



# Position Profile



Vice President for Research and Innovation | April 2022

## About the Role

The [University of Texas at Arlington](#) (UTA) invites applications, expressions of interest, and nominations of candidates in its search for its next Vice President for Research and Innovation (VPRI). The new VPRI has the opportunity to develop and articulate a strategic vision for the research operation at UTA, a Carnegie Very High Research (R1), Texas Tier I, Hispanic-Serving and Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander Institution, while fostering a strong interdisciplinary focus across the university. Reporting to the President, the VPRI serves as the Chief Research Officer and provides oversight of the university's research support services, operations and administration, research compliance, economic development, and innovation programs.

The VPRI is responsible for promoting partnerships and collaborations that support the research goals of the university while engaging potential partners, community and business leaders, government officials and federal agencies, donors, and other key stakeholders in university programs. The VPRI is expected to support the university's core mission, strategic goals, and values, and support and sustain a highly effective work environment and a culture of inclusion and collaboration. The VPRI is responsible for grant and contract administration, innovation and commercialization, core research facilities, research development, research compliance and integrity, undergraduate research, research centers, and research affairs.

The next VPRI will have considerable experience in a highly complex research enterprise, a collaborative leadership style, the highest standards of personal ethics and integrity, and an understanding of a variety of research initiatives and creative endeavors that span academic disciplines in a comprehensive public university. Candidates should possess a strong working knowledge of the academic enterprises within a higher education setting with a deep appreciation for how research intersects with the educational mission of a university that serves a diverse, urban population. The successful candidate will be a relationship-builder who can promote interdisciplinary research and understand UTA's commitment to shared governance.



## Desired Attributes and Qualifications

UTA seeks a VPRI who has demonstrated leadership excellence in complex higher education settings and a reputation as a leading scholar/researcher with impeccable integrity. The successful candidate will hold a terminal degree and credentials appropriate for appointment as a tenured professor at UTA. The ideal candidate will also possess many of the following experiences and characteristics:

- A demonstrated ability to inspire others to engage in a collaborative environment to innovate, create, and advance the research, creative work, and development mission of the university;
- A demonstrated history of promoting ethical behavior and social responsibility;
- A knowledge of national and international research agendas and enterprises and a proven ability to interact with agencies at the state, national, and international levels to advance the research and innovation enterprise at UTA;
- Demonstrated success in obtaining extramural funds at the institutional level as well as experience with research infrastructure development, budgeting in a complex environment, grants and contract administration, and strategic planning with accountability measures;
- Demonstrated ability to develop a vision for research leadership and experience implementing a strategic vision, including growing new faculty expertise in multiple areas;
- Demonstrated ability to manage large research programs, including experience working with federal, state, and private funding agencies;
- A successful record developing large interdisciplinary research teams, including developing the support infrastructure needed for successful proposals, as well as externally funded programs;
- A successful record of building research partnerships with other universities, federal labs/institutes, the corporate and nonprofit sectors, and cities/communities;
- Experience with aspects of research compliance related to finance, conflict of interest, human subject research, animal research, and export control;
- Demonstrated success leading an organization at the executive level (VP, interim VP, or head of a major operating unit) with skills in budget management, personnel management and development, and meeting institutional goals and milestones;
- The highest level of personal integrity;
- Strong communication skills and demonstrated ability to engage successfully with internal and external diverse constituencies;
- Demonstrated experience in enhancing innovation and entrepreneurship as a means of providing leadership in new directions to optimize the university's impact and reputation;
- Experience driving a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion; attracting candidates with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives; and ensuring a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for students, staff and faculty; and
- Evidence of fostering a culture of service, collaboration, and supporting professional growth at all levels of the university, along with the capacity to sustain UTA as a destination workplace that attracts and retains top-level team members committed to the institutional mission and values.



## The Office of the VP for Research

The Office of the Vice President for Research is supported by a staff of 158 and a budget of nearly \$24 million. UTA's total research expenditures for 2021 were more than \$125 million. The office is responsible for planning, coordinating, and enhancing programs of excellence in research and creative activity and facilitating translational opportunities and technology transfer activities that move research to practice.



