

# Institute Director of Future Cities Research Institute

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**Candidate Pack May 2019**

Closing Date: Thursday 18 July 2019 | Ref: A2688





# Institute Director of Future Cities Research Institute

Building on the success of the longstanding Lancaster University - Sunway University partnership and our shared interest in cities research our institutions are creating a new, joint Future Cities Research Institute (FCRI).

Lancaster and Sunway have had an academic partnership since 2006, with a number of joint degree courses and successful research collaborations. The creation of a new, joint institute in cities research between Lancaster and Sunway builds on existing strengths across the two institutions, complementing the work of the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development (based at Sunway University), and maximising the impact of the wide variety of relevant, world-leading research undertaken at Lancaster University. It will strengthen and expand research partnerships between the two institutions.

The creation of FCRI 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.

We are seeking to appoint a talented individual to lead the development of the FCRI. You will be a scholar with a proven research track record, with research interests which includes a cities focus. You will also have a track record as an academic leader who can provide strategic direction for the FCRI.

The vision is for FCRI to become self-sustaining within 5 years following the initial funding period, and sustainability of the institute activities will be a substantial part of the Director's role. You will also contribute to the academic development of FCRI and to the enhancement of Lancaster and Sunway University's global profile and reputation.

The post will be based at the Sunway campus in Malaysia but with regular travel to Lancaster in the UK.

You must have good knowledge of Southeast Asia culture and be aware of the UK research landscape.

Formal interviews will take place on the Sunway campus, in September 2019 and it is expected that candidates will be able to travel to Malaysia for this. Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed.

For further information about the Director role please contact Professor Stephen Decent at Lancaster (UK) at [s.decent@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.decent@lancaster.ac.uk) or Professor Peter Heard (Sunway) at [pheard@sunway.edu.my](mailto:pheard@sunway.edu.my)

We welcome applications from people in all diversity groups.





# Lancaster Executive Summary

Lancaster University is one of the UK's top universities ranked well inside the top 10 across all major league tables. We are currently ranked joint 7th in Times Higher Education (THE) 'Table of Tables 2019' and held University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2018.

Competition for undergraduate places is the highest it has ever been, and Lancaster graduates are performing very well in an increasingly competitive job market.

We're 3rd in the UK for graduate-level employment in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019 and Complete University Guide 2020 with 89% of Lancaster students going into professional work or further study after graduation.

At Lancaster University, we place great emphasis on an excellent student experience and students work with academics who are experts in their field. We provide an environment that is conducive to learning for a culturally and ethnically diverse student and staff population, on a friendly campus that is part of one of the safest cities in the UK. Since 2003 the University has invested over £450M to transform our campus for students and boost research and teaching facilities.

Lancaster University has an international outlook, but also a strong commitment to engage regionally and nationally, working closely with its strategic partners in the Public, Private and Third Sectors.

Students and staff from over one hundred countries make up a thriving community based around nine colleges. Lancaster's community extends far beyond the campus with research, teaching and student exchange partnerships with leading universities and institutions in 24 countries around the world from China to Brazil, including our current overseas teaching partnerships and campuses in China, Ghana and Malaysia.

Following the University's golden anniversary in 2014, we continue to celebrate the inspiring work of our academic community and extend the opportunities that Higher Education brings to students from all backgrounds.



Paul Boustead, MSc, Chartered FCIPD  
Director of Human Resources and  
Organisational Development





# Sunway Executive Summary

Sunway University is one of Malaysia's leading private universities, rated five star overall by QS, and 5-star (Excellent) three times in a row in the Malaysian national university quality assessment exercise, SETARA. Owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, and situated at the heart of Sunway City on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Sunway University is Malaysia's only not-for-profit private University. Sunway City is Malaysia's first integrated green township, recognised as a Top Smart City Initiative in Asia Pacific, and an Integrated Smart and Low-Carbon Township by IDC Government Insights in 2017, the City provides staff and students with the experience of sustainable living in a smart city, with surrounding green spaces and environment-friendly infrastructure, such as elevated canopy walkways, and conveniently linked public transportation system. As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, the University launched the Jeffrey Sachs Centre on Sustainable Development in 2016.

The University has a longstanding relationship with Lancaster University including dual degree programmes at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels, and a broad range of research collaborations. Sunway University has ambitious plans to establish itself amongst the top 1% of universities in the world and, backed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, is investing significantly in its people and facilities, including plans for a new performing arts centre and business school. As part of our deepening partnership with Lancaster University and our large-scale investments in research, we are now looking to establish a Future Cities Research Institute, which will build on areas of joint research expertise and our commitment to sustainability and the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals.



**Prof Peter J Heard**  
Provost, Sunway University





# Lancaster University

Lancaster University is an international leader in the provision of inspiring teaching and research; this reputation is reflected in our ranking in the UK top 10 in all three major UK rankings (Times/Sunday Times, Guardian, and the Complete University Guide).

