University of Alberta

Associate Vice-President, Innovation, Knowledge Mobilization, and Partnerships

The University of Alberta, its buildings, labs, and research stations are primarily located on the traditional territory of Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, and Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe nations; lands that are now known as part of Treaties 6, 7, and 8 and homeland of the Métis. The University of Alberta respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems, and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations.

With more than 40,000 students from 156 countries, the University of Alberta is one of Canada’s top five teaching and research-intensive universities, with expertise in established and emerging areas including health and life sciences, engineering, social sciences, energy, business, computing science, agriculture, AI, education, and humanities. The University of Alberta is home to a Nobel Laureate, 107 Canada Research Chairs, and 41 National 3M Teaching Fellows. The U of A’s expertise and strength attracts over $500+ million annually from various research funders and partners, including federal and provincial government, industry, foundations, and other organizations.

The U of A has been driving innovation for over 100 years, pushing the boundaries of knowledge, and creating the future through its research, teaching, and innovation. Innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization are not only core to the U of A’s research and education mandate, but they are also a top priority for many of its stakeholders, including government, funders, students, next-generation researchers, and the public. In an effort to capitalize on the dynamic, rapidly evolving provincial ecosystem of research-driven innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization, transform research-based ideas and discoveries into social and economic impacts, and position Canada at the forefront of knowledge creation and mobilization, the University seeks a strategic and entrepreneurial leader for the position of Associate Vice-President (AVP), Innovation, Knowledge Mobilization, and Partnerships.

Reporting to the Vice-President, Research & Innovation, the AVP will play a pivotal role in enhancing the culture of innovation at the U of A by establishing an innovation and knowledge mobilization strategy; fostering entrepreneurship and a commercialization mindset among researchers; developing innovative business initiatives; and, facilitating access to investment capital for U of A start-up and spin-off companies. Working closely with the AVP (Enterprise) and AVP (Strategic Research Initiatives and Performance), they will engage with faculty, staff, and students, and expand strategic partnerships between the U of A and external organizations.

A senior member of U of A’s integrated research leadership team, the ideal candidate brings an outstanding track record of experience gained in a senior partnership development or research translation role in a research-intensive academic institution or in an entrepreneurial start-up or innovation-driven company. They will possess excellent interpersonal, relationship-building and communication skills, strong analytical and problem-solving skills, and a reputation for building consensus and identifying and realizing partnership and knowledge mobilization opportunities.

Consideration of candidates will begin in late October 2022 and will continue until the position is filled, with the successful candidate taking office as mutually agreed. Nominations, applications, and expressions of interest should be submitted, in confidence, to Colleen Keenan and/or Krutika Hotwani at uofainnovation@odgersberndtson.com.
The University of Alberta is committed to an equitable, diverse, and inclusive workforce. We welcome applications from all qualified persons. We encourage women; First Nations, Métis and Inuit persons; members of visible minority groups; persons with disabilities; persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity and expression; and all those who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas and the University to apply.

The University of Alberta will provide support in the recruitment processes to applicants with disabilities, including accommodation that takes into account an applicant’s accessibility needs. If you require accommodation in order to participate as a candidate in the recruitment process, please communicate your needs to the recruitment professionals named in the job description.