



Professor of Archaeology & Cultural Heritage

Briefing Pack – September 2019

Introduction

A full University since 2013, the Royal Agricultural University is an acknowledged and long established leader in education, applied research and knowledge exchange relevant to the agri-food, land management and rural enterprise sectors and has well established links with employers, government and a range of NGOs.

The University is going through a period of transformational change. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joanna Price, and a new leadership team are shaping a strategic vision for the RAU that will ensure both relevance and sustainability.

Key to future success will be the appointment of new senior academic thought leaders who will play a critical role in shaping the University's academic vision.

Building upon the established reputation of RAU in the fields of the agricultural, natural and built environment the University has established the Cultural Heritage Institute to undertake teaching and research in the historic environment. The CHI project was launched in January 2019 with the appointment of the Director, Dr. Geraint Coles, who is charged with overseeing project development and ensuring its long term sustainability.

The CHI will be based in Swindon, adjacent to the headquarters of Historic England, English Heritage, the National Trust for England and Wales and the National Monuments Archive. The Institute is currently under construction and should be ready for occupation in September 2019.

The CHI will offer a suite of programmes with an emphasis on applied, professional, archaeology and heritage. It will create considerable opportunities for outreach, diversification and community interaction.

The University is now seeking to appoint an outstanding academic to build the reputation of the Institute in research, applied research, knowledge exchange and consultancy while at the same time providing exciting research led perspectives to teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

To that end you will bring new perspectives and be keen to work with industry stakeholders, the existing academic team and academic partners to help shape the future of the archaeology and heritage sector and those that work within it. You should be committed to sustainable and innovative solutions that make the most of the unique challenges and opportunities that currently exist within the sector.

Successful applicants will have a well-established international profile and will have made a recognized impact in Archaeology. Applicants with expertise in the international arena are especially welcome to apply. A proven track record of securing funding, publication and engagement in Knowledge Exchange is key.

Applicants must have a strong personal commitment to Higher Education and empathy with the values, aims and objectives of the RAU.

The University

The University offers a stimulating, supportive learning environment designed to address the changing needs of the employment market by combining high academic standards (it was awarded TEF silver) with practically applied research, enhanced by strong industry links. As a result, the RAU produces leaders and innovators across the land-based industries and now seeks to do so across the heritage sector.

The RAU offers undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes across a range of academic disciplines.

Courses are managed and taught by experienced staff and specialist consultants, many of whom are still engaged in professional practice. Students can choose from more than 30 different degrees, at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Well-established undergraduate degrees include Rural Land Management, Real Estate, Agriculture, Food Production and Supply Management, Business and Enterprise, Environment, and International Equine and Agricultural Business Management. In some subjects, there is also the opportunity for students to progress from Foundation to BSc Honours degrees. At postgraduate level the RAU offers a range of taught MSc programmes. A key strategic priority is to grow and diversify our student community by providing an outstanding student experience and excellent employment outcomes.

The University has recently established a ground-breaking partnership with the Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) at the University of Gloucestershire and the University College of Estate Management (UCEM), to plan and develop a new suite of innovative courses focused on sustainability and sector leadership for the 21st Century. Across the university we will be working closely with industry in the UK and internationally, to develop a new generation of talented and well-equipped managers and leaders who can grasp the challenges of future sustainable and resilient business and policy development. The initiative has secured HEFCE Catalyst funding.

The University has secured HEIF funding to support an exciting new Knowledge Exchange strategy. Central to this is the development of a Knowledge Hub that will help industry navigate change and uncertainty making it possible to tackle big challenges more effectively delivering societal benefit and impact.

The Cultural Heritage Institute is intended to serve in a similar knowledge-hub role with the Heritage Sector. It will provide a focus for professional practice, act as an accelerator of heritage enterprise and become a centre for thought leadership in the informed development of evidence-based policy and strategic thinking.

The RAU validates degrees for a number of land-based Further Education Colleges and currently has a programme of franchised degrees with one provider. Expanding our partnership programme with Colleges, Schools and other institutions is a key strategic goal.

The Cultural Heritage Institute:

A Centre for Professional Practice in the Historic Environment

Over the last ten years many of those involved with cultural heritage in the UK have identified a number of serious problems with the way in which heritage – in its broadest sense – is managed, protected and conserved. Reports by several national bodies have identified the need for a more broad based professional approach to heritage education that is less rooted in narrow specialisms and is more engaged with the challenges of shaping a sustainable, community based and resilient heritage that can also contribute to improving both the economy and the quality of life.

To that end the CHI seeks to be a transformative institution – breaking down barriers between the heritage professions and academic study by offering an alternative embedded approach to teaching, learning and research across the heritage sector.

Aims

- To be a leading centre for advanced studies in cultural heritage and the historic environment.
- To provide flexible participant-centred access to a range of both qualification and non-qualification

courses in cultural heritage at all levels from foundation to master's.