The University has been awarded the 'University of the Year' award 2018 by the Times and The Sunday Times.

The University is also ranked 1st in the North West, Best Campus University, and 150th in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2018. Lancaster University has been awarded the highest possible ranking in the UK government's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) rating, which aims to recognise and reward excellence in teaching and learning in UK institutions. The TEF Gold rating is based on high-quality teaching, excellent teaching facilities, and the career opportunities provided to graduates. The University's research has also been rated as world-leading in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF), which assesses the quality and impact of research submitted by UK universities across all subjects. In the last research assessment exercise, 83% of our research was rated 'internationally excellent' or 'world-leading'. Our research is truly international in focus with research partnerships in over 60 countries around the world. Lancaster University is also proud to be a member of the N8 Group, a research partnership of the eight most research-intensive universities in the North of England.

A major strength of Lancaster University is its thriving ecosystem of interdisciplinary research. This collaborative approach is fostered by its mixture of formal and informal structures - including Institutes and University Research Centres - bringing together experts from different disciplines to address regional, national, and global challenges. The University comprises 13,500 students and around 3,400 staff. Lancaster is one of only a handful of universities with a collegiate system which has helped to forge a strong sense of identity and loyalty, and continues to be a distinctive feature of Lancaster University life. More than £450 million has been invested into the Campus since 2003, creating new academic facilities, student social facilities, and improved teaching space.

Our campus has transformed over recent years due to a number of significant redevelopment projects, including the refurbishment of the library and multi-million pound investments in other facilities across the University.





# Sunway University

Sunway University, originally Sunway College formed more than 30 years ago, is today part of the Sunway Education Group which is owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF). The University is one of 16 institutions which includes Sunway College, Monash University Malaysia and Sunway International School.

Sunway University is a hub of multicultural interaction, a platform for sharing, learning and networking. In its aim to deliver quality higher education Sunway University works closely in partnership, collaborating with world-class partners Lancaster University and Le Cordon Bleu International. With the partnerships, Sunway University's home-grown degrees in areas of business, accounting, banking and finance, financial mathematics and statistics, economics and management, psychology, communication, computing and information systems, biological and medical sciences are validated by Lancaster University while its international hospitality management and culinary management degrees are accredited by the Le Cordon Bleu. The University also offers degrees in various other areas which include nursing, biomedicine, actuarial studies, contemporary music (audio technology), music performance, design communication, interior architecture, global supply chain management and international business.

The University also offers the American Degree Transfer Programme which enables students to transfer to top 10% universities in the United States, for example John Hopkins, Cornell, Washington University in St Louise, and Michigan Ann Arbor. Sunway University also partners Harvard University, University of Oxford and University of Cambridge to promote a two-way flow of scholars and researchers. The University also partners the University of California, Berkeley to develop Sunway University's entrepreneurship programmes, and to commence a bi-directional information exchange, in areas of Entrepreneurship and Technology, between the University and the Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology (SCET) at Berkeley.

Sunway University has received recognition placing it on a par with long established international institutions. The University was awarded an overall rating of four-stars out of a maximum of five-stars by the QS World university ranking and rating organisation receiving individual five-star ratings in the "teaching", "employability" and "facilities" categories placing it on a par with long established international institutions. In the QS Asia 2018 ranking, Sunway University was placed among the top 2.5% of all institutions in Asia.

In its aim to deliver high quality education, conducive study environment and overall learning experience, Sunway was recognised in the Student Barometer Survey (SB Autumn 2018) - a global benchmark survey administered by igraduate, revealed that institutions in the Sunway Education Group achieved high student satisfaction for Physical Library and Financial Services, with the highest score out of 23 Asian institutions. A high score was also achieved for Learning and Living experience, highest out of 12 institutions surveyed in Malaysia.

High scores were achieved in the area of living experience in accommodation, financial support, safety, facilities and transport links. For support services, high scores were given by the students for financial services, accommodation office, Muslim prayer room and campus cafeteria. For arrival, accommodation topped the list.

In the inaugural Sin Chew Education Awards in 2019, Sunway University won the "Outstanding Educational Institutions for Private Universities or Colleges" award.

In 2017, Sunway University was one of the eight universities to be awarded the Premier Digital Tech University status by MDEC (Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation). In the SETARA (Rating System for Malaysian Higher Education) 2017, Sunway received a 5-Star (Excellent) rating in the Emerging University category. It is also an ISO 9001: 2015 certified institution further amplifying the University's commitment to quality on all levels in the higher education provision.





# Sunway City

Sunway University is located in Sunway City. Sunway City (SC), Malaysia's first fully integrated township is one of the country's unforgettable gems as well as Sunway's flagship township. Popularly known as Sunway City, SRC possesses an impressive seven million square feet of nett lettable space in Klang Valley.

