Role description

Pro-Vice-Provost (Artificial Intelligence)

Department: Office of the Vice-Provost (Research)

Reports to: Vice-Provost (Research)

Duration: Three years in the first instance

Main purpose of the job

The Pro-Vice-Provost (Artificial Intelligence), a new role, will be UCL's strategic lead for artificial intelligence (AI), ensuring that UCL's AI activity is greater than the sum of its parts, and engaging relevant researchers with industry, policymakers, partners and supporters in mutually beneficial relationships.

Duties and responsibilities

- Develop, implement and regularly review the UCL AI Strategy, ensuring that UCL's AI activity is greater than the sum of its parts and that UCL's reputation in AI reflects its world-leading research, teaching and applications
- Chair and develop the UCL AI Steering Group, including identifying relevant funding, policy, regulatory and political trends, opportunities and risks, and contributing to and developing UCL's position on relevant and emerging AI issues in industry, policy and research
- Advocate UCL's vision for AI across the institution
- Act as an ambassador with key external groups and audiences (including business, funders, HEI partners, government at all levels and third sector organisations), promoting UCL's AI capacity, impact and potential with passion and authority
- Identify and work with both established and new contacts, promoting UCL's objectives for AI and forming long-term strategic alliances and productive relationships of mutual benefit
- Work with internal and external stakeholders to identify relevant policy and political trends, opportunities and risks, and share insights to support UCL's AI strategy

General responsibilities

- Actively comply with and promote UCL's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies
- Model UCL's Core Behaviours
- Any other duties as are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the role. Note: As duties and responsibilities change, the role description will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the roleholder

Appointment process

Applications should be in the form of a letter, together with a short CV, to Prof David Price (d.price@ucl.ac.uk) by 12 noon on 10 May. If required, short interviews will be held in May or June. The decision on appointment to this role will be made by a panel including the Provost and the Vice-Provost (Research), for three years in the first instance.

There is no FTE percentage specified for this role. It will be up to the successful candidate and her/his line manager to decide how much time can reasonably be devoted to the role, given other commitments. The role will not attract an honorarium.

Person specification

Criteria	Essential or Desirable
Academic standing commensurate with professorial status, including an excellent track record of postdoctoral academic achievements, experience of teaching, research, consultancy, knowledge exchange and leadership	E
Familiarity with the aims and objectives of UCL research	E
Knowledge of issues relating to AI	E
Experience of developing and implementing strategic plans in a complex academic environment	E
Highly developed interpersonal, negotiation and facilitation skills, including the ability to interact with and persuade internal and external stakeholders at all levels	E
High level of creativity and innovation	E
Politically and culturally astute, calm, resilient, diplomatic and tactful	E
Highly organised, with strong strategic planning and programme management skills	E

Context

UCL is one of the world's leading universities. Based in the heart of London, it is a modern, outward-looking institution with more than 12,000 academics, research staff and research students. At its establishment in 1826, UCL was radical and responsive to the needs of society, and this ethos – that excellence should go hand-in-hand with enriching society – continues today. UCL's excellence extends across all the breadth of disciplines; from one of Europe's largest and most productive hubs for biomedical science interacting with several leading London hospitals, to world-renowned centres for the built environment (UCL Bartlett) and fine art (UCL Slade School).

UCL's present and former **staff and students** have included 29 Nobel Laureates. It is a truly international community: almost half of our students and nearly a third of staff are from outside the UK. More than half of its 41,500-member student community is engaged in graduate studies, with almost 6,000 of them pursuing research degrees.

In the most recent (2014) **Research Excellence Framework** (REF) exercise, UCL was rated the top university in the UK on the basis of 'research power' (grade point average x full-time equivalent researchers submitted), as well as the highest 'power' ratings for each element: research outputs, research environment and research impact. The REF confirmed UCL's multidisciplinary strength, with outstanding results achieved across the subjects, ranging from biomedicine, science and engineering and the built environment to education, laws, social sciences, and arts and humanities.

The **UCL Vice-Provost (Research)** is responsible for:
- the strategy for – and the performance, distinctiveness and impact of – UCL's research
- attracting research funding; recruiting and retaining the best researchers; securing the provision of a suitable research environment and infrastructure; research evaluation, including achieving the best possible results from external research assessment; and delivering innovative and effective approaches to research management and planning
- adapting and implementing the 2019 UCL Research Strategy in support of UCL 2034, including sustaining and growing our disciplinary excellence and developing cross-disciplinary approaches to global challenges (UCL 2034 Principal Theme 3)
- developing and providing strategic coordination of flagship initiatives
- external representation and engagement on research and related issues
- oversight of research operations on behalf of those engaged with research
- the activities of the Office of the Vice-Provost (Research)

- with the Provost and other Vice-Provosts, providing institutional leadership.

In addition, the Vice-Provost (Research) line-manages the Pro-Vice-Provost (Library Services), who oversees a team of c300 Library Services staff.

The **Office of the Vice-Provost (Research)** [OVPR] facilitates, supports and promotes UCL research through seven broad strands of activity:

- research coordination and planning
- research operations oversight
- researcher development, including through the Doctoral School
- cross-disciplinary development and delivery, including Grand Challenges and Research Domains
- research evaluation (including the REF) and research integrity
- research impact (the influence of research on the world), including communications, events and public policy engagement
- research policy – both developing internal policies, and influencing and responding to external policies.

The **2019 UCL Research Strategy**: presents a ten-year vision for how UCL can best support research over the next ten years; provides an adaptable framework for the pursuit of research and the activities of UCL's researchers; sets a context for research undertaken at UCL in which discovery, analysis and invention are all part of the way UCL contributes to public good; and defines a supportive environment for individual researchers. The strategy presents nine objectives within three aims, alongside three cross-cutting themes:

Aims	Objectives
1 Inspire and empower research leadership	1.1 Support breadth and diversity
	1.2 Nurture, develop and celebrate those engaged with research
	1.3 Cultivate diverse forms of research leadership
2 Cross boundaries to increase engagement	2.1 Champion cross-disciplinarity
	2.2 Build and support partnerships
	2.3 Encourage our research to thrive beyond traditional boundaries
3 Deliver impact for public benefit	3.1 Champion a broad definition of research impact
	3.2 Foster open and engaged research
	3.3 Stimulate societal impact through cross-disciplinarity and collaboration

Cross-cutting themes
A   Pursue a responsible research agenda
B   Exert our institutional influence for the greater good
C   Maintain a global perspective