



**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Vacancy Ref: A2688**

<b>Job Title:</b>	Institute Director of Future Cities Research Institute	<b>Present Grade:</b>	Professorial
<b>Department/College:</b>	0.5FTE Lancaster University; 0.5FTE Sunway University		
<b>Directly responsible to:</b>	Pro-Vice Chancellor Research & Enterprise, Lancaster University; Provost, Sunway University		
<b>Supervisory responsibility for:</b>	FCRI Dedicated staff		
<b>Contracting Institute for role:</b>	Lancaster University and Sunway University (Dual appointment)		
<b>Internal:</b>	<p>Pro Vice-Chancellors (PVCs), Faculty Deans, Heads of Department, Faculty Associate Deans for Research, other Institute Directors, Directors and management of Professional Services, members of faculties relating to future cities research, research, enterprise and business partnership staff within the two universities, academic and professional staff supporting the LU and Sunway partnership directly and indirectly. The post will also report to the Lancaster University/Sunway University jointly run Future Cities Research Institute Board.</p>		
<b>External:</b>	<p>Experts at peer research institutes and international centres of excellence.            Research Councils, academics in other universities, central and local governments.            Researchers, middle and senior management in industry with relevant interest and expertise related to the Future Cities Research Institute.            Professional bodies, national laboratories, research institutes, the technical press, and other bodies with an interest in Future Cities Research Institute.</p>		
<b>Job Purpose:</b>	<p>To create a World Class Sunway/Lancaster Future Cities Joint Research Institute (FCRI), which would build on existing strengths in Sunway and Lancaster, complementing the work of the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, and capitalising on Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah’s pioneering leadership in developing sustainable urban environments. The Institute will maximise the impact of the wide variety of relevant, world-leading research undertaken at Lancaster University, and build on existing research collaborations between the two institutions. Initially the FCRI will focus on the two broad themes of <b>Digital Cities</b> and <b>Sustainable Cities</b>, with the aim of establishing a third Theme <b>Liveable Cities</b> at a later stage. Academic staff from across both institutions will be encouraged to engage with FCRI and will be supported to seek complementary external funding through traditional research channels and from business sources in the UK, Malaysia, and internationally, to sustain and grow FCRI research activities.</p> <p>The creation of a new joint research institute between Sunway and Lancaster Universities will make a major contribution to the global conversation on sustainable cities, helping to tackle major global challenges associated with the rapid urbanisation currently being seen across the global south. FCRI formation is extremely timely as the future of our cities is a critical concern. The FCRI will create an innovative, interactive platform for joint research activities, training, education and engagement across the future cities agenda. Its multi-disciplinary approach to research will help to tackle many of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>The FCRI Director will lead the institute activities with the help of a FCRI management group. The Director will have overall responsibility for the academic strategy, financial performance and success of FCRI. Together this senior FCRI</p>		

team will oversee the running of the institute, ensuring it meets its key deliverables/ expected outputs, and develop and implement a sustainable model to ensure the longevity of the institute.

This exciting new institute will be housed at the Sunway University Campus in Sunway City, near Kuala Lumpur, but with academic expertise and research activity on both sites. The position will involve regular travel to Lancaster in the UK and will involve close working relationships with key FCRI staff at both institutions.

**Major Duties:**

1. To lead the development of the Future Cities Research Institute – a joint initiative, which would build on existing research and teaching strengths in both Sunway and Lancaster universities.
2. To oversee the strategic direction of the institute as well as day-to-day management and decision-making.
3. To facilitate and support the work currently in development within the two initial research themes.
4. To lead both strategic and operational initiatives of the Future Cities Research Institute that integrate across faculties/schools and the two universities. To stimulate other initiatives to be led by others within the Institute.
5. To co-ordinate responses to major research calls, and to engage with key industrial and public sector organisations in the relevant sectors.
6. To chair and have overall responsibility for the FCRI Management Board
7. To work in partnership with the FCRI academic theme leaders to, stimulate and undertake externally funded research in key areas related to future cities, complementing and enhancing existing activities at Lancaster and Sunway universities. To ensure that the research undertaken is of international excellence in terms of scope and impact, leading to the publication of top-quality research outputs of high impact and policy engagement.
8. To be involved in the development of new taught programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level in future cities, taking into account the influence of policy and current trends in national and international directives, and to take a coordinating role in the strategic direction and philosophy of such courses. This will require close liaison with appropriate colleagues and academic teams in Sunway and Lancaster Universities.
9. To implement PhD, post-doctoral and other funded student-focused research activity within the Institute.
10. To further integrate the Future Cities Research Institute to support the academic needs of industry, central government and other partners across the evolving portfolio of needs in relation to this area.
11. To contribute to the wider objectives of Lancaster and Sunway Universities within the governance structure between the two partners.
12. To have overall responsibility for the research activities of the institute and to work closely with the Sunway and Lancaster management teams for matters associated with teaching and wider engagement opportunities.
13. To play a major role in the development of longer term sustainability of the institute through the development of a new joint Masters, MOOCs, training and development opportunities and external funding.
14. To prioritise the work of the institute to ensure sustainability.
15. To support institute staff in the development of research grants, creating and exploiting networking opportunities, raising the profile of the institute, etc.
16. To form and maintain strong networks with key stakeholders.
17. To work closely with industrial and other third sector organisations to ensure impact and potential funding routes.
18. To manage the financial responsibilities of the institute in line with the management and government structure.
19. To undertake world-leading research in a relevant area, including publishing high quality research outputs, consistent with being a Professor at Sunway and Lancaster universities.