

# Professor and Director of Ruskin, Centre for Culture, Landscape and the Environment



# The University

Lancaster University has just celebrated its 50th anniversary with a world-class reputation as a centre for excellence in research, teaching and scholarship. Ranked as a top 10 UK university (in The Times, Guardian and Complete University league tables) and in the top 1% of universities in the world, Lancaster continues to sustain its reputation for teaching and research excellence both nationally and internationally.

The University places great emphasis on a strong student experience and gives students access to academics who are experts in their field, whilst providing an integrative environment that is conducive to learning for a culturally and ethnically diverse student population. The main campus is situated on the southern outskirts of Lancaster and is set in 250 acres of landscaped parkland, close to the lively, friendly and historic city of Lancaster. The campus is 30 miles south of the Lake District, 20 miles east of the Yorkshire Dales, and even closer to the Forest of Bowland and the Fylde. It is one hour's drive from Manchester and about 2½ hours by train from London.

The University has published an ambitious strategy for 2020. Our vision is to become a university that is globally significant – a leader in higher education that provides the highest quality research and teaching, and engages locally and

internationally on the issues and debates of the day and future. Driven by research, and stimulating learning, the globally significant university informs and changes practice and thinking worldwide.

To find out more about the University strategy please visit: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/about-us/theuniversity/strategic-plan/](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/about-us/theuniversity/strategic-plan/)

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) brings together 9 departments and associated research centres with many internationally renowned scholars. FASS is also home to ACE funded Lancaster Arts which is a major provider of professional arts activity, public performances and exhibitions for the campus, the city and region. Lancaster's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is consistently ranked amongst the world's top 100 Arts & Humanities faculties and is home to over 20 disciplines, many

ranking in the top 10 in the UK. The Faculty was ranked 36th for Arts & Humanities in the world in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings and in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014), a number of subjects are ranked in the top ten in the UK.

Our students engage with a passionate academic community committed to providing an outstanding educational experience. We are committed to educating the brightest students to the highest standards, to generating knowledge that inspires and matters globally, to engaging and influencing beyond the University and to encouraging all members of our community to reach their highest potential.

## Ruskin Centre for Culture, Landscape and Environment.

Lancaster University is creating of a new University Research Centre, the Ruskin Centre for Culture, Landscape and Environment (RCLE). As an interdisciplinary and socially-committed critic and thinker, John Ruskin offers an inspirational model for connecting and developing much of the research undertaken at Lancaster University. A Victorian polymath and visionary, Ruskin was an art critic, social reformer and educator; George Eliot wrote that 'I venerate him as one of the great teachers of the day'. A wide-ranging thinker, engaged with science as well as art, Ruskin stressed the importance of aesthetics and the careful study of the natural world, emphasising their links to political,

economic and social concerns.

Lancaster University is already the home of an internationally significant Ruskin Centre which carries out research into John Ruskin, focusing on the comprehensive Ruskin library:

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/depts/ruskinlib/Pages/welcome.html](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/depts/ruskinlib/Pages/welcome.html).

The creation of the new Ruskin Centre for Culture, Landscape and Environment would significantly widen the focus from the writer's own work to also consider key Ruskinian areas of interest in which Lancaster already has significant expertise.

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/doc\\_library/fass/Ruskin-Centre-landscape-cultureenvironment-proposal2017.pdf](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/doc_library/fass/Ruskin-Centre-landscape-cultureenvironment-proposal2017.pdf).

The Centre would provide a focus for critical, reflective and cultural studies on the nature of human existence within environment, and the place of the landscape in artistic and cultural traditions. In this way, the RCLE will provide a home and support platform for a number of areas of research expertise across the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, while also making links across other Faculties and beyond the University. RCLE will aim to maximise our reputation for Arts and Humanities led research, facilitate cross-disciplinary funding bids and contribute to the University's Engagement strategy.



## Professor and Director of the Ruskin Centre for Culture, Landscape and Environment.

We are seeking an experienced academic with proven leadership skills from any of the disciplines we are active in [www.lancaster.ac.uk/media/lancaster-university/content-assets/documents/fass/faculty/FASSbrochure.pdf](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/media/lancaster-university/content-assets/documents/fass/faculty/FASSbrochure.pdf). The successful candidate will bring experience of interdisciplinary and collaborative research that connects to international debates around culture, landscape and the environment.

