COLLABORATIVE SOCIAL SCIENCE DOMAIN (CSSD) - DOMAIN CHAIR

(NON-REMUNERATED SENIOR ACADEMIC POSITION)

ROLE DUTIES

1. THE ROLE
The Chair of the UCL Collaborative Social Science Domain (CSSD) is a non-remunerated position, available to academic staff. The position will be offered for a period of three years in the first instance, with two reviews of performance at 6 and 12 months.

The role of Domain Chair will report to the Vice-Provost (Research). The Domain Chair will work closely with Faculty Deans and the Vice-Deans Research, and cross-UCL platforms to shape and deliver UCL’s research strategy. The Domain Chair is expected to devote approximately 0.1 FTE a week to leading the Domain.

2. UCL DOMAINS
The UCL Research Domains are large, cross-disciplinary research communities that span UCL and our partner organisations, fostering interaction and collaboration. We believe that by bringing together a critical mass of expertise we can undertake internationally leading research in our key areas of strength.

While UCL prioritises high-quality research in the entire range of subject areas, UCL’s 2034 strategy also introduces a vision for building on disciplinary excellence and cross-disciplinary approaches to address global challenges. The UCL Research Domains aim to facilitate this mission by providing strategic coordination across the university and a platform for research communities to engage with partner organisations.

The CSSD spans all UCL Schools and Faculties. It supports researchers with social science interests working in law, languages, medicine, engineering, the built environment, the natural sciences etc. as well as those working in the wide range of disciplinary fields in the social sciences. The CSSD is also interested in non-social scientists who wish to deepen their research activities by forming collaborations with UCL’s rich range of social scientists.

The domains are NOT line management structures. Rather, they represent the ‘horizontal’ connections between colleagues who work in different ‘vertical’ organisational structures. Members of the UCL community engage in one or more of the domains according to their research and educational interests, encouraging inter-disciplinarity across UCL.

3. WHAT DOES CSSD DO?:
- Supports UCL’s social science researchers regardless of their departmental or faculty affiliations with the particular aims of increasing cross-disciplinary, cross-faculty research collaboration and grant capture
- Encourages methodological innovation and new cross disciplinary partnerships across institutional boundaries
- When required manages internal selection processes in response to quota driven calls from funding organisations in close collaboration with the team in the Research Facilitation and Coordination for SLASH and the IOE in the Office of the Vice-Provost (Research)
- Builds capacity via its Early Career Network and other engagement/impact activities

4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROLE
The Domain Chair will:
• Act as the strategic lead for the Domain, working with its Steering Group to develop and implement a range of activities and initiatives to enhance collaborative cross-disciplinary research across and beyond the social sciences.
• Champion an approach to the Domain that actively seeks intra-institutional and inter-institutional activities, bringing together interested parties from across UCL’s Schools and research groups
• Work closely with the relevant Faculty Deans to support the delivery of strategy
• Promote UCL’s Domain expertise to funders and potential funders, influencers and supporters
• Develop links with the Faculty Vice-Deans (Research), other Research Domain Chairs and other cross-UCL platforms
• Possess an interest in and support early career development and building in cross-disciplinary research leadership
• Organise and chair regular Domain Steering Group meetings

5. PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES REQUIRED

The role of Domain Chair will require the following skills and experience:
• Ideally possess a mature understanding of CSSD and its activities
• The ability to secure credibility with academic staff at all levels and across the disciplinary spectrum
• A strong track record of social science research leadership
• Significant expertise in a social science discipline and an understanding of a wide range of other social science disciplines
• Leadership skills, especially as required in a complex, research-intensive academic environment
• The ability to create and promote a collegiate and collaborative approach to Domain activities
• Experience of chairing academic committees/meetings
• The ability to identify opportunities for research collaborations beyond the applicant’s own academic specialty
• The ability to represent UCL and the Domain to external stakeholders
• Strong communication skills

6. APPLICATIONS

Applications in the form of a CV (maximum of 2 pages) and supporting statement setting out a brief vision for the role and the Collaborative Social Science Domain at UCL (maximum of 2 pages) should be sent by email to Michael Reade (m.reade@ucl.ac.uk). Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview.

If you have any questions about the position, or the application process, please contact Michael Reade.

Closing Date: 11am, Monday, 20 July 2020