



University of
Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

CANDIDATE BROCHURE

Vice Provost for Research and Knowledge Exchange

Beyond
The
Ordinary



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A WARM⁺ WELCOME



Jon Garibaldi
Provost, University of Nottingham Ningbo China
Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Nottingham

Thank you for your interest in the role of Vice Provost for Research and Knowledge Exchange at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC).

At UNNC, we are driven by a belief that transformative research and meaningful knowledge exchange are fundamental to addressing the complex challenges of our time. As we advance our Strategic Roadmap to 2030, we seek to deepen our impact as a globally connected, research-intensive institution that contributes to both academic scholarship and societal progress.

The Vice Provost for Research and Knowledge Exchange holds a critical and strategic position within our leadership. This role calls for an individual who can articulate and deliver a compelling vision for research excellence — a leader capable of inspiring our academic community, forging robust partnerships across sectors and borders, and helping to secure the resources that turn ambitious ideas into tangible outcomes.

We are seeking a leader with the intellectual stature, strategic acumen, and collaborative spirit to guide our research enterprise to new heights. The successful candidate will be someone who thrives on building bridges — between disciplines, between our university and the wider world, and between discovery and application. You will champion a culture of integrity, innovation, and inclusivity, ensuring our research not only achieves excellence but also resonates with our values.

This is an exceptional opportunity to define the next chapter of research at UNNC. It is a role for someone who is not only an accomplished scholar but also a research manager with expertise as a builder of ecosystems, a mentor to talent, and an ambassador for the power of knowledge.

If you possess the vision, experience, and passion to lead this vital mission, we warmly invite you to apply. I look forward to learning about your perspective and to the possibility of you joining us in shaping a future in which research and knowledge truly make a difference.

WHO WE ARE

UNNC IN NUMBERS

1st

Sino-foreign University in China

1st

postdoctoral research station
among Sino-foreign universities

18

Research centres & institutes

1100+

Staff & teachers

10000+

Students

70+

Countries where staff & students
come from

UNNC AWARDS IN 2024-2025

World's Top 2% Scientists

Published by Stanford-Elsevier in 2024, 39 UNNC scholars were included in the single year database and 21 scholars in the career-long database of the World's Top 2% Scientists

Global Top 1% Subjects

UNNC has 6 subjects ranked in the top 1% of Essential Science Indicators (ESI) global rankings: Chemistry, Economics & Business, Engineering, Environment/Ecology, Materials Science, and Social Sciences, General.

Global Ranking Academic Subjects

Released by Shanghai Ranking in 2024, 7 subjects have been listed in the Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS).

Highly Cited Researchers

Released by Elsevier in 2024, 12 academics from UNNC were included in the "Highly Cited Chinese Researchers" list.

5 Stars Institution

UNNC was recognised as a 5 Stars institution according to the latest QS Stars Rating results. UNNC also received 5 Star scores in all nine participating categories.

LOOKING BEYOND

OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a university without borders, where we embrace the opportunities presented by a changing world, and where ambitious people and a creative culture will enable us to change the world for the better.

OUR MISSION

We have inspiring campuses in three countries, energising us to be a globally engaged university that is also committed to making a difference in our cities and regions.

We empower and support students and staff to collaborate in learning, scholarship and discovery across all realms of knowledge, solving problems and improving lives.

We are stewards of a pioneering and entrepreneurial tradition of creativity and innovation.

OUR VISION

We are a community where everyone can contribute and be appreciated for who they are.

Inclusivity

We set the highest standards for ourselves and our work and support each other to achieve them.

Ambition

We adopt a straightforward and transparent way of communicating with each other and with the world, championing the free exchange of ideas.

Openness

Our decisions and actions are consistent, impartial and ethical.

Fairness

We have regard for each other's rights and feelings, and demonstrate this in our behaviour, treating each other with kindness.

Respect



About Research and Knowledge Exchange

At UNNC, research spans all faculties and disciplines committed to providing world-leading research expertise that is relevant to China's interests and needs. The University has over 18 research centres and institutes that are generating high-impact projects and undertaking extensive knowledge and expertise exchange with external organisations.

Current key research initiatives are focused on Advanced Manufacturing, Green Energy, Healthcare, Block Chain and FinTech, Digital Economy, Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Process Technologies, etc. The University provides resources for academic staff to take advantage of professional development opportunities.

Staff are also eligible to receive strong government support at municipal, provincial, national and international levels to work on high-end technological and entrepreneurial projects. By harnessing our world-class research across a range of disciplines and building global partnerships, UNNC is contributing to shaping the future.