The office seeks out the untested boundaries of knowledge with research centers and partners with local businesses and organizations to commercialize discoveries and bring research to practice through corporate, state, federal, and community partners.

The Office of the VPRI provides oversight for:

- [Grant and Contract Administration](#) – The Office of Grants and Contracts Services (OGCS) is the central resource and expert partner on research administration, providing support and oversight of sponsored projects. OGCS represents UTA as the institutional official for proposal submission and award acceptance, ensuring compliance with federal regulations, sponsor requirements, and University policies.
- [Regulatory Services](#) – The Office of Regulatory Services supports comprehensive programs of academic research by assuring institutional and investigator compliance with applicable regulations, policies, and industry standards while engaged in regulated research or scholarly activities.
- [Innovation and Commercialization](#) – Innovation and Commercialization (I&C) is responsible for the protection, marketing, and licensing of campus-created inventions and intellectual property (patents, copyrights, knowledge, etc.). The mission of I&C is to serve its internal and external clients through education and collaboration, acting as a bridge to industry to make UTA technologies and innovations available to humankind. I&C's vision is to be known internally as a facilitator of commercialization and entrepreneurship and externally as a standard for tech transfer offices.
- [Research Centers and Institutes](#)
  - [Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Innovation \(CEEI\)](#) – CEEI fosters a vibrant and supportive atmosphere for students, scholars, and researchers as they drive to innovate, commercialize new technologies, and pioneer new companies that will impact North Texas communities and the global economy for decades into the future.
  - [Center of Excellence for High-Energy Physics](#) – The Center of Excellence for High-Energy Physics performs fundamental research at the highest energy scales through participation in experiments at the world's most advanced accelerators.
  - [Center for Renewable Energy, Science and Technology \(CREST\)](#) – CREST serves as a center of excellence in energy research and development in Texas.
  - [Cross Timbers Procurement Technical Assistance Center \(CTPTAC\)](#) – CTPTAC helps companies find contracts for work with local, state, and federal governments. Its mission is to increase the number of contracts awarded to companies in the 60-county service area, resulting in increased revenue and jobs in the area.
  - [Multi-Interprofessional Center for Health Informatics \(MICHI\)](#) – MICHI draws from the strengths and knowledge of multiple professions and disciplines with the ultimate goal of transitioning from "sick care" to "health care."

- [North Texas Genome Center](#) – The North Texas Genome Center offers high-speed and low-cost library preparation, sequencing, and bioinformatic services to enhance the biotechnology and biomedical research communities.
- [The Science & Engineering Innovation & Research Building \(SEIR\)](#) – SEIR promotes an interdisciplinary approach to research built around engineering, science, nursing, kinesiology, and public health.
- [Shimadzu Institute for Research Technologies \(SIRT\)](#) – SIRT is a centralized research resource focused on providing access to instrumentation and expertise to support research in biochemistry, biology, chemistry, cognition, engineering, geoscience, material science, nanotechnology, and neuroscience.
- [Solid Waste Institute for Sustainability \(SWIS\)](#) – SWIS works on developing clean and healthy urban cities through sustainable waste management.
- [Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center \(TMAC\)](#) – TMAC delivers hands-on business management, technology, and operations solutions to a wide range of businesses, including manufacturing, distribution, logistics, construction, health care, and government.
- [UT Arlington Research Institute \(UTARI\)](#) – UTARI partners with government, industry, and universities to facilitate early state product development that leads to commercialization and positive impacts to society.
- [Office of Undergraduate Research \(OUR\)](#) – OUR provides, tracks, and assesses research opportunities for undergraduate students through informal and formalized opportunities. It provides Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), Summer Research Academy (SRA), research and creative works support, and faculty development opportunities, such as guidance with the inclusion of research in undergraduate courses and internal/external funding support. [OUR programs](#) include:
  - [inSTEM](#)
  - [Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation](#) Summer Research Academy
  - [McNair Scholars](#)
  - Undergraduate Research Assistance Program
  - Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program
  - Summer Undergraduate Research Program in Integrative Physiology
- [Research Enhancement Program \(REP\)](#) – REP grants are awarded specifically for the support of research and professional creative activity. Grants serve as seed funding for launching new research and provide a foundation for future research and funding from external sources.

