Western University
Dean of Arts & Humanities

Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapéewak and Chonnonton peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

Ranked among the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide, Western is Canada’s third largest research-intensive university, and is a founding member of the U15 group of Canada’s distinguished research universities. As Western looks towards its 150th anniversary in 2028, the University is poised for even greater impact, with a focus on educating, supporting, and encouraging leaders who think and act boldly in response to the grand challenges of our times.

A highly collaborative Faculty, Arts & Humanities at Western University has a long history of outstanding research, teaching, and creative activity in the areas of literature, art, film, ancient and modern languages and cultures, gender studies, linguistics, writing, and philosophy. Through its programs, the Faculty of Arts & Humanities equips students with a deep understanding of the richness and complexity of humanity, and provides a broad slate of research opportunities, engaging experiential learning, and community service opportunities.

Reporting to the Provost & Vice-President (Academic), the Dean is responsible for advancing the Faculty’s strategic vision and for inspiring faculty, staff, and students in its pursuit. Proactive in fundraising efforts and outreach, the Dean is a vocal advocate for the value of an arts education both within Western and in the wider community. They will foster and support a culture of interdisciplinary scholarship, will encourage faculty members in the pursuit of their scholarly activities, and will promote their ongoing development. The Dean will listen carefully, act transparently, and make evidence-based decisions. Fostering an equitable and inclusive culture will be at the core of the Dean’s role.

The ideal candidate will be an excellent scholar appointable to the rank of full professor and will have significant administrative and financial management experience earned in a complex academic environment. Highly collegial and collaborative, the successful candidate will bring exceptional communications skills, well-developed networks (nationally and internationally), and have a strong orientation to relationship building, both inside the University and externally. In addition, a track record of leading through change, providing leadership in strategic enrolment management, and enabling faculty, teaching, and support staff to flourish is essential. The Dean will have a strong record of action on equity, diversity, and inclusivity initiatives and an earned reputation as a student-centred leader. The new Dean will bring creativity, energy, enthusiasm, and passion to the role, and will appreciate the wide range of disciplines and scholarship to be found within the Faculty’s many departments and programs.

Western is committed to employment equity and diversity in the workplace and welcomes applications from women, members of racialized groups/visible minorities, Indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, persons of any sexual orientation, and persons of any gender identity or gender expression.

Accommodations are available for applicants with disabilities throughout the recruitment process by contacting Odgers Berndtson. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and Permanent Residents will be given priority.

Applications are encouraged immediately at https://www.odgersberndtson.com/en/careers/19053. The Committee will begin considering candidates in the early fall 2023, with the new Dean to take office in July 2024. To submit a nomination or to apply directly, please write to westernah@odgersberndtson.com.