The role of Provost
University of Nottingham
Ningbo China
Apply for one of global higher education’s most exciting leadership positions

President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham, Professor Shearer West, invites applications for the position of Provost of the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham.
Foreword

At a time of unprecedented change in higher education, and in the wider world, the University of Nottingham is a thriving institution. We offer an outstanding student experience, we deliver world-changing research, and we ensure a global reputation for excellence.

Professor Shearer West
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Nottingham

I am delighted to invite applications for the exciting, challenging and rewarding role of Provost, to lead the University of Nottingham Ningbo Campus (UNNC) and to join the board of the University of Nottingham as Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

In 2004, we pioneered the first Sino-foreign university and established UNNC with a vision to be the best international university in China, to transform and enrich people’s lives, and to make a positive difference to the wider community.

15 years later we continue to deliver on these endeavours. We now have 8,000 students and over 700 staff studying, living and working at UNNC and we are developing an excellent reputation for academic quality and standards consistent with the University of Nottingham in the UK. This is the outstanding platform for our next Provost to build upon, with the scale and scope to deliver real impact for the future of the University in both China, the UK and beyond.

An exceptional role for an exceptional individual, and a unique opportunity to strengthen our current relationships, enhance our international reputation and expand our footprint in China.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Shearer West

Professor Shearer West
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Nottingham
Overview

The role

The University of Nottingham needs an exceptional leader. You will have the vision to lead and shape the future for UNNC’s next 15 years and the experience to drive the next phase of UNNC’s prosperity and operations. You will be a leader with the credibility to act as a representative, not just of the University of Nottingham but of wider Sino-British relations. It is essential that you have the interpersonal skills and communication required for a cross-cultural, multi-stakeholder position, able to articulate the University’s vision and advocate for its interests.

University of Nottingham
Ningbo China [UNNC]

In 2004, the University of Nottingham became the first university in the world to establish a Sino-foreign university based in the historic and prosperous city of Ningbo on China’s Eastern Seaboard, close to Shanghai.

15 years on we are an institution that continues to prosper and to thrive. Continually developing our reputation in China as a destination for the nation’s brightest students, and enhancing our reputation as a hub and conduit for the University of Nottingham’s world-class research and knowledge exchange. UNNC has received unprecedented investment in its innovation, research and education from local government, business and international research funders to develop Nottingham solutions to the challenges that face Ningbo and China.

Today, UNNC is fully embedded and highly engaged in our host community, city and nation with a thriving global alumni family who, as they develop their careers in China and internationally, act as ambassadors and advocates for our University and for the city Ningbo. This model of civic commitment and global reach is consistent with the founding principles of the University of Nottingham as an institution dedicated to delivering public value through its teaching and research activities, wherever our campuses are based.
“In each succeeding age, the University will spread the light of learning and knowledge and will bind science and industry in the unity that is so essential for the prosperity of the nation and the welfare of our fellow citizens.”

Sir Jesse Boot, founder and benefactor to the University of Nottingham
About the University of Nottingham

This pioneering spirit and ambitious vision still resonates and drives our University today, as we strive to deliver an exceptional research-led education to our 46,000 students, and to transform lives and societies around the globe through our world-leading research. Our educational ethos is built on the premise that education transform lives and unlocks potential and possibility. This drives our commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, as we encourage our students to be courageous, to achieve, and to shape the world around them.

In the UK, we offer 270 undergraduate courses and 300 postgraduate taught courses, across our five faculties and 22 schools, and in 2017, we were awarded a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Gold for our outstanding teaching and learning. We also invest heavily in spaces and resources, evidenced by the £40m David Ross Sports Village, the £5.5m we spend annually on books and journals, and since 2014 we’ve invested over £60m in new buildings and facilities to include the George Green Library, the GSK Sustainable Chemistry Building, and the Brewing Science Building. In addition, we actively promote student mobility and experience, with study abroad and exchange agreements with 250 universities in 40 countries, supporting our students in making those vital global connections.

Ranked 8th in the UK for research power in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF), our research is both extraordinary and world-leading. Bringing together talented, passionate and dedicated people who strive to make discoveries that have a real impact on lives and societies across the world.

We are committed to finding solutions to today’s global challenges and to support this, we are investing significantly in six Beacons of Excellence. Key research areas that champion world-leading responses to today’s global challenges to:

- feed the world
- end slavery
- transform healthcare
- revolutionise transport
- produce sustainably
- digitalise production.

Delivering an exceptional research-led education to our 46,000 students
With a research portfolio value in excess of £600m, we support an international community of 3,000 researchers, 8,000 postgraduates and 160 research groups. We are proactively recruiting tomorrow’s research leaders and have committed to recruiting 100 research fellows in the next five years to join our research community. We have ambitious goals to become a top five UK university for research power and to join the top 60 global universities for our research.