For more information about the Office of the VPRI, please visit [www.uta.edu/research](http://www.uta.edu/research).

## About the University

Located on a 420-acre campus in the heart of the thriving Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metro Area (population 7.6 million), [The University of Texas at Arlington](#) is a comprehensive teaching, research, and public service institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through scholarship and creative work.

As one of the largest and most diverse universities in Texas, UT Arlington is committed to providing access and ensuring student success, and to a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization of discoveries by our community of scholars. The university promotes lifelong learning through its academic, continuing education, and experiential learning programs. The faculty, staff, and student community share diverse cultural values that foster inclusivity and cultivate mutual respect.

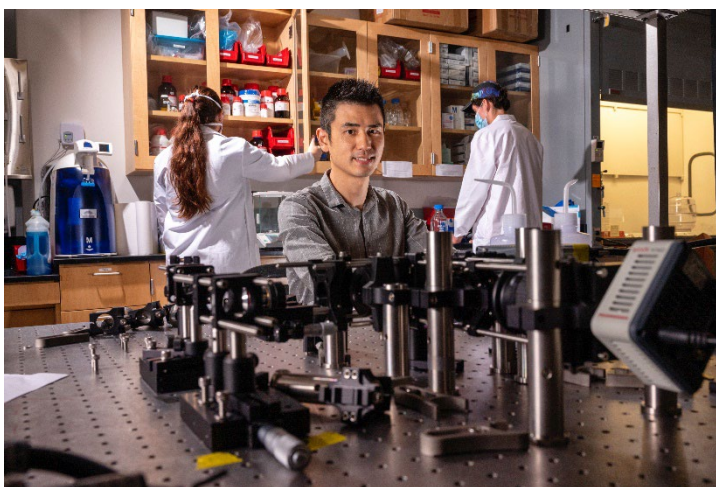
Founded in 1895 as a private liberal arts institution, UT Arlington enrolls over 48,000 students and employs nearly 5,000 faculty and staff. The university has the third most ethnically diverse

undergraduate population in the United States (*U.S. News & World Report*, 2022) and is a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American, Native American, Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (U.S. Department of Education). UTA graduates more African American students at the undergraduate and master's degree levels than any other Texas university (*Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, 2021).

In addition to nurturing student success, UTA is focused on making an impact through innovative research. Anchored by its five strategic pillars—health and the human condition, sustainable communities, global environmental impact, data-driven discovery, and culture and societal transformations—the university's research portfolio saw significant growth over the past decade, with expenditures reaching \$125 million in 2021. Faculty work in state-of-the-art facilities have resulted in important breakthroughs in areas such as sustainable infrastructure, healthy aging, high-energy physics, cardiovascular disease, machine-learning systems, and more.

In 2021, the combination of outstanding academics and innovative research contributed to the university once again receiving Carnegie R-1 “Very High Research Activity” designation and becoming just the fourth university in the state to achieve Texas Tier One status, a milestone of excellence that brings with it access to the state's National Research University Fund. By providing exceptional educational opportunities and addressing important societal challenges, UT Arlington enhances the quality of life in Texas and beyond.

The government of the university is vested in a nine-member Board of Regents of the UT System, nominated by the governor, and approved by the Texas Senate. In addition to its main campus in Arlington, UTA has two facilities in neighboring Fort Worth: a downtown campus called UTA Fort Worth that is tailored for working professionals and a research institute on the banks of the Trinity River that is focused on bridging the gap between academic research and product development.



## Notables

- UTA has 16 graduate programs ranked as “Best Graduate Schools” by *U.S. News & World Report* (*USNWR*, 2022).
- UTA is ranked No. 3 nationally on the *U.S. News & World Report's* undergraduate diversity index and is ranked No. 26 as a “Top Performer on Social Mobility” (*USNWR*, 2022).
- UTA is ranked No. 1 for veterans and their families among four-year institutions (*Military Times*, 2020 and 2021).
- UTA alumni occupy leadership positions at many of the 22 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in North Texas.
- UTA's College of Nursing and Health Innovation is the No. 1 producer of baccalaureate-degreed nurses in Texas.
- UTA and its alumni contribute \$22.2 billion and 216,544 jobs annually to Texas.
- UTA was one of 150 colleges and universities recognized on the Phi Theta Kappa 2021 Transfer Honor Roll.
- UTA baccalaureate graduates working in Texas earn the highest first-year median wage of all UT System non-medical institutions (*UT System Smartbook*, 2021).