UNNC's research spans many industry sectors across the globe. The University works with a wide range of local, national and international partners and funders on joint research activities, including National Natural Science Foundation of China, Zhejiang Natural Science Foundation, Ningbo Science & Technology Bureau and the UK Royal Society, British Academy. UNNC recognises the huge opportunities available in mainland China.

THE⁺ POSITION



Role Profile for Vice Provost for Research and Knowledge Exchange

Job Title	Vice Provost for Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE)
School/Department	Management Board
Job Family	Administrative, Professional and Managerial
Job Level	Scale B Level 7
Contract Status	Full time
Working Hour	Irregular working hours
Location	University of Nottingham Ningbo China
Responsible to	Provost & Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Nottingham Ningbo China

Purpose of role:

The Vice Provost for Research and Knowledge Exchange (VP RKE) serves as a pivotal member of the Management Board at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC), reporting directly to the Provost. This role is responsible for providing strategic, managerial, and executive leadership in advancing UNNC's research agenda and knowledge exchange programs, ensuring alignment with the University's mission and UNNC's Strategic Roadmap to 2030.

As the strategic leader for research and knowledge exchange, the VP RKE develops and implements a comprehensive vision and long-term plan to enhance research impact and foster innovation. The role works in close partnership with Faculty Deans, the Vice Provosts, and Associate Deans for Research and

Knowledge Exchange to ensure operational excellence across faculties. The VP RKE also collaborates proactively with Professional Services Directors, the Management Board, and counterpart leaders at the University of Nottingham UK and Malaysia campuses to integrate research and knowledge exchange priorities into institutional policy and development.

The VP RKE plays a critical role in driving research excellence, securing external funding, promoting knowledge translation, and strengthening partnerships with industry, government, and academic entities—both domestically and internationally—in support of UNNC's ambition to be a leading research-intensive institution.



Main responsibilities

(Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)

% time
per year

University Strategy:

30%

- Lead and coordinate the development and implementation of the research and knowledge exchange vision, strategy and long-term plan in alignment with UNNC's Strategic Roadmap to 2030.
- Provide strategic recommendations, reports and advice to the Joint Venture Board, Management Board and other governance committees on matters relating to research and knowledge exchange.
- Support and collaborate with theme leaders of UNNC's Strategic Roadmap to 2030 to ensure research and knowledge exchange priorities are integrated into the delivery of UNNC's strategic objectives.
- Ensure that the strategic development of key research disciplines, institutes, and knowledge exchange activities aligns with the requirements of external funding bodies, governmental policies, and other key stakeholders to maximise institutional impact and benefit.
- Proactively identify and develop new interdisciplinary and strategic research areas in support of UNNC's academic ambitions and societal contributions.
- Represent UNNC on relevant domestic and international research and innovation bodies where appropriate, enhancing the university's profile as a leading research-intensive institution.

Research and Knowledge Exchange Delivery:

40%

- Lead the operational execution and performance of UNNC's research and knowledge exchange agenda, ensuring alignment with the Strategic Roadmap to 2030 and the University's global mission.
- Provide executive leadership to the Research and Knowledge Exchange Office, building and managing a high-performing, rigorous, and data-informed research support team to elevate UNNC's research profile and capabilities.
- Work in close partnership with professional services and faculties to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, and integrity of research funding applications and contract management processes.
- Contribute to the development and stewardship of UNNC's intellectual property strategy, ensuring research outcomes are effectively translated and protected.
- Regularly review the research performance of faculties and of cross-faculty multi-disciplinary institutes in order to optimise results and activity.
- Champion the academic excellence of research, its effective translation, and acknowledgement of its impact on the economy and society.
- Champion the growth of research income in the context of financial sustainability.

Communication and Influence:

10%

- Ensure suitable ethics and other policies that relate to research and knowledge exchange are in place and are being managed effectively.
- Provide leadership in relation to equality and diversity and be a role model for the University of Nottingham's values.

Networking:

15%

- Develop and manage relationships with major research funding bodies at the municipal, provincial and national levels as well as international partner organisations and governments.

Additional Responsibilities:

5%

- Undertake other tasks and responsibilities as might reasonably be required

This job description may be subject to revision following discussion with the person appointed.

