Role Description

Academic Director

0.2 FTE buyout from substantive contract, initially for one year with potential to extend buyout for future years. Plus a small amount of programme funding from GEO’s Global Leadership Fund, over the three year cycle.

Cities partnerships Programme

Context
The Cities partnerships Programme (CpP) funds, supports, and promotes UCL academics’ collaboration in research and education with partners in major cities across the world. It is central to UCL’s global engagement strategy and Brexit mitigation activities. We intend the programme to be a very clear sign of UCL redoubling its engagement with European partners.

Through seed funded projects, academic-led events and public engagement activities, the programme will develop and invest in partnerships and expand our networks in a city over a three year cycle. We start work in a new city every year. The programme is running in Rome and begins in Paris in academic year 19/20.

We are recruiting an Academic Director for the third city, starting in autumn 2020. Candidates will have a novel proposal for academic engagement in a European city and excellent connections with partners in the region. They will develop academic themes and will be interested in mobilising and supporting colleagues from across UCL to engage in the programme and develop lasting partnerships. They will have the knowledge, skills and networks needed to do this successfully.

Main purpose of the job
To provide academic leadership for a single cycle of CpP. The Academic Director will work in close partnership with a Programme Director and Project Manager based within the Global Engagement Office (GEO), with additional support from the GEO Senior Partnership Manager, Europe. A principal responsibility of the Academic Director will be to curate the core academic programme for a cycle of CpP. The Academic Director will be a key convenor for the programme, both for UCL colleagues and external partners.

Duties and responsibilities

- To propose, develop and refine the academic programme for one three-year cycle of CpP, in consultation with the academic community and professional services colleagues from across UCL.

- To curate a compelling series of academic activities, working in partnership with other academics both internally and externally.
To agree the allocation of funding for the academic activities within the project.

To lead a working group of academic colleagues awarded CpP funding.

To build strong working relationships with key individuals in partner institutions.

To identify and support collaborations and activity with potential for significant impact for UCL and to make recommendations to establish sustainable partnerships.

To identify and support opportunities to raise the profile of UCL in the city.

To be a key source of knowledge on the chosen location and to advise and support those involved in the programme from across UCL.

To promote, support and gain internal and external recognition for the project, and CpP in general, within the UCL academic community.

To co-chair termly Programme Board meetings.

To contribute to a summary report of the work with the city following the completion of the cycle.

Apply

Applications should be in the form of a letter (maximum 1000 words) which will:

- Provide the recruitment panel with a brief overview of your academic profile;
- Explain your choice of city. This can be a European city with which you have extensive links. Your proposed city should not be a location in which CpP is already running; If you are proposing a multi-city programme, please give reasons for your choice of each city.
- Explain the approach you would take to engage academic colleagues across UCL and partner institutions in the location;
- Provide a brief description of events or activities you would hope to be supported in curating.

You may make more than one application.

The programme is multidisciplinary and we strongly encourage applications from all Faculties.

We would particularly like to encourage women, and men or women from an ethnic minority, to apply, as they are under-represented within UCL at senior level.

Please send the letter, together with a short CV, to Vice Provost International, Dr. Dame Nicola Brewer at vpi.global@ucl.ac.uk by midday on Monday 7 October 2019. We expect interviews to be held in late October.

If you have any queries on the role or process, please contact Karen Brodie, Programme Director, karen.brodie@ucl.ac.uk
Further Information

**Background to the Cities partnerships Programme**

Since the 2016 referendum on the UK’s EU membership, UCL has engaged in wide-reaching internal discussions on how best to maintain and enhance UCL’s engagement in Europe post-Brexit. The UCL Global Engagement Office (GEO) created a high-profile programme to support, fund and promote academic partnerships in a range of different locations. Our focus on a city rather than a specific partner means that UCL academics from any discipline will work with the partners they feel are the best in their field.

**Design of the Cities partnerships Programme**

CpP will support the academic mission by:

- Building new partnerships, deepening existing ones, and developing those with potential for sustainability and strategic significance.

- Creating and strengthening networks across UCL and in the cities to share knowledge and support partnership work.

- Raising UCL’s profile in and around the city to attract potential partners and students.

There are three parts in each location:

- Seed funding to nurture and support multidisciplinary academic work in research and education with partners in the city.

- A curated series of academic-led events with partner institutions which will engage audiences in and beyond academia.

- Complementary activity with existing events and networks to support student mobility, student recruitment and to engage alumni, other partners and the public.

CpP will run in each city over three years to ensure that we create a lasting impact. We expect this activity will lead to joint appointments, research courses, dual degrees, research fellowships, student mobility, publications and access to bids for European funding.

**City selection**

The criteria for selecting locations for the programme were developed in a workshop of Vice-Deans International, Pro-Vice-Provosts Regional and senior staff from Professional Services and Vice Provosts’ offices. The criteria are:

- Existing patterns of academic collaboration and excellence.

- Potential for development of long-term partnerships.

- Appetite and capacity of partners to deliver the programme with UCL.

- Opportunities for student recruitment, student mobility and engaging active alumni networks.

- A global or capital city.

Rome and Paris are our first and second locations. The third should be a different city so that we can extend the reach of the programme.

The panel will consider applications for a multi-city programme, with one main city as a central hub and links to other significant cities in the region.

There is appetite within UCL’s academic community to focus on Europe for a third cycle of CpP. If there is a city beyond Europe which you believe would be an excellent choice for this or future cycles, please contact the Programme Director.
Activity with Rome and Paris

In Summer 2018, GEO opened the recruitment process for Academic Directors for the first two cities. Based on the quality of their applications, Dr Florian Mussgnug (SELCS) curates the activity with Rome 2018-2021, and Dr Claire Colomb (The Bartlett) leads our work with Paris 2019-2022.

In November 2018 we announced the programme through the media and internal communications. In January 2019, Provost led a visit to Rome to launch the programme with key partners. GEO invited UCL academcs to apply for seed funding for projects with partners in Rome. All applications were reviewed by a cross-disciplinary panel of senior academics. In this first year, GEO funded 30 projects across all 11 Faculties, working with 20 partners in and around Rome. We supported more than 80 academic-led events in Rome and London, including workshops, conferences, summer schools, exhibitions, exchanges, experiments, publications and public engagement events.

CpP launches with Paris in autumn 2019 as we move into the second year of activity in Rome.

Appointment details

We are recruiting an Academic Director for the third city cycle, 2020-23. The Academic Director will be recruited from the UCL academic community.

As Academic Director, you will be supported by a small, dedicated programme team based within GEO.

You will be engaged on the basis of a 0.2 FTE contractual buyout from your department by GEO for one year, at the grade and spine point of your academic post at that time. There is the potential to extend the buyout into the second year of the city cycle. In addition, you will receive programme funding from GEO’s Global Leadership Fund. As Academic Director, you will attend meetings and chair funding panels across the three-year cycle.

Please note that your Head of Department will need to confirm that they agree to the time commitment and buyout model required for this role. Please obtain an outline consent from your Head of Department before applying, and confirm this in your letter.

The decision on appointments will be made by a panel of senior academics drawn from Vice-Deans International and Pro-Vice-Provosts (Regional).