Established in 1881, with our Royal Charter awarded in 1948, we have 120 years of heritage and success to be proud of, and to build on. A member of the UK’s prestigious Russell Group of leading universities and a founding member of the global Universitas 21 network, we are consistently among the QS world top 100 universities. We feature in the top 20 of all three major UK university rankings, and our graduates are among the most sought-after in the UK, consistently targeted by leading graduate employers.

Our pioneering spirit, expressed in the vision of our founder Sir Jesse Boot, has seen us lead the way in establishing campuses in China (2004), and Malaysia (2000), forming a globally connected network of unrivalled education, research and industrial engagements and collaborations. We are a university without borders, home to a growing global community of staff and students from 150 nations, and to an ever-growing alumni community of over 280,000.

We are continually investing in our world-class environment both in the UK and in Asia, delivering award-winning campuses, buildings and facilities which are unrivalled in providing inspiring spaces for our staff and students to research, teach, learn, and study as collectively, we strive to transform lives and shape the future.

We strive to make discoveries that have real impact on lives and societies across the world.
About the University of Nottingham Ningbo China

The University of Nottingham’s innovative approach to global higher education has given us first-mover status in Asia. As pioneers in the overseas campus model we were world-leaders establishing the first Sino-foreign university by working with a highly-regarded partner, Wanli Education Group (WEG) in Ningbo. Our model is rooted in the civic principles upon which our University was founded and the fundamental belief that excellent research and teaching are inextricably intertwined. Due to the University of Nottingham’s focus on the development of trust, sustainability and a long-term approach, our overseas campuses are now successful endeavours in their own right. The contribution they make to our global reputation, is a unique and unparalleled asset to our institution.

“In its first 10 years, UNNC has grown from a budding project into a blossoming educational success. It has done a superb job in bringing first-class educational resources to China. I hope in its next decade, UNNC can build on what it has achieved and continue to serve as a beacon of higher education cooperation between our two countries.”

People’s Republic of China Ambassador to the UK, His Excellency, Mr Liu Xiaoming

Celebrating 15 years of transforming lives

98% of our graduates employed or in further study six months after graduation

£80m estimated annual value of our presence and reputation in China to the University of Nottingham

8,000 students

£20m in philanthropic income over the last three years

661 students from outside China

740 staff

144-acre campus

£26m investment in the UNNC International Academy for the Marine Economy and Technology in 2016
Education and alumni

Today UNNC is a rapidly-maturing challenger institution in the context of Chinese higher-education and we have seen consistent growth of our high-quality Gaokao student intake. We are a University fully embedded and highly engaged in our host community, city and nation. We recently celebrated our 10,000th graduate and many UNNC students go on for post-graduate study at some of the world’s top universities. Our students are our most effective advocates with a unique student experience that provides the best of a British education in China. UNNC students received exceptional opportunities for entrepreneurship, industry placement and creativity; something that has proven extremely popular with some of China’s most academically gifted young people.

World-leading research

UNNC is a fast-growing hub for excellence in research, innovation and knowledge exchange. This is driven by the collaboration between the Ningbo Government, the University and industry partners in providing solutions to local challenges through world-class research and innovation. Initiatives such as the International Academy for the Marine Economy and Technology (IAMET), the Nottingham-Ningbo New Materials Research Institute and Nottingham Health China are all examples of the way UNNC and the University are contributing to the vision and strategy set out in the Ningbo 2049 City Development Strategy.

Enterprise and creativity

UNNC provides Ningbo and China with a thriving hub of creativity and entrepreneurship with students and researchers now supported by the Li Dak Sum Ingenuity Lab and the developing University of Nottingham-Ningbo International Incubator Park. UNNC aims to provide a model of entrepreneurship support that outperforms our competitors across China – to the benefit of Ningbo and its economy.

Cultural and civic links

UNNC has helped build the deep-rooted civic, cultural and societal links between the two cities of Nottingham and Ningbo. This is demonstrated in a number of ways: through the hundreds of school children and teachers that have taken part in two-way exchanges; the active cultural programmes now growing in both cities; and the development of the first ever joint UK-China city level five-year plan. The UK Government, through its Consulate in Shanghai, Embassy in Beijing and support from the British Council has been a vital and steadfast partner over the past decade.
Life in Ningbo

UNNC is in the Yinzhou district of Ningbo, Zhejiang province, on China’s prosperous east coast. Our 144 acre (584,666m²) secure campus is located in the Ningbo Higher Education Park and features many attractive spaces, including Chinese and English gardens symbolising the partnership behind our success. Most of our students live on campus with world-class facilities and a range of amenities including many shops and restaurants. International staff also have the option of living on-campus and we have a recently renovated an international-standard hotel to accommodate visiting lecturers and delegates to conferences and seminars. Our international conference centre offers space for up to 1,000 guests to attend major events on campus. We have on-campus sports facilities as well as restaurants and cafeterias that sell Chinese and Western-style food, halal cuisine and visiting international markets and bakeries that cater for all tastes.

