

# Institute Director of Future Cities Research Institute

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**Candidate Pack** November 2019

Closing date: Friday 13th December 2019 | Ref: A2894



# 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 may be based at the Sunway campus in Malaysia or the Lancaster campus in the UK with regular substantive travel between the two universities.

You should have an awareness of Southeast Asia culture and the UK research landscape.

Formal interviews will take place at Lancaster University, in early 2020 and it is expected that candidates will be able to travel to attend this.

For further information about the Director role please contact Professor Kirk Semple at Lancaster (UK) at [k.semple@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:k.semple@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 ranked 7th in the Times Higher Education Table of Tables, 2020, we held University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide in 2018, and have just been announced as the International University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2020.

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, Germany 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 ambitions 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 just been awarded the 'International University of the Year' award 2020 by the Times and The Sunday Times, following on from its 'University of the Year' status in 2018.

The University is also ranked 1st in the North West, Best Campus University, and 128th in the QS World University Rankings 2020. 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 KlangValley 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.



# Lancaster City

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Lancaster is proud of its 2016 staff survey results, with an overall response rate of 73%. 92% said that the University was a good place to work in comparison to the sector average of 88%. We think this cements our position as an employer of choice, regionally, national and internationally.

The Lancaster University campus is set in 360 acres of parkland with views of the lake district and coast. Since 2003 we have invested in excess of £500m in new college facilities, new and refurbished teaching spaces, a new sports centre and new research facilities. We offer our staff a comprehensive set of benefits including competitive salaries, defined benefit pension schemes, work-life balance, training & promotion opportunities and staff recognition schemes.

Lancaster is a historic city offering excellent restaurants, shopping, arts and culture amid stunning Georgian architecture and panoramic coastal views across Morecambe Bay, with the breathtaking scenery of the Lake District only half an hour away.

Lancaster is situated in the picturesque rural landscape of northwest England. A magnificent twelfth century castle overlooks the city, and in the lush green space and woodland of Williamson Park the iconic Ashton Memorial gives superb views of the Lakeland fells across the sweeping Morecambe Bay coastline. Lancaster's river, the Lune, runs along the edge of the neighbouring Forest of Bowland, an area of outstanding natural beauty, and meanders past many villages before flowing through the city and finding its way to the sea.

The University is easily accessible and less than three miles from both the city centre and the M6 motorway. The city has excellent National Rail services, with frequent direct trains to London taking only two and a half hours, or an hour to Manchester and Liverpool.

One of the top ten most vibrant cities in the UK (the Experian Vibrancy Report), Lancaster is brimming with arts and culture. The city's arts venues often play host to major theatre and comedy tours, as well as independent productions, and film fans have the choice of an independent cinema, a multiplex, and even a cinema on the University campus. There are a number of galleries and museums located in the city. There is also an abundance of both traditional pubs and wine bars within Lancaster, situated along the banks of the canal, through the streets and even underneath the city in the castle's former wine cellars. Live music venues can be found all over the city.

The University's commuter area stretches past Lancaster and Morecambe from the Lake District to Preston and east along the Lune valley, offering a range of housing from city centre to rural environments. Housing is varied (from old townhouses to barn conversions and new build) and competitively priced, particularly against similar properties in South East England.

We offer relocation allowances for staff (grade six and above) who have to move to join us, and have engaged the services of a relocation partner (HCR Ltd) to assist with international relocations.



# The Role

## Department/College

0.5FTE Lancaster University;  
0.5FTE Sunway University

## Directly responsible to

Pro-Vice Chancellor Research & Enterprise  
and Pro-Vice Chancellor Engagement,  
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.

National and international research funders,  
academics in other universities, policymakers,  
researchers, and middle and senior  
management in business and 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

## Job Purpose:

To create a world class Sunway/Lancaster joint Future  
Cities Research Institute (FCRI), which will 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 draw from world-leading research  
undertaken at Lancaster University, and build on existing  
research collaborations between the two institutions. The  
FCRI will focus initially 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 the growing FCRI  
community to foster collaboration, consider new,  
innovative research challenges and be supported to  
secure external funding through traditional research  
channels and from business sources in the UK,  
Malaysia, and internationally, to sustain and grow future  
city research activities. The ambition is to grow a  
sustainable model of funded research whilst recognising  
that it takes time to build the collaborative research base  
from which to reach this stage.

