



# The University of Chicago Position Specification

PRESIDENT



January 2021

# Position Overview

The University of Chicago Board of Trustees has launched the search for the 14th President of the University, to succeed President Robert J. Zimmer.

The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and reports to the Board of Trustees. The President's primary responsibility is to drive excellence and impact across multiple aspects of the University. To do so, the next President will need to maintain and expand the University's intellectual, financial, physical, and reputational assets, while navigating the challenges confronting higher education. Executing these responsibilities requires vigilant attention to the distinctive values of the University, including freedom of expression, rigorous inquiry, ongoing intellectual challenge, interdisciplinary scholarship, and diversity in all its forms; and the next President must both support and lead the evolution of those values.

The University has been successfully executing a long-term strategy to generate greater resources to invest across a wide range of new initiatives. In the past 15 years, the University has made substantial commitments to the arts; innovation and entrepreneurship; applied science, including computer and data science, quantum information science, molecular engineering, and academic medicine (through its health system); and public policy (particularly in the urban sphere); among many other areas.

Over this same time frame, the University has been pursuing a purposeful strategy in the areas of student access and opportunity. The University remains committed to assuring the prominence and the distinctiveness of the College, which has been significantly expanded in recent years. The Core curriculum remains the cornerstone of the undergraduate academic experience.

The University has also committed to much greater engagement with the City of Chicago and the local community, and has expanded its national and international presence through existing collaborations and by building new partnerships.

The next President will be expected to maintain the University's trajectory and eminence, while at the same time ensuring that it has the resources to be ready and able to meet future challenges and pursue new opportunities.

# Ideal Candidate Profile

The successful candidate must have a track record of impactful leadership at a senior level in a university or research enterprise. The candidate must have a clear understanding of what constitutes a world-class university in the 21st century and also must have the ability and vision to ensure that the University of Chicago maintains its eminence and evolves and adapts to enhance its prominence. The University creates knowledge and must have the resources—physical, financial, and human—to continue to do so with excellence. In addition, the candidate will have achieved academic distinction at the highest level.

## **The successful candidate must be able to:**

- Embrace and advance values that align with the University’s deep and enduring culture, including freedom of expression, rigorous inquiry, interdisciplinary scholarship, engagement with the City of Chicago and local community, and diversity in all its forms.
- Successfully navigate the challenges of a 21st-century research university, including a deep understanding of societal concerns, diversity and inclusion, and access and affordability, as well as engagement with the national and global communities.
- Manage a complex research university and academic medical center in an urban setting, including attracting and retaining high-quality senior academic and non-academic talent, managing large budgets, driving eminence and institutional performance in a collaborative manner, advancing research enterprises, and managing community and governmental relations.
- Foster adaptation and innovation by recognizing strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for change; articulate a vision; and then marshal resources and align multiple constituents, to pursue important new initiatives.
- Attract resources and build strong relationships and partnerships that elicit greater levels of support for an academic enterprise and amplify its impact.

Critical to achieving these objectives will be working effectively with the University’s Board of Trustees as well as multiple other constituents, including faculty, students, staff, alumni, government and corporate funding sources, peer institutions, and international partners, which will require a keen ability to represent the University effectively by driving and leading the communication of its mission and goals.

# Application Information

If you wish to submit your own application materials or nominate someone to serve as the next President of the University of Chicago, please send an email with supporting materials to [presidential\\_search@uchicago.edu](mailto:presidential_search@uchicago.edu).

To be considered, those interested must also apply through the University of Chicago's Academic Recruitment job board, which uses Interfolio to accept applications: <https://academicjobs.uchicago.edu/positions/68404>. Applicants seeking consideration will need to upload a CV (including bibliography) and cover letter to support their candidacy. The University welcomes the interest of all applicants and will review applications until the position is filled.

For instructions on the Interfolio application process, please visit <http://tiny.cc/InterfolioHelp>.

We seek a diverse pool of applicants who wish to join an academic community that places the highest value on rigorous inquiry and encourages diverse perspectives, experiences, groups of individuals, and ideas to inform and stimulate intellectual challenge, engagement, and exchange. The University's Statements on Diversity are at <https://provost.uchicago.edu/statements-diversity>.

The University of Chicago is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity/Disabled/Veterans Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or other protected classes under the law. For additional information, please see the University's [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

Job seekers in need of a reasonable accommodation to complete the application process should call 773.702.1032 or email [equalopportunity@uchicago.edu](mailto:equalopportunity@uchicago.edu) with their request.