Ningbo city

Ningbo is one of the most prosperous cities in China, located on the south shore of Hangzhou Bay, opposite Shanghai. Ningbo is a rapidly growing city, ranked 7th by Forbes list of ‘the top cities for business in China’. It is a city over 7,000 years old, and with a population of more than six million people, it is a thriving blend of enterprise, culture, education, tradition and entertainment. Ningbo is also now home to the 4th largest port in the world. It is twinned with Nottingham, Sao-Paulo (Brazil), Milwaukee (US), Nelson Mandela Bay (South Africa) and Aachen (Germany). The city of Ningbo is a unique mix of modern sky-scrapers and traditional architecture, complemented with stunning parkland and scenic spots. With temples, intricate streets and close to a hundred museums and exhibitions, the city is an ideal location to embrace Chinese culture and tradition. The city’s excellent transport links mean that Ningbo is an ideal location to explore and to discover the vast array of cultural richness that both China and Asia have to offer.
Role and responsibilities

Principal accountabilities

Strategy
- You will provide inspiring leadership for UNNC by setting a vision and strategic direction for the institution that builds upon existing strengths and past successes
- You will lead the strategic development of UNNC and the implementation of agreed objectives
- You will have primary responsibility for management of affairs of UNNC

Leadership
- With 8,000 students and over 700 staff, you will be responsible for all academic matters relating to UNNC ensuring the quality and reputation of the University are upheld at all times
- You will establish and maintain outstanding communications, both formally and informally, across the institution, observing the highest standards of integrity, objectivity and honesty in the execution of all responsibilities
- You will ensure that UNNC’s senior team provides effective and accountable academic and administrative leadership
- You will maintain strong governance structures, leadership teams and management arrangements of formal relationships under the auspices of the Joint Venture Agreement with the Wanli Education Group
- You will take responsibility for ensuring that the University complies with relevant regulations/policies in China and the UK

Partnerships and external engagement
- You will manage key stakeholder relations including the Wanli Education Group (our joint venture strategic partner in China), the Ningbo Government, the Ministry of Education, other Chinese Government Departments and UK agencies such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI), and the British Council in alignment with senior academics and professional staff in Nottingham
- You will provide outstanding representation and promotion of UNNC locally, nationally and internationally
Person specification

Qualifications/education

A higher degree, PhD or professional doctorate in a relevant academic area

Experience

Successful track record in significant leadership roles: managing resources, leading teams, managing change, delivering organisational goals

Demonstrable success of delivery in a senior role involving aspects of China academic initiatives, and a track record of leading effective international engagement

Track record of successful co-operation and collaborative working relationships, both internal and external

Financial management and significant budgetary planning within an education context

Possess initiative, good judgement, strong decision-making skills and experience with change management

Evidence of a positive and solution focused approach to conflict resolution, challenging situations, making and implementing difficult decisions

Track record of ensuring governance arrangements are effective and efficient and that audit, regulatory and statutory requirements are met

Knowledge and skills

Proven understanding of the academic, public and private sector environment in China

Proven ability to lead, work with and command the respect of both academic and professional staff and build productive internal and external relationships

Demonstrable success of building close partnerships with external stakeholders, including government, industry and other key partners

Ability to act as a compelling and positive ambassador for UNNC and the University of Nottingham

An understanding of the UK and global higher education sector

Cross-cultural sensitivity

The creativity and vision to articulate the UNNC’s role in society and the future of global higher education, while respecting its history and tradition

A visionary, strategic thinker with a personal resonance with the values of the University, its academic endeavour and enthusiasm for its ambitions and aspirations

An entrepreneurial outlook
Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should demonstrate in their work, and as ambassadors of the University’s strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

Valuing people
Role models the highest ethical standards to cultivate a collaborative workplace that develops talent and enhances wellbeing, whilst also balancing the needs of the various stakeholders.

Taking ownership
Translates the vision into a strategy for own area, enabling people to take the right action for the wider organisation. Can resolve complex problems, balancing the needs of varied stakeholders.

Forward thinking
Always has the overall strategic goal in mind, manages to stimulate agile and forward thinking in others, motivating them and giving them the confidence to drive for continuous improvement.

Professional pride
Goal is to be best in class; ensuring this can be achieved in line with long term strategy regardless of short term challenges. Supports people to do what is best for both the organisation and the department.

Always inclusive
Promotes how collaboration and positive partnerships are essential to success, constantly looking ahead to explore how to involve other potential stakeholders.
How to apply

For further information please view our site

For this appointment process we have partnered with the executive search firm Perrett Laver, who will guide and support you through the process. When contacting Perrett Laver please quote reference 3948.

To make an application please click here