



Portland State  
UNIVERSITY

Position Specification

## **Vice President for Research**

**Portland State University**

December 2017



## POSITION SPECIFICATION

<b>Position</b>	Vice President for Research
<b>Institution</b>	Portland State University
<b>Location</b>	Portland, Oregon
<b>Reporting Relationship</b>	President, Portland State University
<b>PSU Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pdx.edu">www.pdx.edu</a>
<b>PSU Research</b>	<a href="http://www.pdx.edu/research">www.pdx.edu/research</a>

## INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND / CULTURE

Over the last 66 years, PSU has developed into a nationally-recognized urban research university, the largest and most diverse in the Oregon state system. With a total enrollment of over 26,000, PSU offers over 70 masters degrees and over 20 doctoral degrees. U.S. News and World Reports recently recognized PSU as a Top 10 Most Innovative University. PSU's motto is "Let Knowledge Serve the City" and the University is recognized as a national leader among urban-serving institutions.

The University is an anchor institution, providing the Portland region with a highly educated population, substantial economic impact, and distinctive contributions to its culture. PSU is also a part of Portland's Innovation Quadrant and closely partners with Oregon Health and Science University, including a shared School of Public Health. The University promotes access, inclusion and equity as pillars of excellence. It is committed to curiosity, collaboration, stewardship and sustainability. PSU strives for excellence and innovation that solves problems and believes everyone should be treated with integrity and respect.

PSU was granted university status by the Oregon State System of Higher Education in 1969, becoming Portland State University. In 2014, Portland State became an independent public body governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Oregon Legislature. The state appropriation and all major academic policies and program changes at Portland State are coordinated through Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

### Mission Statement

- We serve and sustain a vibrant urban region through our creativity, collective knowledge and expertise;
- We are dedicated to collaborative learning, innovative research, sustainability, and community engagement;
- We educate a diverse community of lifelong learners; and
- Our research and teaching have global impact.

PSU built its reputation on excellence through accessibility; innovation; collaboration; engagement; sustainability; transformation. The University's programs continue to garner national recognition and rankings. PSU is one of the top ten innovative universities in the country (US News and World



Report 2016-2017). To see an up-to-date list of the outstanding PSU rankings and references by Princeton Review, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and other nationally respected organizations, please click on the following link: <http://www.pdx.edu/profile/portland-state-university-rankings-and-references>.

Portland State University has 28,000 students with approximately 22,500 undergraduates and 5,500 graduate students. Some 62 percent of the students are full time, approximately 78 percent are residents of Oregon, and 70 percent are transfer students. The University offers over 200 degree programs at the bachelors, masters and doctoral level. The University has approximately 7,000 employees, including research and instructional faculty, academic professionals, managers, and staff and administrators.

### **Diversity, Inclusion and Globalization**

Since its founding, Portland State University has embraced a mission of access to higher education for students across the state. Throughout its growth and development, PSU has remained committed to providing access and opportunity to students from regional, national, and international communities in their pursuit of lifelong learning and diverse educational goals. To this end, PSU has utilized an equity lens in its strategic plan and values diversity and fosters a climate of mutual respect and inclusiveness that celebrates the diversity of its students and supports different points of view and the open exchange of ideas. The University is also committed to building the diversity of its faculty and staff to enrich the educational experience of students both inside and outside the classroom and to help them develop the skills they need to flourish and succeed in a diverse global society.

### **Campus Development and Community Partnerships**

Portland State University has developed a reputation as a national model for urban universities that enhance their region by working with partners to solve problems. Advancing community partnerships remains a strategic, core value of PSU as articulated in PSU's current Strategic Plan. PSU remains committed to the further and ongoing evolution of a dynamic, energetic, and inviting University District. The University has invested in infrastructure improvements, such as the streetcar and light rail systems, that enhance the quality of the urban experience.

The PSU campus consists of 49 acres and 50 buildings, including 11 residential student-housing properties. Since 2000, Portland State has added more than 1 million square feet of new space through real estate acquisitions and has plans for new capital investments. The University's special emphasis on the values and practices of community engagement reinforces the potential for successful economic development partnerships and makes PSU a catalytic institution with a sphere of influence that expands well beyond its contributions to a vibrant and active downtown. For more information about Portland State University, please visit: <http://www.pdx.edu/aboutpsu>.

### **About Portland, Oregon**

Big city excitement and small-town charm make Portland, known as "the City of Roses" one of the most popular cities on the west coast. Situated approximately 70 miles from the Pacific Ocean where the Columbia and Willamette Rivers meet, Portland enjoys a magnificent setting, combining sparkling waterways with lush greenery rarely found in urban settings. Portland is home to approximately 610,000 residents and the population of the surrounding metropolitan area is approximately 2.35 million. Portland is widely recognized in national surveys and rankings as one



of America's most livable cities. To learn why metro Portland has become a top national tech destination, please visit <http://www.techtownportland.com/>.

