POSITION PROFILE

DEAN, SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS
GRENFELL CAMPUS, MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

1.0 THE OPPORTUNITY

Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland is seeking an exceptional individual with excellent leadership and administrative ability to be the first dean of the School of Fine Arts.

Grenfell Campus is entering an exciting time with substantial development in teaching and learning, research, and engagement. The successful candidate will have an extraordinary opportunity to lead the development of this school.

The future dean will be charged with building upon the successes of undergraduate programming and supporting graduate program development.

2.0 GRENFELL CAMPUS, MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland, was founded in 1975 and has gained a reputation for high-quality education in humanities, science and social science, for its professional programs in business, fine arts and nursing (in collaboration with Western Regional School of Nursing), and for its environmental programming and institutes. It currently has about 1300 students and offers 19 degrees.

Memorial University of Newfoundland is a multi-campus, multi-disciplinary public teaching/research university committed to becoming one of the most distinguished public universities in the world. Memorial University strives for national and global impact, all
the while recognizing its special obligation to provide access to university education for the people of the province and to contribute to the social, cultural, scientific and economic development of Newfoundland and Labrador. Memorial University is home to more than 18,500 students and has produced nearly 85,000 alumni whose influence is felt all over the world. It has major presences in five locations in Newfoundland and Labrador: (two campuses in St. John’s, one in Corner Brook, a marine station and research facility in Norris Point and an institute in Happy Valley-Goose Bay). Internationally, Memorial has a campus in Harlow, England.

Students at Memorial are supported by approximately 900 faculty members and a staff of more than 2,000. The university annual budget exceeds $400 million. More specifically, Grenfell Campus has approximately 300 faculty and staff and an independent annual budget of approximately $30 million. In the School of Fine Arts, there are 15 faculty, 8 staff and 132 students.

Grenfell Campus enjoys a collegiality among faculty, staff and students that stems from its small size, all the while benefiting greatly from being a campus of Memorial University as a whole. Teaching and learning, research and engagement all are supported by the university’s frameworks and strategies.

1. mun.ca/vpacademic/TLF_May_2011_FINAL_Framework.pdf
2. mun.ca/research/explore/framework/research-strategy-senate-endorsed.pdf
3. mun.ca/research/explore/srip/
4. mun.ca/publicengagement/memorial/framework/

Grenfell’s Ferriss Hodgett Library has more than 1,000,000 volumes and access to the Queen Elizabeth II library on the St. John’s Campus that houses over 5,000,000 volumes. The Memorial University library system has the largest collection of online resources in Atlantic Canada.

Grenfell Campus is in a period of rapid development. Its strategic plan, Vision 20/20, (grenfell.mun.ca/vision2020/Documents/STRAT_PLAN_web.pdf) outlines a vivid roadmap for the next four years. In 2015 alone, the campus saw the development of a school and decanal administrative structure, a campus office of engagement, development of new environmental labs, and a new M.Sc. in boreal ecosystems and agricultural sciences. Grenfell Campus is committed to contributing to the western region of this province and beyond through innovative teaching and learning. This provides for an educated citizenry and skilled labour force through curiosity-driven and applied research, and through meaningful, respectful and mutually beneficial engagement.
3.0 CORNER BROOK, NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Grenfell Campus is located in the City of Corner Brook (cornerbrook.com) on the west coast of the island of Newfoundland. The City of Corner Brook is the largest community in western Newfoundland, and is the main government and service centre, including a large regional hospital. The majority of the region's residents travel to Corner Brook to shop, work or go to school. This port city, which is visited by cruise ships and other large vessels, is nestled among the rugged natural beauty of the Long Range Mountains. The city overlooks the Bay of Islands, affording a spectacular view of the Blomidon Mountains. It is located about 700 kilometres west of the capital city of St. John’s; 80 kilometres from Gros Morne National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; and only 10 kilometres away from Marble Mountain Ski Resort, nationally acclaimed for alpine skiing and snowboarding. Corner Brook is serviced by the Deer Lake Airport, which is a 45-minute drive east of the city, and Stephenville Airport, which is about one hour south.

