching the world top 50 by 2050.
The University of Western Australia is a high-quality research-intensive university with a broad and balanced coverage of disciplines in the arts, science and major professions. It is Western Australia’s oldest university, established in 1911, and currently has a student population of approximately 24,500.

The University has an international reputation for excellence and enterprise and is regarded as one of Australia’s top research institutions. Its strong research culture sees it attract high levels of competitive research funding. At the same time the University places great emphasis on high quality teaching and learning, and is committed to the development of innovative and responsive programs. It has focused on the teaching-research nexus, so that teaching and learning take place in an atmosphere of research scholarship.

The University’s high quality teaching and research ensure it remains the university of preference for Western Australia’s highest achieving school leavers, as well as attracting high-calibre undergraduate and postgraduate students from around the nation and overseas. The quality of the student population is high by national and international standards.

The University is recognised nationally and internationally for the quality of its academic staff and has strong strategic partnerships with industry, the professions and government. It operates in collaboration with other research intensive universities in Australia and around the world. The University of Western Australia graduates are highly competitive internationally, achieving success in higher study and in wide-ranging fields of employment. Many graduates have risen to prominence in leadership roles in industry, government, education and the professions, in Australia and internationally.

uwa.edu.au
Role, key responsibilities, selection criteria and conditions of employment

Role

The Director of the UWA Oceans Institute will report directly to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) and will hold an academic appointment within an appropriate School. The Director will have a special responsibility to provide leadership and foster excellence in marine and ocean research and teaching at the University.

The Director will be expected to build on existing expertise to develop the University into a world leader in marine and oceans research and teaching. Achieving this aim will depend on strong support from the local, national and international marine and ocean sectors, the relevance of the University’s on-going research, and the high quality of graduates and training programs.

The Director will be responsible for the promotion and coordination of research for the marine and ocean sector inside and outside the University, and help coordinate teaching and training activities in this sector. The appointee will be the initial point of contact between the University and the marine industry, and will be the primary representative of the University in strategic relationships with other research providers, government agencies, industry and the community.

The Director will have sole responsibility for the coordination of considerable existing activities across the Faculties, School and Centres.

Key responsibilities

- Improve the University’s external profile within the marine sector and establish effective relationships with government, industry and other research providers;
- Provide leadership and facilitate coordination of ocean and marine research and teaching at UWA under the banner of the Oceans Institute by working effectively with the Deans of faculties and Directors of institutes engaged in ocean and marine activities;
- Provide strategic advice on marine issues to the Vice-Chancellor, the University Executive, Faculty Deans and other senior staff of the University;
- Develop and implement strategies, policies and plans for the Oceans Institute including a Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 with clearly identified goals;
- Increase overall marine and ocean research funding, identify appropriate staff for and competitive Fellowships, and identify team-based capability across faculties to service external research contracts;
- Facilitate and maintain research partnerships within the marine sector, leading to increased funding for research from government, industry and international funding organisations;
- Provide strategic coordination of the promotion and recognition of the role of the University in decision making in the marine and ocean sector;
- Broaden the Oceans Institute research to include expertise from a range of faculties;
- Oversee the budget of the Institute and represent the Institute on University strategic committees;
- Represent the Institute at a senior level in external forums within Western Australia, nationally and internationally;
- Undertake special projects and duties as required by the Vice-Chancellor.
Selection criteria

- PhD or equivalent in a relevant field;
- A strong internationally-recognised track record in leadership, strategic vision, mentoring and the development of extensive international and Australian networks of collaborators in the marine or ocean sectors;
- A capacity for high impact, integrated research activity both within and across groups in academic and/or industry settings;
- The ability to develop and promote the University’s future directions, activities and international profile;
- Innovative leadership qualities and capacity to champion a vision for the Institute;
- Skills in strategic and operational planning, policy development, quality management and project management;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills (written and oral) including the ability to liaise with senior members of the University, community, public sector and industry bodies;
- Extensive experience and in-depth knowledge of marine and ocean sector problems, issues and policies;
- Proven track record of establishing and enhancing strategic relationships in the marine and ocean sectors and a demonstrated commitment to collaboration;
- Proven ability to build strategic partnerships and to market collaborative, multidisciplinary research teams;
- Experience working in the higher education sector is desirable.

Conditions of employment

- An attractive and flexibly constructed remuneration package will be negotiated and will include:
  - Employer contribution to superannuation of 17% (standard employee contribution is 7%).
  - Recreation leave of 20 working days per annum.
  - Long service leave.
  - Eligibility for sabbatical leave.
  - Relocation assistance including airfares for the appointee and dependents.
UWA Oceans Institute

We are focusing on the sustainable and innovative management of ocean resources to create wealth.

The UWA Oceans Institute aims to develop untapped opportunities to generate ocean-based solutions to safely and sustainably provide critical resources for human development, including water, food, energy and bioresources. At the same time, we are focused on protecting the underlying biodiversity and ecosystems that support these resources.

