Candidate Brief

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Food Chair and Director of the Food Institute

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The University of Guelph

Established in 1964, the University of Guelph is a mid-sized comprehensive university with more than 21,000 undergraduate and 2,100 graduate students. The University is a research leader in Canada, with an international reputation for its commitment to students, their education and success.

The University of Guelph consists of seven colleges whose undergraduate and graduate programs span the natural and physical sciences, social sciences, and humanities. The University of Guelph also includes two regional campuses including one at Guelph-Humber and one at Ridgetown that offers Associate Diploma programs in Agriculture, Horticulture, Environmental Management, and Veterinary Technology.

Guelph is recognized for its overall global academic reputation, publication intensity, citation intensity, and number of faculty achieving international recognition through awards. Its faculty have a strong track record of generating new knowledge and discovery.

The University of Guelph aims to be one of Canada’s great universities by transforming learning and leading ground-breaking research. The University plays an integral role in the educational, business, and cultural life of the province of Ontario, through the impact of its integrated mandate of teaching, research, and community service, and through its special mandate to serve the province through the Ontario Agricultural College and the Ontario Veterinary College. Faculty at U of G have won more 3M Fellow teaching awards than faculty at any comparably sized university in Canada.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings recently included the University of Guelph in the Top 100 Universities Under 50 in the world. The University of Guelph is also among the best universities in the world for agricultural sciences, according to a recent U.S. News & World Report ranking which placed Guelph 12th globally, and fifth in North America. QS ranks the Ontario Veterinary College number one in Canada and number eight in the world. The International Student Barometer ranked the U of G first (for graduate, undergraduate, and international students) among participating universities in Canada in the categories of student life, support, and learning.

For more information about the University of Guelph, visit http://www.uoguelph.ca/, http://www.uoguelph.ca/info/factsfigures/, and http://strategicrenewal.uoguelph.ca/. For more information, please see https://www.uoguelph.ca/foodinstitute/

The Food Chair and Director of the Food Institute

The Food Chair and Director of the Institute provides senior leadership and inspiration – through his or her own scholarship and team-building abilities – to encouraging interdisciplinary scholarship on food, and to raising the profile of food-related research on campus and beyond. Already known as Canada's
Food University, the goal is for the University of Guelph to be internationally recognized as one of the world’s leading universities in food research and studies, with an outstanding group of food scholars, and with an active hub for graduate and undergraduate students working on food and food-related issues. The Food Chair will provide leadership, inspire faculty and students, engage partners, and seek opportunities to continue to advance the University’s reputation in food scholarship.

Located within the University, the Food Institute provides a focal point for the diversity of food-related research being done across the campus. Building on over a century of expertise across the agricultural production to human nutrition continuum, and spanning all seven colleges at the University, the Food Institute is an interdisciplinary think-tank, promoting food-related scholarship and knowledge mobilization. The Institute aims to provide solutions to some of the world’s most pressing problems, including food security, sustainability, safety, and health. The Director will translate the Institute’s vision into effective programming, setting strategic goals, and overseeing their execution. The Director develops and oversees major initiatives designed to enhance the Institute’s national and international profile, and promotes the interests of the institute with donors, funders, industry, producer partners, government bodies, community agencies, and the general public.

The Role:

Research and Education

- Through his/her own scholarly reputation and profile, and through inspiring leadership, creates energy and enthusiasm in the University of Guelph community for faculty members and students to meaningfully engage in food and food-related scholarship;
- Supports and organizes seminars, workshops, research symposia, and distinguished lectures; works with University of Guelph researchers and the food industry to develop and facilitate special projects that serve the needs of the food and agriculture sector, students, and the public;
- Supports the recruitment of a talented interdisciplinary pool of world-class food specialists to the University of Guelph;
- Engages undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, staff, and faculty from the University of Guelph;
- Identifies funding opportunities and secures significant research and educational funding;
- Develops and convenes conferences and workshops designed to attract international scholars, and business and government leaders, concerning current issues relevant to food safety, security, and production.

Partnerships

- Builds linkages with decision makers in government and industry, and raises the profile of the Food Institute as a “go to” place for policy expertise and scholarship on food;
- Develops external research partnerships that enhance both national and international recognition of the Food Institute;
• Facilitates and supports international collaborations and partnerships.

Administration

• Provides leadership to Institute personnel through objective-setting, delegation, and communication;
• Develops and implements plans, policies, and goals that further strategic objectives;
• Has overall responsibility for the ongoing financial sustainability of the Food Institute.

The Candidate Qualifications

The ideal candidate will possess a proven track record as an international scholar in a food-related discipline, at a level commensurate with appointment at a senior academic rank. The role demands significant experience working with industry partners, organizations, and/or agencies, and a strong network of connections and relationships in the food and agricultural sectors. The Food Chair and Institute Director must be extremely skilled in external relations (working with governments, media, industry and other partners), and have the ability to motivate and inspire others to support and participate in food-related scholarship and activity across the University.

The Food Chair and Institute Director will be expected to develop a dynamic vision which engages industry, governments, and other academic institutions in its activities. He/she will be responsible for developing the scholarly mission as well as academic collaborations across the University of Guelph campus, and with leading universities across the world engaged in food studies. The Chair will build a world class research program, and will advance the University of Guelph’s reputation for excellence in research, scholarship and policy on food.

Although the Search Committee recognizes that no one individual is likely to possess all the following qualities in equal measure, it has developed a set of criteria related to the desired background, experience, and personal qualities that will be sought in candidates for the position. The Food Chair and Institute Director is expected to possess:

• An outstanding record of scholarship in a relevant discipline, with an academic reputation that will bring attention and profile to the University of Guelph and further enhance its reputation as Canada’s Food University.
• Leadership experience within a university or research organization, including experience in developing and rallying teams around a vision.
• The ability to work effectively with various Faculties and Departments of the University, and administrative offices such as Advancement, Communications, and Public Affairs.
• An understanding of the academic and practical aspects of research, including issues related to funding and grants, the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, and the relationships among research, teaching, and service.

• Experience seeking and securing external sources of revenue to support research, and an affinity for fundraising from non-academic sources.

• Solid experience in developing and nurturing partnerships with respected national and international food researchers and organizations.

• A strong public presence – articulate, passionate, energetic, and highly visible – and an ability to interact easily and effectively with a variety of audiences (media, government, business, academia);

• Personal qualities such as openness, the willingness to listen to other points of view and genuinely encourage dialogue around difficult issues, the courage to be innovative, strong advocacy skills, and excellent communication skills.

Application Information

The University of Guelph is committed to equity in its policies, practices, and programs, supports diversity in its teaching, learning, and work environments, and ensures that applications for members of underrepresented groups are seriously considered under its employment equity policy. All qualified individuals who would contribute to the further diversification of our University community are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority.

Consideration of candidates will commence in the late spring, with the new Chair/Director to take office in the late summer or early fall 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter. Applications and expressions of interest may be submitted to Jane Griffith or Jason Murray guelphfood@odgersberndtson.com

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