Portland's historic old town, many galleries and museums, Saturday Market, Waterfront Park and an abundance of fine restaurants keep residents and visitors busy and satisfied. The performing arts in the area offer classical music, jazz and blues as well as theater and dance. Portland is just a short distance from the spectacular Columbia Gorge and Multnomah Falls, windsurfing at Hood River, valley wineries, skiing at Mt. Hood, and the drama of the Oregon coast. Portland has an extensive park system of more than 200 parks. These encompass such areas as the elm shaded South Park Blocks in the downtown area and Washington Park, home of the Rose Gardens and the Japanese Gardens. Portland's Forest Park, at nearly 5,000 acres, is the largest park within a city in the U.S. and has nearly 50 miles of walking trails.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Portland State University seeks a Vice President for Research (VPR) to expand PSU's research capacity and increase the impact of the University's scholarly and creative work on a local, national, and global scale. Three units reside within the VPR's office and report directly to the VPR: Sponsored Projects Administration, Research Integrity, and Innovation & Intellectual Property. Portland State's Centers and Institutes, composed of five multi-disciplinary research centers, also report to the VPR.

With over \$60 million in annual research expenditures, Portland State University has grown over the past 20 years into a thriving urban-serving research university with notable strengths in the areas of education, sustainability, health and life sciences, engineering, urban planning, visual, performing, and built arts, and social work. Working with a dedicated research administration team and with the Vice President for Finance and Administration, the VPR will further forge PSU's identity as a nationally and internationally renowned research university. He or she will accomplish this goal by strengthening and refining relationships, as well as an administrative infrastructure that promotes cutting-edge research and scholarship while reducing the burden of grants administration on faculty. The VPR will also work closely with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the deans of the schools and colleges, and with individual faculty members across campus, to promote a culture that rewards, incentivizes, and invests in high-impact scholarly and creative activities.

President Rahmat Shoureshi has made expansion of research and creative work as one of his priorities, and is looking to partner with the new VPR to significantly enhance and support scholarship at PSU. The new VPR will oversee the development of a Research Strategic Plan for PSU that includes expanding opportunities of partnership and collaborations with OHSU, other Oregon universities, and global partner institutions. The Research Strategic Plan will also emphasize the creation of relevant cross-disciplinary research centers that both stimulate and incentivize faculty creativity, as well as boost support for technology transfer and the creation of spin-off companies

In addition to this critical work within PSU and the Portland Metro Area, the VPR works with the government relations staff at PSU and the VPRs from the other major research universities in Oregon to highlight the essential ways in which research, scholarly, and creative activities contribute to Oregon's vibrant, thriving economy, and to its cultural well-being.



## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE / QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will have relevant leadership experience with a proven track record of advancing academic research. He or she will also have a distinguished personal record of scholarship / funded research and an understanding of the need to promote and foster research interests in others.

Competitive candidates will also possess:

- The ability, with the faculty and other leaders, to voice a strategic research vision for PSU and to develop and realize a plan to achieve it;
- Significant leadership, management, and financial experience in higher education or similar research environments;
- Experience in building research relationships in federal, industrial, and institutional environments;
- Awareness of diverse forms of scholarship and creative activity – including non-STEM and management-related fields, and a willingness to develop innovative support for them;
- An understanding of multi-dimensional metrics that support research missions across a variety of disciplines;
- Experience in planning, growing, and diversifying research and the graduate population, while fostering and promoting inclusion of women and historically underrepresented groups;
- A demonstrated capacity to create interdisciplinary partnerships, develop infrastructure with multiple constituencies to support research aspirations and initiatives;
- Experience promoting and implementing policies and procedures to ensure compliance with Federal and State regulations governing research;
- Respect for, and engagement with, faculty and staff, coupled with a commitment to attract and retain excellence and diversity;
- Outstanding communication skills and an engaging style with strong interpersonal skills;
- Demonstrated ability to lead by consensus and with a level of transparency and discretion;
- The ability to articulate PSU's research vision, goals, accomplishments, and needs to a broad range of external constituencies, including alumni, academic, government representatives, and the business and industrial communities;
- Experience in fostering an environment that encourages and celebrates differences;
- The ability to communicate effectively and respectfully within the context of varying beliefs, behaviors, orientations, identities and cultural backgrounds;
- The ability to recognize and assist with the needs of various stakeholders, including research-based and non-research-based graduate students; and
- Impeccable personal and professional integrity.

## EDUCATION

The VPR must possess an earned doctorate or other appropriate terminal degree.

## COMPENSATION

Portland State University offers an attractive compensation and benefits package, commensurate with the successful candidate's background and experience.



## NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

For priority consideration, please apply by **February 1, 2018**. Applications should include 1) a curriculum vitae and 2) a letter of interest that addresses the responsibilities and requirements described above, as well as the applicant's motivation to apply. To ensure full consideration, inquiries, nominations, and applications should be submitted electronically, in confidence, to:

[PSU-VPR@kornferry.com](mailto:PSU-VPR@kornferry.com)

## KORN FERRY CONTACTS

<b>Paul Chou</b> Co-Managing Director Global Education Practice Philadelphia, PA	<b>Josh Ward, Ph.D.</b> Senior Associate Global Education Practice Philadelphia, PA
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*Portland State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, and seeks candidates who are committed to the highest standards of scholarship and professional activities and a campus climate that supports equality, diversity and inclusion.*