Corner Brook offers a range of eateries, pubs, galleries and a dynamic local arts scene. With its tree-lined streets, parks, and a well-developed system of local hiking, jogging, and cycling trails, Corner Brook has a reputation of being safe and friendly with excellent recreational and cultural facilities.
4.0 THE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

The School of Fine Arts has the distinction of offering the first undergraduate degree programs that were developed at Grenfell Campus. The four-year BFA programs in theatre and in visual arts began in 1988 and are the only BFA degrees offered in the province to date. The school’s significance to the cultural life of the province and its transformation of Grenfell Campus as a whole cannot be overstated. The Fine Arts Building houses an art gallery and a black box theatre as well as numerous other facilities. Program alumni work globally in a wide range of cultural activities. Contributing to the vibrancy of the campus and the city, the School of Fine Arts is a cornerstone of artistic life in Newfoundland and Labrador.
Students in theatre and visual arts benefit greatly from intimate class sizes that provide for significant professor-student interaction as well as a genuinely student-centered and personalized learning contexts. Students in theatre select from the two streams of acting or technical theatre production. Students in visual arts take courses in a wide range of studio areas and art history/visual culture. Both programs run sessions at Memorial’s Harlow Campus in the UK.

The faculty and staff of the School of Fine Arts are active researchers, scholars and creators. The results of these activities are published and exhibited nationally and internationally. Theatre activities include acting, directing, designing, stage managing and crewing professional theatre productions. Visual arts activities include research, creation and exhibition of artwork, curating, critical writing, and participation in professional workshops and residencies. Faculty members have been recognized with teaching and research awards. Service and community engagement also play an important role in the academic profile of our faculty, staff and students.

5.0 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (HIGHLIGHTS)

• To promote teaching and learning, research/creative/scholarly activities, service and public engagement in the school

• To champion school initiatives/changes and leadership through senate approval

• To facilitate regular evaluation of degree programs with a view to maintaining excellence and encouraging improvements, innovations, interdisciplinarity and collaboration

• To lead promotion and tenure to ensure due process and to mentor faculty

• To lead the School through periods of retirements, renewal and complement review

• To support the enrolment goals of the School in cooperation with the Strategic Enrolment Management Committee (for example, leadership in the development of effective articulation agreements and pathways with other educational organizations) and across campuses

• To set priorities, develop and monitor a multi-year implementation plan (in support of Vision 20/20, the Grenfell Campus Strategic Plan

• To generate revenue through a variety of innovative initiatives

• To collaborate with the senior executive at Grenfell Campus and the Senior Leadership Advisory Group
To collaborate with other deans, associate deans and other senior leaders across the various campuses

To recognize the special obligation the university has to the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and to further develop opportunities for engagement with its peoples and communities

6.0 PERFERRED CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

- A terminal degree in Fine Arts
- A demonstrated record as a teacher
- A demonstrated record in research/creative/scholarly activity
- A demonstrated record of engagement activity and advocacy
- Demonstrated effectiveness as a leader and an administrator within a university/post-secondary setting
- Experience working on a small campus
- Experience working in a multi-campus setting
- Experience with mentoring faculty and career development in a tenure system
- Experience with budgetary and fiscal management including revenue generation
- Experience with the application of collective agreements
- Experience in supporting and/or developing new programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level, and in monitoring existing programs
- Experience providing effective and transparent leadership in relation to faculty, staff and students
- Experience in advocacy within a university/post-secondary setting and with government, professional bodies, industry, alumni, and other external stakeholder groups
- Experience developing and sustaining strong partnerships and teams with the various agencies, communities, organizations and governments that form part of the local, national and international community
- Experience in an intercultural setting and a commitment to equity and diversity
• Experience with recruitment and retention activities
• Outstanding communication and interpersonal skills
• Experience in change management and associated skills in conflict resolution
• A collegial and participatory leadership style