The goal is to develop a new joint research institute  
between Sunway and Lancaster Universities that can  
make a major contribution to the global conversation on  
sustainable cities, helping to tackle major global  
challenges associated with the rapid urbanisation  
experienced across the global south. The FCRI will  
create an innovative, interactive platform for  
collaborative research, training, education and  
engagement across the future cities agenda. Its  
interdisciplinary approach to research will support  
international collaboration to tackle global challenges  
and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The FCRI Director will lead the institute activities in line  
with the joint strategic development plan for the Institute  
agreed by the FCRI Board, will have overall  
responsibility for the academic strategy, financial  
performance and the success of FCRI and will report to  
the FCRI Board. The Director will be supported by a  
management group to oversee the running of the  
institute. Together, the Director and the FCRI  
management group will ensure the FCRI meets its key  
deliverables/ expected outputs, and develops and  
implements a sustainable funding model to ensure the  
longevity of the institute.

The FCRI will draw on academic expertise and research activity on both sites. Academic theme leads will be present at both institutions and will form a key component of the FCRI management group. The Director may be based at Lancaster or at Sunway but will be expected to undertake substantive visits to Sunway (or Lancaster), and to devise effective and efficient mechanisms of virtual communication. The Director is expected to build and maintain close working relationships with key FCRI staff at both institutions.

## Major Duties

### Leadership and Management:

1. To lead the development of the joint Future Cities Research Institute including overall responsibility for the research activities of the institute.
2. To take overall responsibility for the financial and reputational sustainability of the FCRI ensuring 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.
3. To oversee the day-to-day management and decision-making of the institute, including through remote working across both institutes.
4. To chair the FCRI Management Group reporting to the Joint FCRI Board.

### Fostering skills and Future Leaders:

1. To provide strategic direction and coordination of the skills development of the Institute at all levels, notably postgraduate level but also supporting early career and postdoctoral researchers; taking into account the influence of policy and current trends in national and international directives linked to future cities. This will require close liaison with relevant colleagues and academic teams in Sunway and Lancaster Universities.
2. To embed PhD and other funded student-focused research activity within the Institute. Working with the Academic Dean to consider the development of a new joint Masters, MOOCs, training and development opportunities etc.
3. To provide through FCRI an ideal platform for global cities researchers to disseminate and communicate their research through its lively programme of events and engagement activities.

### Research and Engagement:

1. To oversee and support the research currently in development within the two initial research themes to ensure the measures of success are met including underpinning by external funding.
2. To stimulate research initiatives including coordinating responses to major research calls, and to engage with key industrial and public sector organisations in the relevant sectors.
3. To integrate further 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.
4. To form and maintain strong networks with key stakeholders including working closely with industrial and other third sector organisations to ensure impact and potential funding routes.
5. To undertake internationally respected research in a relevant area, including publishing high quality research outputs, consistent with being a Professor at Lancaster and Sunway universities.

# Person Specification

| Criteria   | Essential / Desirable | Assessment method *        |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Substantial academic experience at a recognised University.  | Essential             | Application form/Interview |
| An international research profile.   | Essential             | Interview                  |
| A PhD or equivalent academic record.   | Essential             | Application form           |
| Proven ability to provide strategic leadership and to drive innovation and excellence.   | Essential             | Application form/Interview |
| Willingness to be based in Malaysia or the UK with regular travel between the two countries.   | Essential             | Application form/Interview |
| Excellent management, communication and presentation skills, able to represent the Lancaster/ Sunway University partnership.                           | Essential             | Interview                  |
| Ability to work flexibly in multidisciplinary team context and work collaboratively with colleagues both within the University partnership and beyond. | Essential             | Application form/Interview |
| Experience of developing new programmes of study at undergraduate and postgraduate level.  | Desirable             | Application form/Interview |
| Experience of working in multilingual and multicultural settings.  | Desirable             | Application form           |
| An understanding of Asian culture.   | 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: **Friday 13th December 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 long list 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 Lancaster University campus in early 2020 and it is expected that candidates will be able to travel to 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 Kirk Semple (Lancaster - UK) at [k.semple@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:k.semple@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.”