## Mission

The University of Texas at Arlington is a comprehensive teaching, research, and public service institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through scholarship and creative work.

The university is committed to providing access and ensuring student success, and to a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization of discoveries by our community of scholars.

The university promotes lifelong learning through its [academic](#), [continuing education](#), and experiential learning programs. The faculty, staff, and student communities share diverse cultural values that foster inclusivity and cultivate mutual respect.

## Academics

UT Arlington offers more than 180 baccalaureates, master's, and doctoral [degree programs](#) across nine schools and colleges, including the largest nursing college at a public university in the country. Students hail from coast to coast and over 100 countries worldwide, with around 10,000 living on or near campus. Each year, approximately 14,000 graduates join the ranks of UTA alumni, now numbering more than 250,000.



## Academic Colleges

- [College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs](#)
- [College of Business](#)
- [College of Education](#)
- [College of Engineering](#)
- [College of Liberal Arts](#)
- [College of Nursing and Health Innovation](#)
- [College of Science](#)
- [Honors College](#)
- [School of Social Work](#)

## Accreditation

The University of Texas at Arlington is accredited by the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges](#) to award baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. In addition, many of UTA's academic departments and schools have received national accreditation from specific agencies. These accreditations are detailed under the individual listings for departments and schools in the [University Catalog](#).

## Leadership: President-Designate Jennifer Cowley

The University of Texas at Arlington is thrilled to welcome Jennifer Cowley, Ph.D. Set to begin her role on April 28, 2022, Dr. Cowley is the first female president in the university's history. Most recently, she served as provost at the University of North Texas (UNT), where she advanced research, fostered student success, and advanced diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Before joining UNT in 2017, Cowley was a member of the faculty at Ohio State University, serving as vice provost for capital planning and regional campuses, associate dean for academic affairs and administration in the College of Engineering, and department chair and professor in city and regional planning.

Cowley grew up in Arlington and is looking forward to returning home to advance UTA as one of the nation's leading research universities.



## Arlington

Arlington, Texas, is one of the fastest-growing communities in the nation. Located between Dallas and Fort Worth in North Texas, the city is home to more than 380,000 residents, making it the seventh largest in the state. It is also the hometown of three professional sports teams: the Texas Rangers, the Dallas Cowboys, and the Dallas Wings, the latter of whom plays its home games at UTA's College Park Center. Residents, athletes, and visitors alike enjoy hot summers and mild winters and fill their days with good food, good company, and good entertainment.

The University of Texas at Arlington is in Tarrant County (population 2.1 million). Arlington is easily accessible, located 30 minutes from the two major airports in the Metroplex—DFW International Airport and Dallas Love Field Airport. Less than two miles from AT&T Stadium and Globe Life Field, where the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers, respectively, play, and less than three miles from Six Flags Over Texas, UTA is just a stone's throw away from the excitement the City of Arlington has to offer.

## Process for Candidacy

The search committee will begin reviewing applications immediately. Please send all nominations and applications to [UTAVPResearch@StorbeckSearch.com](mailto:UTAVPResearch@StorbeckSearch.com). Application materials will include a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, and a list of five professional references.



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### *Equal Employment Opportunity*

*The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) is committed to providing equal employment and educational opportunities for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, disabilities, pregnancy, genetic information, and/or veteran status. Retaliation against persons who oppose a discriminatory practice, file a charge of discrimination, or testify for, assist in, or participate in an investigative proceeding relating to discrimination is prohibited. See the [University of Texas at Arlington's Notice of Non-Discrimination here which includes contact information](#).*

### *Campus Safety and Security*

*The Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, containing policy statements, crime, and fire statistics is [available online](#). A hard copy may be obtained by contacting OLA, University Administration Building, 701 S. Nedderman Drive, Arlington, TX 76019, 817-272-2141.*



## Office of Human Resources

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