Transformed from an 800 acres of derelict mining land, SC has evolved into a bustling and flourishing township comprising of condominiums, office towers, and Sunway's flagship hotel;

Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa, which also operates the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre, one of the largest convention centres in Malaysia. Also located in the renowned Sunway City are Sunway Lagoon multi-park attraction, home to the world's largest man-made surf beach and the iconic Sunway Pyramid shopping mall with its landmark pyramid and lion's head. The township is also home to a world-class centre for education and healthcare alongside the finest in retail and commercial facilities.



## Amenities Education

- Sunway University
- Monash University Sunway Campus
- Sunway International School

## Healthcare

- Sunway Medical Centre

## Retail

- Sunway Pyramid Shopping Mall

## Leisure

- Sunway Lagoon Multi-Park Attraction

## Hospitality

- 5-star Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa
- 4-star Pyramid Tower & Resort Suites (service apartments)
- The Villas (luxurious chalet)

## MICE

- Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre

## Connectivity

Sunway City is well connected via:

- 6 major highways i.e Federal Highway, Shah Alam Expressway, New Klang Valley Expressway (NKVE), New Pantai Expressway (NPE), North-South Expressway Central Link and Damansara-Puchong Expressway
- Malaysia's first proposed elevated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) –Sunway Line connecting Sunway City to Setia Jaya KTM station and future USJ6 LRT station.
- Free shuttle bus within Sunway City
- Canopy walk -elevated walkways connecting Sunway South Quay, Sunway University, Monash University Sunway campus and Sunway Pyramid.





# The Role

## Department/College

0.5FTE Lancaster University;  
0.5FTE Sunway University

## Directly responsible to

Pro-Vice Chancellor Research & Enterprise,  
Lancaster University; Provost, Sunway  
University

## Supervisory responsibility for

FCRI Dedicated staff

## Contracting Institute for role

Lancaster University and Sunway University  
(Dual appointment)

## Other contacts

### Internal:

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.

### External:

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.

## Job Purpose:

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 Digital Cities and  
Sustainable Cities, with the aim of establishing  
a third Theme Liveable Cities 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.

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).

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 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.



# Person Specification

Criteria	Essential/ Desirable	How it will be assessed
Substantial academic experience at a recognised University.	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Proven ability to provide strategic leadership and to drive innovation and excellence	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Willingness to work in Malaysia with regular travel between Lancaster and Sunway.	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Excellent management, communication and presentation skills, able to represent Lancaster/ Sunway University partnership.	Essential	Interview
A PhD or equivalent academic record.	Essential	Application Form
International research profile	Essential	Interview
Ability to work flexibly in multidisciplinary team context and work collaboratively with partners both within the University and outside.	Essential	Application Form/Interview
Experience of developing new programmes of study at PG level	Desirable	Application Form/Interview
Experience of working in multilingual and multicultural settings.	Desirable	Application Form
Working knowledge of an Asian language	Desirable	Application Form/Interview

- Application Form – assessed against the covering letter and curriculum vitae. Evidence will be “scored” as part of the shortlisting process.
- Interview – assessed during the interview process by either competency based interview questions, tests, presentation etc.





# Process and Timeframe

Applications should consist of a CV accompanied by a covering letter addressing the criteria in the person specification.

Closing date for receipt of applications: **Thursday 18th July 2019**

The Institute Director of Future Cities Research Institute will be appointed by a formal Selection Committee who will hold a candidate review meeting shortly after the closing Date. A longlist of candidates will be invited to an informal skype discussion and following this notifications will be sent to shortlisted candidates who will be invited to formal interview.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend formal interviews on the Sunway campus in **September 2019** and it is expected that candidates will be able to travel to Malaysia for this.

Informal questions regarding the post should be directed to Professor Peter Heard (Sunway, Malaysia) at [pheard@sunway.edu.my](mailto:pheard@sunway.edu.my) or Professor Stephen Decent (Lancaster, UK) [s.decent@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.decent@lancaster.ac.uk)

An appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references, in line with the usual terms and conditions of employment at the university.

The position will be for an initial three-year period, but with the possibility of renewing for a further term. On completion of the term as Director, the appointee may take up a full-time post in an appropriate academic department at Lancaster and/or Sunway.



## Recruitment Statement

**We want to provide you with full information at an early stage to enable you to make an informed decision as to whether you are committed to pursuing this position and to outline the University's expectations of all candidates taking part in our recruitment process.**

Once you have reviewed the information below, and in fairness to everyone concerned, we would ask that you give serious consideration to proceeding further with this process if you think you may not accept the position should it be offered to you.

We will support you as much as possible during the recruitment process and are happy to discuss any concerns you may have. We would ask you to agree to undertaking a positive, open, and transparent dialogue with us throughout the recruitment process, raising questions and any concerns as early as possible.

Lancaster University & Sunway University engages in a variety of domestic and international benchmarking exercises to ensure we are extremely competitive in the levels of reward and recognition we provide, therefore we are confident that any offer made will be strong and competitive. If you are happy to continue in your application for the position in light of the above expectations, we would very much look forward to hearing from you.





# Join Us

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“We make campus an inspiring place to be.”