



Director, Research and Innovation

About Athabasca University

As Canada's leading open university, Athabasca University's (AU) approach to accessible yet transformative education and research is truly distinctive. Its academic mission is to remove barriers to post-secondary education for learners, regardless of their age, location, career, or educational background.

Based in the beautiful region of Athabasca, with staff located in Athabasca and throughout Alberta and Canada, AU is one of four Comprehensive Academic and Research Universities (CARUs) in the province. AU is a public, board-governed, open, and online university serving more than 35,000 students across Alberta, Canada, and around the world.

AU aspires to foster an adaptable and diverse work environment where every team member has the opportunity to thrive, offer their utmost potential, and collectively contribute to AU's academic vision and mission. Our institution is unwavering in its dedication to promoting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), and to fostering reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and communities.

With faculties spanning health, science, humanities, and business—AU offers courses that are uniquely accessible and responsive to today's demands of life and work. Included in these courses are more than 70 undergraduate and graduate programs as well as online courses for both personal learning and professional development.

Led by President Dr. Alex Clark, AU is embarking on its exciting next chapter with the launch of its new strategic plan. Drawing from five decades of growth in distance and online education, we aim to reinforce our position as Canada's foremost innovator in open and accessible learning. With the recent formation of an inclusive Senior Leadership Team dedicated to empowering every team member to contribute and thrive, AU stands poised for an exciting and ambitious next stage of development.

Almost 70% of undergraduate program students are the first in their families to get a degree.



About the Town of Athabasca

A vibrant rural community in which to live, work, and relax, the town of Athabasca is nestled in the picturesque Athabasca River Valley, just 150 km north of Edmonton, Alberta.

The Town of Athabasca functions as a central hub for health, education, shopping, and services in the region. The surrounding area caters to a diverse range of interests, welcoming nature enthusiasts, cottage-goers, campers, anglers, hunters, golfers, sports aficionados, history enthusiasts, retirees, entrepreneurs, and individuals yearning for an escape from the hectic pace of city life.

During the fur trade era, Athabasca Landing, as the town was then called, became known as the “Gateway to the North,” a jumping-off point for those travelling along the Athabasca River north to the Peace River and to Fort Chipewyan. Today, the town is the modern gateway to the new North Country, its economic prospects, natural resource industries, tourism opportunities, and natural beauty. While the Town of Athabasca is steeped in history and tradition, it is very much focused on the future.

AU may offer relocation assistance should you decide to relocate to reside in the town or county of Athabasca. As a resident of the community of Athabasca, or elsewhere in Alberta, you can elect to work remotely from your home or in our offices on our beautiful campus.

To discover the Town and Region of Athabasca, go to: [Visit Athabasca](#).





The Role

The Director, Research and Innovation will collaborate with the Associate Vice-President Research (AVPR) to propel the ambitious research vision of Athabasca University (AU). They play a critical role in elevating the priority and enhancing the profile of research at AU, and their leadership directly aligns with the university's priority of cultivating an active, ambitious, and inclusive research culture. Their work and that of their teams will increase the activity, supports, and successes in seeking and securing external research grants for enhanced research impact.

Organizationally, the Director oversees the departmental leadership of the Research Development team and Research Services team and ensures a positive and engaged team culture in support of AU researchers. As the operational leader of these portfolios, the Director enhances the capacity, priority, strategic success, and impact of AU's research community. Through effective governance representation, meaningful engagement with the five faculties, effective service delivery, and policy development, they will contribute to the maturation of AU's research enterprise. As the AVPR's primary delegate, the Director will champion and represent AU's research priorities, capabilities, and opportunities on behalf of the AVPR as needed.



Educational qualifications and experiences

Includes education, experience, skills, abilities, and any other special qualifications required. The qualifications relate to the position, not the incumbent.

- Master's degree and minimum five years experience in a leadership role within post- secondary research administration. Doctorate degree an asset. Equivalent combinations of formal qualifications and experience may be considered.
- Research Funding: Current knowledge of Tri-Agency programs (NSERC, SSH RC, CIHR), key federal programs (CFI, Canada Research Chairs, Research Support Fund), and provincial funding landscape (Alberta Innovates, Research Capacity Program).
- Research Integrity: Up-to-date knowledge of research security, research data management, EDI in research, ethics, Indigenization, and best practices for open research.
- Financial Acumen: Ability to develop, manage, administer, and report on internal operational budgets and external sponsored research revenue.
- Communication: Excellent communication, engagement, and presentation skills across mediums, including the creation and delivery of briefs, reports, and financial statements.



To apply for this role:

Athabasca University develops and maintains an environment that supports equitable working conditions for individuals traditionally under represented in universities. AU is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities.

We will only accept applications received through our online recruitment system. Please include your resume, letter of application, and the names, telephone numbers, and email addresses of three references.

Note: Online applications are accepted until 11:59 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on the closing date. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

A competitive compensation package will be provided including an attractive base salary and excellent benefits.

Please note: we will be reviewing qualified applications as we receive them.

For more information:

For further information regarding this position, please contact: Dr. Andrew Perrin, Associate VP Research and Professor - Research Office

Email: Dr. Andrew Perrin at: aperrin@athabascau.ca