- To be recognised for innovative learning, training and applied research which serves the needs of professional practice across the broad heritage sector.
- To work in partnership with heritage bodies, professional organisations and commercial companies to bridge the divide between professional heritage practice and the academic study of the past.
- Encourage an ongoing public debate about how heritage shapes us as an individual, shapes our communities, our environment and our attitudes to others and how understanding of different heritages can make a significant contribution to the resolution of conflict.
- To promote an activist approach to the management of the past where place and heritage are seen as central to sustainable social, economic and environmental regeneration.
- To develop an integrated approach to the management of both cultural and natural heritage within a landscape context. In so doing explore integrated approaches to the protection of historic environments / cultural landscapes which recognises the need for landscapes to adapt to social, cultural and climate change.
- To be an active participant in heritage practice through outstanding research and specialist consultancy.

Professor of Archaeology & Cultural Heritage

Salary:	To be agreed
Responsible to*	Director of Cultural Heritage Institute (CentreHead)
Location:	Swindon (frequent visits to Cirencester & other work related locations)
Term:	Part time, fixed term (30 months)
Relationships with:	RAU staff, students, external stakeholders including businesses and the research community

*The appointee will be administratively responsible to the Director of the Cultural Heritage Institute, however, as a member of the RAU Professoriate they will also be directly responsible to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor for delivery of leadership in research and knowledge exchange.

Scope of the Role

The appointee will:

- Contribute vision and leadership within the University and externally;
- Conduct research, knowledge exchange and scholarly activity of international quality;
- Enhance the University's reputation by fostering success in: external grant applications; industrial and academic partnerships; high quality peer reviewed publications and the design and delivery of research projects that deliver positive social and economic impacts. Experience of and an aptitude for collaborative and interdisciplinary research is essential and we are particularly keen to encourage partnership working with international organizations, research bodies and universities worldwide.

- Play a role in the development and delivery of undergraduate and post-graduate programmes that are designed to meet the government and heritage sectors increasing need for holistic thinkers and innovative leaders with a local and global outlook;
- Knowledge exchange and industry partnerships; contribute to programmes of Knowledge Exchange relevant to the University's strategy and to its educational and professional training activities;
- Develop an externally-facing profile for the subject including engagement with stakeholders and other partners;
- Play a key role in the delivery of the University's strategic plan and contribute to administration, management, development and promotion of the University as appropriate.

Person Specification

This appointment represents an exciting opportunity for a visionary but pragmatic academic leader to shape the future and vision of the University at a critical time for the Historic Environment in the UK. The post-holder will ensure that the University embraces the opportunity for change and enhances its global reputation for innovation, thought leadership and applied research.

In addition to undertaking teaching, research and knowledge exchange, the Chair will have a significant public-facing role, working with a range of stakeholders but particularly members of the archaeological, heritage and land-based sectors.

The ideal applicant should have an established reputation in Archaeology. Applicants with expertise in the international arena are especially welcome to apply. A proven track record of securing funding, publication and engagement in Knowledge Exchange is key.

Desirable Attributes

The Professor of Archaeology & Cultural Heritage might be expected to display the following attributes:

- Understanding of the wider role of archaeology both globally and in respect to the management and public understanding of cultural heritage. To have a public role as a communicator and advocate for archaeology.
- Active leadership of research projects that have a global reach - and to be able to demonstrate global connections through his or her research. In particular the ability to direct and manage complex archaeological research projects, from grant gaining, to planning and execution of excavations and surveys, through to monographic publication.
- Demonstrable success in obtaining research grant funding and consultancy funding from national and international bodies.
- Instigate the development of new methodologies in the discipline - through for example the application of archaeological science, remote sensing and geophysical techniques.
- Multiple publications in the last ten years in world class journals (such as PNAS, Nature, Science, Antiquity), that demonstrate the international (REF 4*) importance of the research undertaken.

- The ability to build and maintain extensive academic and applied networks worldwide. To that end, to be a regular attendee and contributor at workshops, seminars & conferences.
- Track record of the successful supervision of PhD students, PDRA's etc. and a positive attitude towards their academic and career development.
- Track record of research informed or led undergraduate teaching and learning coupled to a positive attitude to undergraduate students and their academic and career development.

Application Procedure:

If you are interested in applying for this role, please send:

- A University [Academic Application Form](#) together with the [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#) available on the University website www.rau.ac.uk) – Please attach your up to date CV to add additional information
- A covering letter explaining your interest and motivation for applying, along with how your experience and qualifications suit you for the role
- Details for three professional or academic referees

Please forward to the Human Resource, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS or via email to human.resources@rau.ac.uk.

Closing date for application forms is: 16th September 2019 with **Interviews on:** 27th September 2019.