

Call for Expressions of Interest

Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Academic Lead

Professor Dolores O’Riordan, Vice-President for Global Engagement, and Professor Orla Feely, Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact seek expressions of interest from senior academics who are interested in taking on the role of UCD’s Academic Lead for the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). This is an honorary role of 2 years’ duration.

This role will be suited to an individual:

- Who has a track record of successfully discharging demanding post/s of responsibility at a university level;
- Who fully understands UCD’s global strategy and who can show evidence of involvement in higher level university international strategic planning, beyond matters relating to individual Schools and Colleges;
- Who has an interest in and experience of international higher education, research and proven expertise of working effectively in international settings, and
- Who has experience of working across networks to deliver proven results.

Candidates for this leadership role should send a 250 word (maximum) expression of interest to Professor Dolores O’Riordan by Wednesday 7 November, explaining why they are interested and equipped to take on this role, attaching a CV (2 page maximum). Expressions of interest should be submitted by email to vpforglobalengagement@ucd.ie.

The successful candidate should be ready to attend, promote and contribute to the forthcoming WUN Annual General Meeting, to be held at University College Dublin from 20-24 May 2019. Further information on the required time commitment is detailed below.

Below is some information related to:

- 1) WUN and its membership
- 2) Role of WUN Academic Lead within UCD
- 3) Role of WUN Academic Lead within WUN
- 4) Expected time commitment

1. Background to the Worldwide Universities Network

In January 2018, UCD became the 23rd member of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), which now comprises 23 research-intensive universities spanning 13 countries on 6 continents. WUN's mission is to be one of the leading international higher education networks, collaborating to accelerate the creation of knowledge and to develop leaders who will be prepared to address the significant challenges, and opportunities, of our rapidly changing world. WUN creates new, multilateral opportunities for international collaboration in research and graduate education.

WUN currently has 88 active research initiatives, with over 2,000 researchers and students collaborating on projects, and partners including the United Nations Foundation, World Bank, OECD and World Health Organisation. The four cooperative research themes of the network are Climate Change, Public Health, Understanding Cultures and Global Higher Education and Research.

As a WUN member, UCD students, faculty and staff have access to mobility opportunities and the network's Research Development Fund, an annual competitive fund aimed at bringing together researchers to undertake innovative, high quality, sustainable research that addresses global challenges.

Find more information on the [About WUN page](#) of the WUN website.

See the [WUN Strategic Plan](#) and the [Annual Report](#) on the WUN website.

WUN Membership October 2018

Australia University of Sydney	Ireland University College Dublin	Taipei National Cheng Kung University
Brazil Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais	Kenya University of Nairobi	United Kingdom University of Bristol University of Leeds University of Sheffield University of Southampton University of York
Canada University of Alberta	Mexico Tecnológico de Monterrey	United States of America University of Massachusetts Amherst University of Rochester
China Renmin University of China Zhejiang University	The Netherlands Maastricht University	
Ghana University of Ghana	New Zealand University of Auckland	
Hong Kong Chinese University of Hong Kong	Norway University of Bergen	
	South Africa University of Cape Town	

2) Role of WUN Academic Lead within UCD

The successful candidate must be able to:

1. Effectively represent UCD in high-level WUN debates and discussions, in particular representing UCD on the WUN Academic Advisory Group. The candidate must be **capable of communicating all-university issues beyond those of any individual School or College**. The expected time commitment is tabled below.
2. Deputise, from time to time, for the UCD President on the WUN Partnerships Board.
3. Actively **promote and foster WUN network engagement** at an institutional level in UCD, hosting internal information sessions and serving as an efficient two-way channel of communication between WUN and UCD. This includes working with the UCD WUN Coordinator (an administrative role) to provide information/data to WUN on behalf of UCD, when requested, in an efficient and timely manner.
4. Work with the UCD WUN Coordinator to **oversee implementation of [WUN activities](#)** within UCD.
5. **Provide appropriate briefings** for the Vice President for Global Engagement, Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact. President and other UCD senior leaders about WUN activities and, in particular, prepare briefings etc. (oral or written, as appropriate) to support UCD's full and active participation in network governance groups and activities.
6. Act as **a champion for WUN**, both within the university and externally and to be a positive role model for collaborative international engagement through WUN. This includes **supporting the WUN Annual General Meeting, to be held at University College Dublin from 20 to 24 May 2019**, as well as the subsequent WUN AGM in May 2020.

3. Role of WUN Academic Lead within WUN

The Academic Lead role has been created by UCD to drive the university's engagement in the various [WUN Interdisciplinary Research Groups \(IRGs\)](#), as well as participate in the WUN Academic Advisory Group (AAG), one of the key governance groups for the network.

The roles of the various WUN governance groups are outlined below:

1) The Partnership Board (PB)

The Partnership Board consists of the Presidents/Vice-Chancellors/Rectors of the WUN member universities and the WUN Executive Director. The role of the PB is to determine the direction for the development of the network, refine network strategy, provide corporate governance to the network, agree on new members and advise the Executive Director. On campus, the PB representative should act as a Champion for WUN and encourage the engagement of university staff in WUN activities. Members of the PB are also valuable advocates of WUN to government, corporate and funding agency stakeholders.

The full PB meets once a year at the WUN AGM. A PB Steering Group meets twice a year via teleconference, or more as needed.

2) The Academic Advisory Group (AAG)

The AAG translates the strategic directions of the PB into policy. It advises the Board on the academic portfolio of the network, ensuring the quality of the Global Challenges and the interdisciplinary research groups (IRGs). It is the task of this group to draw threads from individual member universities together, so as to nurture high impact communities tackling issues of global importance. The AAG is also responsible for the assessment of applications to the annual WUN Research Development Fund.

On campus, AAG representatives should act as key drivers of WUN activities and provide high-level support and encouragement to WUN engagement. AAG representatives are generally senior academic staff with a clear understanding of both international and research strategy within the WUN member universities.

3) Interdisciplinary Research Groups (IRGs)

The bulk of WUN's activity occurs in the [Interdisciplinary Research Groups \(IRGs\)](#). These IRGs are research collaborations, groups or networks made up of a core of researchers from WUN member universities, and quite often a number of other universities, research institutes, corporate, NGO or government partners.

The Academic Lead will be expected to drive UCD engagement and membership to the various IRGs, and organise attendance at their individual teleconferences (see [WUN event schedule](#)). At this time, UCD has one representative on an IRG, namely Professor Marie Clarke on the Global Higher Education and Research (GHEAR) Steering Group.

4. Expected Time Commitment

The candidate should be available to:

1) Attend and promote the **WUN Annual General Meeting, to be held at University College Dublin from 20 to 24 May 2019**, and attend the subsequent WUN AGM in May 2020.

2) Participate in meetings of the WUN Academic Advisory Group and other upcoming WUN teleconferences, as follows:

- [Academic Advisory Group teleconference](#), 24 January 2019
- Interdisciplinary Research Groups (IRGs) teleconferences, as may be relevant.

3) Organise and attend the following internal meetings:

- Monthly meetings with UCD WUN Coordinator
- Quarterly meetings with UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement
- Biannual meetings with UCD President

4) Be available to travel internationally, as required.