



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculties of Applied Science, Forestry, Science

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### Professor, Tenure | Canada Excellence Research Chair | Bioproducts

The University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver campus, is seeking an outstanding researcher to be nominated for the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Bioproducts. The CERC program, Canada's highest research chair appointment, is designed to attract and support world-renowned researchers and their teams to Canada. This unique and exciting appointment at the rank of Professor with tenure awards the chair holder \$10 million over seven years as part of a larger \$20+ million program budget to support bioproducts research of strategic importance to UBC and Canada. World-class researchers are invited to express their interest as soon as possible to meet the program deadline of fall 2018.

The overall research objective of the CERC in Bioproducts program is to leverage advances in genomics, synthetic biology, catalysis, and material science and engineering to develop plant biomass feedstocks with specifically designed structures and to discover new strategies to modify biomass to impact material processing and functionalization. Research goals include the deconstruction and functionalization of cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin, and the synthesis of novel materials and high value chemicals from these renewable building blocks.

The chair holder will play a key role on a >35 person research team that has been recognized both nationally (Canada Research Chairs, Fellows of the Canadian Academy of Engineering) and internationally (Fellows of the Royal Societies of London and Canada), and is championing provincial and national initiatives in this area (see BioProducts Institute at [bpi.ubc.ca](http://bpi.ubc.ca)). The successful candidate will benefit from UBC's unique and leading-edge facilities such as the Biorefinery Research and Development Facility, the Pulp and Paper Centre, the DNA Sequencing and Bioinformatics Consortium and the Advanced Materials and Process Engineering Laboratory, as well as an additional \$16 million in state-of-the-art biorefinery and biomaterials equipment to be commissioned by UBC in 2018. As a faculty member and CERC chair holder, the successful candidate will be expected to lead a strong, externally-funded research program, to supervise postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, collaborate with other faculty members, and actively participate in service to the Department, University, and academic/scientific community.

The ideal candidates must have a PhD and will be an internationally recognized leader of a multi- and inter-disciplinary research program, with at least 10 years of internationally competitive research experience in at least one of the major bioproducts areas, encompassing all areas of bio-based materials, including catalytic transformation of biomass, and work with cellulose, lignin, hemicellulose and other chemicals found in plant biomass.

It is expected that the successful candidate will qualify for a full-time appointment at the rank of Professor, appointed to one or more of the Faculties of Applied Science, Forestry, and Science, although researchers at earlier career stages are welcome to apply. The anticipated start date is July 1, 2019, or as mutually agreed upon. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience, and is subject to final budgetary approval. Competitive start-up, relocation, housing assistance and infrastructure development funds will be provided.

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact our search consultants – Nancy Payne of Boyden, at 1-604-685-0261 or [ubcbioproducts@boyden.com](mailto:ubcbioproducts@boyden.com) for further insights. Applications will be reviewed starting February 23, 2018 and until a successful candidate is selected.

The University of British Columbia is a global centre for research and teaching, consistently ranked among the top 20 public universities in the world. It is the second largest university in Canada, with an economic impact of \$12.5 billion to the provincial economy. Since 1915, UBC's West Coast spirit has embraced innovation and challenged the status quo. Its entrepreneurial perspective encourages students, staff and faculty to challenge convention, lead discovery and explore new ways of learning. At UBC, bold thinking is given a place to develop into ideas that can change the world. As one of the world's leading universities, The University of British Columbia creates an exceptional and diverse learning environment that fosters global citizenship, advances a civil and sustainable society, and supports outstanding research to serve the people of British Columbia, Canada and the world.

*Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the B.C. Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.*

<http://bpi.ubc.ca/>