Appointment of

Chair in Ocean Engineering

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Introduction

Applications are invited to the newly established Chair in Ocean Engineering. The Chair calls for an inspirational leader to develop a multi-disciplinary team that delivers exceptional teaching and research. Based in the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics this role will bring together significant numbers of academics to foster comprehensive research in areas such as infrastructure for oil and gas development, alternative energy, coastal energy, ports and harbour design and underwater vehicles that meet the needs of industry and have the potential to make a substantial global impact.

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 actively building on its capacity in the field of Engineering for Remote Operations (ERO) within the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics with an investment of $12M into three new strategic leadership positions. ERO provides an integrated approach and solutions to the challenges of mining development and production, offshore engineering, agriculture, health, transport, energy, water supply and community development. It is highly relevant to Western Australia and the Indian Ocean Rim and provides clear and measurable results for economies, industry and government.

Along with the UWA-CSIRO Chair in Automation and Robotics and the UWA-CSIRO Chair in Complex Engineering Systems, the Chair in Ocean Engineering will build a collaborative research group that crosses disciplines and boundaries which will be pivotal to the Faculty’s success in answering the broad challenges of ERO.

I invite you to consider the exciting opportunities available in this new position

Professor Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor
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 Chair in Ocean Engineering will play a key leadership role in the development of ocean engineering at UWA. The appointee will establish a team of dedicated and innovative teaching and research staff, harnessing the benefits of a multidisciplinary approach, to provide engineering solutions for the offshore industry sector. Bringing together significant numbers of academics, the Chair in Ocean Engineering will foster the creation of world class research into the design and operation of offshore infrastructure in the dynamic ocean environment.

With an investment of $12M and the development of three new leadership positions, UWA is actively investing in the continued development of Engineering for Remote Operations (ERO) within the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics. Along with the CSIRO-UWA Chair in Complex Engineering Systems and the CSIRO-UWA Chair in Automation and Robotics, this role will be pivotal to the success of the Faculty’s mission to provide integrated solutions to the challenges in resources development, agriculture, health, transport, energy, water supply and communities.

With strong leadership capabilities, the Chair in Ocean Engineering will identify opportunities for synergies across the Faculty and in collaboration with industry and government. Demonstrating distinguished and innovative contributions to the advancement of teaching and learning incorporating research, scholarship and professional practice, they will work to ensure UWA produces graduates and research that meet the needs of industry and make valuable contributions to society.

Funding is available for up to three postdoctoral positions, PhD top-up scholarships and start-up funds for specialist equipment, travel and relocation expenses to support the continued development of ocean engineering at UWA.

Key responsibilities

- Build an innovative multidisciplinary research team, including the immediate appointment of up to three postdoctoral positions.
- Lead and contribute to the teaching of world class undergraduate and postgraduate courses in ocean engineering.
- Identify and develop a wide range of research projects in the area of ocean engineering, contributing to the Faculty’s reputation as a world leader in Engineering for Remote Operations.
- Supervise undergraduate and postgraduate research projects.
- Contribute to the development of ocean engineering at UWA through involvement in professional associations, conferences and other external activities.
- Contribute to community engagement by building strong working relationships with a range of stakeholders including government and industry.
- Actively support the University’s commitment to health and safety, equity and diversity.

Selection criteria

- PhD or higher doctorate in a relevant discipline.

Leadership

Demonstrated highly developed capabilities to:
- Shape strategic thinking.
- Achieve results.
- Cultivate productive working relationships.
- Exemplify personal drive and integrity.
- Communicate with influence and respect.

Teaching

- A strong personal commitment to high quality tertiary education.
- Commitment to the creation of teaching programs that take a broad view of ocean engineering and meet the needs of industry.
Research and scholarship

- Successful scientific leadership through the supervision and development of individuals and groups in ocean engineering and in the development and leadership of major new research initiatives.
- A record of outstanding achievement in the identification, development and delivery of novel ideas and research in ocean engineering.
- Ability to supervise major honours and postgraduate research projects.

Community engagement

- An ability to communicate influentially with members of the community, professional and industry bodies and government.

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.
ERO provides an integrated and collaborative approach to seeking solutions to the challenges in resource development, agriculture, health, transport, energy, water supply and communities. The Faculty is seizing the opportunity to become a world leader in this growing area of engineering, as well as building upon existing research strengths in biomedical engineering.

This is an exciting time for the Faculty, as it celebrates extraordinary achievement amongst its staff, including a new Shell EMI Professoral Chair, Australian Academy of Science Award winners and Australian Laureate Fellowships, whilst looking to the future to plan new multi-million dollar infrastructure. The Engineering Zone, an inspirational and flexible teaching and research space, will help to enrich the student experience and foster further collaborative research innovation for the benefit of the Australian and International Communities.

The Faculty has an international reputation for excellence in research and its research teams benefit from global partnerships with industry, attracting research income of more than $27 million a year – well above the national average. The Faculty’s vision is to be part of the world’s top 100 engineering faculties by 2020 and the top 50 by 2050. It is capitalising on its location at the hub of Australia’s resources industry – and a stone’s throw from the head offices of Australia’s biggest resource industry players – to revolutionise engineering research and position Western Australia at the forefront of Engineering for Remote Operations (ERO).

Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics

‘Empowering people to change the world’

One of UWA’s founding faculties, the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics has educated Rhodes Scholars, Fulbright Scholars, Eureka Prize winners, CEOs and seven of the most influential engineers in Engineering Australia’s Top 100 list. The Faculty prides itself on its track-record for producing graduates who not only perform well in their chosen profession, but are equipped with the skills and social capital they need to be the very best.
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.

**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 any 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.

**Applications**

Lodging your application

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

If you need assistance with submitting your application please contact:

**Ms Toni Pilgrim**  
Executive Support Manager  
Human Resources  
The University of Western Australia  
Email: toni.pilgrim@uwa.edu.au

**Closing date**

27 February 2015

**Enquiries and further information**

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

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Or

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