Taking Ruskin as an inspiration, the new Director will work with us to drive forward our vision and plans to create a Centre of excellence in

interdisciplinary arts and humanities research and teaching that engages across the wider disciplinary spectrum, seeking to engage with natural and built environments. The Director will make a strong contribution to REF return in terms of both outputs and impact and will play a key role in research grant acquisition and income generation.

The Director will also play a key role in developing our strategic engagement agenda by forging productive partnerships with external organisations and agencies with an interest in culture, landscape and environment.

### Interested?

The Director post will be for a five year term in the first instance and negotiable thereafter.

The successful candidate will simultaneously be appointed to an appropriate academic department on an indefinite basis.

Appointment will be on the Professorial Scale.



# Job Description

Job title: Professor and Director

Grade: Professorial

Department: Ruskin Centre for Culture, Landscape and Environment (RCCLE)

Directly responsible to: Dean of Faculty (Arts and Social Sciences)

## Major Duties:

1. To contribute significantly to the development of the RCCLE through your strategic leadership.
2. To lead the RCCLE, a multi-disciplinary cross-faculty research centre, demonstrating an empathy/understanding of a wide range of Ruskin inspired inter-disciplinary research.
3. To lead initiatives on behalf of the RCCLE, that integrate across the University and to co-ordinate interdisciplinary responses to major research calls.
4. To engage with key external agencies in the relevant sectors in order to position RCCLE as a major contributor to international debates and practice around landscape, environment and culture.
5. To lead, stimulate and undertake externally funded research, complementing and enhancing existing activities at Lancaster, across the UK and on an international basis in terms of scope and impact, leading to top-quality research outputs of high impact.
6. To implement PhD, post-doctoral and other funded student-focused research activity within the Institute.
7. To explore and develop new taught programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level and to coordinate the strategic direction and philosophy of such courses.
8. Liaise, communicate and strengthen working relationships with the University Library regarding management and curatorial decision-making concerning the Ruskin Collection.
9. To contribute to the wider objectives of the University at the discretion of the Dean of Faculty Arts and Social Sciences.

## Person Specification

Professor and Director of Ruskin, Centre for Culture, Landscape and the Environment

Criteria	Essential or Desirable
A PhD or equivalent in subject relevant to RCCLE and/or high level expertise and knowledge in research or that area. Please give details of your PhD stating awarding institution, date of award, discipline/specialism.	Essential *
Evidence of strategic leadership, management and administration skills and experience, commensurate with the role of a Director in a University setting.	Essential *
Effective communication and interpersonal skills and ability to work co-operatively and flexibly with colleagues.	Essential *
A substantial international reputation in research and scholarship and a significant track-record of research publications or other outputs suitable for submission to the next Research Excellence Framework (REF). Please list your publications or other submissions since 01 January 2008.	Essential *
A track-record of securing research funding, leadership of research projects, and evidence of research impact. Please give details, including value, of your successful awards over the last 5 years. (Professor only: a strong track-record in this respect.)	Essential *
A well-established and successful track record in teaching and supervising undergraduates, postgraduates and doctoral students. Please state your teaching experience and record of supervising PhD candidates to successful completion.	Essential *
A well-established and successful track record in external engagement across academic and/or industry and/or policy networks relevant to RCCLE.	Essential *
A track record of public engagement and/or working in or with the museums and galleries sector.	Desirable
Please write a statement in support of your application, including your rationale for applying for this post and how you would develop the RCCLE over the next five years (max 500 words).	Essential

\* Assessed against the curriculum vitae and letter of support, 500 word statement and interview.

Assessed during the interview process by competency based interview questions, presentation, etc.

# Next Steps

## **The Interview?**

Will take place on Friday 7th July.

## **Interested?**

If leading and working in a cutting-edge interdisciplinary environment is right up your street, please get in touch with us.

## **Contact?**

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## **How to Apply?**

<https://hr-jobs.lancs.ac.uk/Vacancy.aspx?ref=A1859>