Underpinned by excellence in research, the deliberate exploration of Ocean Solutions can generate great opportunities for innovation, providing a competitive advantage to the industry partners collaborating with us to deliver this vision.

Strategic intent

Australia is a maritime nation with more territory in the ocean than on land and an economy that heavily relies on its oceans, through fisheries, oil and gas and tourism. Australia has the potential to lead the world in the development of safe and sustainable uses of our ocean resources, opening a pathway of wealth and well-being through what is, in effect, our last frontier.

The objectives of The UWA Oceans Institute are to:
- Further the frontiers of knowledge in ocean science and technology;
- Foster and promote interdisciplinary marine-related research across traditional science, engineering, social and policy boundaries;
- Provide excellence and leadership in ocean science and technology at the regional, national and international levels;
- Provide a focal point for quality training of postgraduate students in ocean research;
- Become a resource to address the needs of Australian society, government and industry for safely operating in the marine environment;
- Promote innovative collaborative opportunities in marine science and technology in Western Australia;
- Articulate a science-based, intelligent and innovative use of marine resources to create opportunities for human and economic development;
- Generate the knowledge needed to reconcile the sustainable use of ocean resources with the conservation of its biodiversity.

Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre

With the vision to drive global knowledge of the Indian Ocean marine environment and its sustainable management, the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre will be a leading marine science partnership in the Southern Hemisphere and the largest marine research capability in the Indian Ocean rim.

The development of these new research facilities is being made possible with a $34 million grant from the Australian Government through the Education Investment Fund, and contributions from the four collaborative partners; The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), CSIRO, Department of Fisheries, Western Australia and The University of Western Australia.

Located at the UWA campus in Crawley, the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre will become the home for a new, purpose-built marine research facility and will bring together more than 240 researchers working across a broad range of subjects, extending from oceanography to marine ecology, to fisheries, geochemistry, governance, marine technologies and engineering. The six-storey purpose-built marine research facility has been designed to target a 5 Star Green Star rating, a benchmark in sustainable development. This new facility is anticipated to be operational and ready for occupancy in 2016.

oceans.uwa.edu.au/iomrc
Western Australia and Perth

The resource-rich State of Western Australia is the economic powerhouse of Australia. Western Australia is the principal Australian supplier of natural resources and energy to international partners, including China, India, Japan, South Korea and much of South-East Asia. Western Australia’s diverse inventory of minerals and energy, as well as its agricultural and fisheries resources, account for 25 per cent of the nation’s exports and place the State at the heart of Australian economic growth and transformation.

Western Australia and its capital Perth occupy the same time zone as 60 per cent of the world’s population and the nations that promise the greatest economic growth of the 21st century. Western Australia is also Australia’s largest state, covering some 2.5 million square kilometres and 12,500 kilometres of coastline, including some of the most ancient landscapes in the world. The State’s population is matching the rapid growth of the economy and is over two million.

Perth is a cosmopolitan city, with wide ethnic and cultural diversity. The city centre is on the Swan River 12 kilometres from the Indian Ocean port of Fremantle.

The city enjoys a Mediterranean climate, with more hours of sunshine than any other capital city in Australia. Summers are hot and dry and the winters mild and wet. Perth’s world-famous beaches and rivers, extensive parklands and variety of restaurants and cafes provide a superb living environment. For more information see: tourism.wa.gov.au

Perth is well served with art galleries, theatres and cinemas and is home to the WA Symphony Orchestra, the WA Ballet and the WA Opera. The cultural highlight of the year is the Perth International Arts Festival, founded and owned by The University of Western Australia – uwa.edu.au/perthfestival

Western Australia’s five universities and wide variety of public and private schools, vocational institutions and English language colleges provide quality assured education with flexible study pathways and state-of-the-art facilities. Perth continues to build its reputation as a destination for international students seeking a quality education – studyperth.com.au
Thank you for your interest. If you wish to proceed, the following information will assist you with your application. Refer also to the selection criteria on page 5.

There are no specific application forms to complete. Your application must include the following:

- A statement that clearly demonstrates the extent to which you satisfy each of the selection criteria;
- Evidence of the impact of your research beyond academia, such as through contributions made to economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life;
- A curriculum vitae that provides your personal details, qualifications and work history;
- A list of publications;
- The names, email, mailing addresses and telephone contact details of three referees who can be contacted for a confidential report. Please note that your permission will be sought before referees are contacted.

Please also note: If you are the successful candidate for this position and you are not an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia, you will be required to obtain an entry visa to work here. The University of Western Australia will sponsor you for employment under the Employer Nomination Scheme.

Lodging your application

Applications must be submitted online at: jobs.uwa.edu.au/executive

If you need assistance with submitting your application please contact:

Cara Dobinson
Senior Recruitment Consultant
Human Resources
The University of Western Australia
Email: cara.dobinson@uwa.edu.au

Closing date

Sunday 14 June 2015

Enquiries and further information

If you wish to discuss the position in confidence please contact:

Professor Peter Davies
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Telephone +61 8 6488 2698
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