THE PERSON

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An appreciation of the culture and needs of an academic institution dedicated to excellence in research and knowledge exchange. Excellent and effective communication skills applied within and outside the organisation, supported by the ability to develop and maintain strong networks across the sector and with key external partners. Strong resolve and decisive judgement, alongside personal integrity and high ethical standards. Highly-developed ability to motivate and influence others. Understanding of the diversity of perspectives arising in academic settings. Able to determine and set priorities with excellent personal organisational skills. The ability to contribute to the development of strategy. Collegial team player able to work with people across the organisation. A forward-looking and dynamic approach. The flexibility and dexterity to provide compelling leadership within a globally-leading academic institution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent understanding of sino-foreign university partnerships and governance. Strong analytical skills and experience interpreting a strategic vision into an operational model. Proven strategic planning and change management skills in a complex research environment.
Knowledge and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent strategic leadership capability. Proven excellence in academic research and/or knowledge exchange, internationally leading in their field. Evidence of large-scale research and/or knowledge exchange leadership. Substantial experience of leading or working in partnership with industry, government and other academic partners. Proven analytical and strategic skills with a demonstrated ability to lead change. Substantial people skills, including team building, consensus building, and leading through influence. Established profile and credibility within national or international research communities. A strong commitment to equality and to promoting diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in joint venture higher education sector. Experience in the joint venture higher education sector. Strong understanding of the Chinese and international research funding landscape and policy environment.
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD in relevant areas. A record of active membership and affiliations with relevant external associations, networks and institutions. 	
Statutory, legal or special requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mature, self-driven and results-oriented. Able to react rapidly to changes and be creative in problem-solving. Understanding of research governance, ethics, and integrity frameworks relevant to higher education. 	

Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University's strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

Valuing people

Role models the highest ethical standards to cultivate a collaborative workplace that develops talent and enhances wellbeing, while also balancing the needs of the various stakeholders.

Taking ownership

Translates the vision into a strategy for their own area, enabling people to take the right action for the wider organisation. Can resolve complex problems, balancing the needs of varied stakeholders.

Forward-thinking

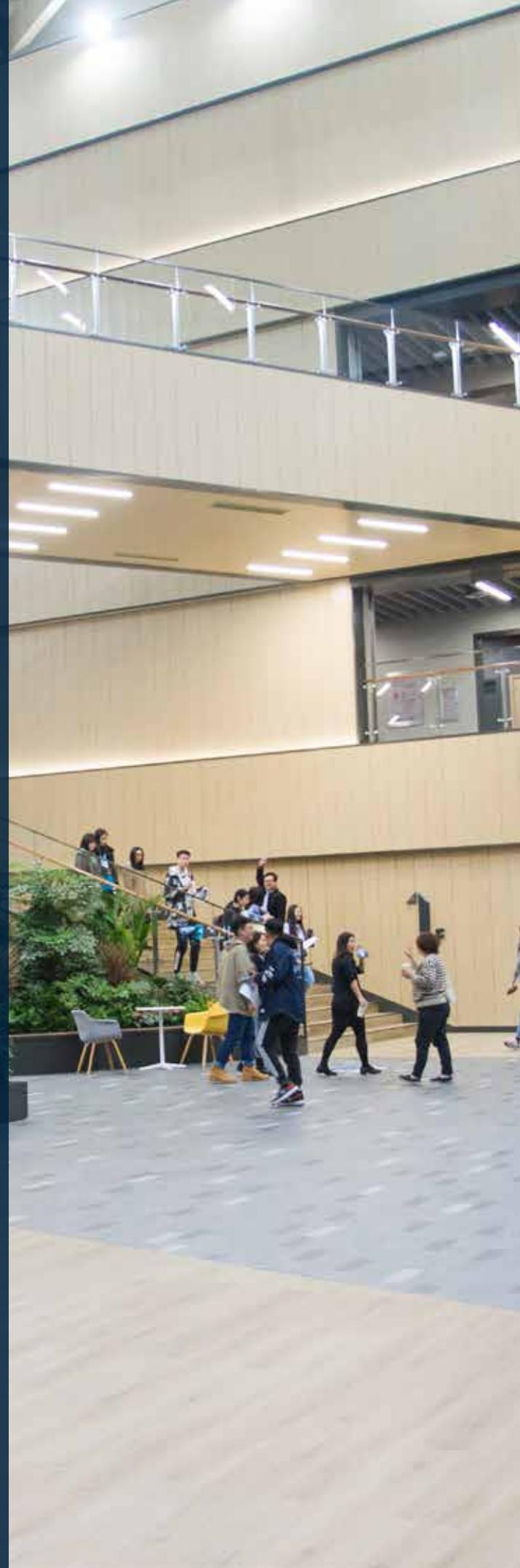
Always has the overall strategic goal in mind, manages to stimulate agile and forward-thinking in others, motivating them and giving them the confidence to drive for continuous improvement.

Professional pride

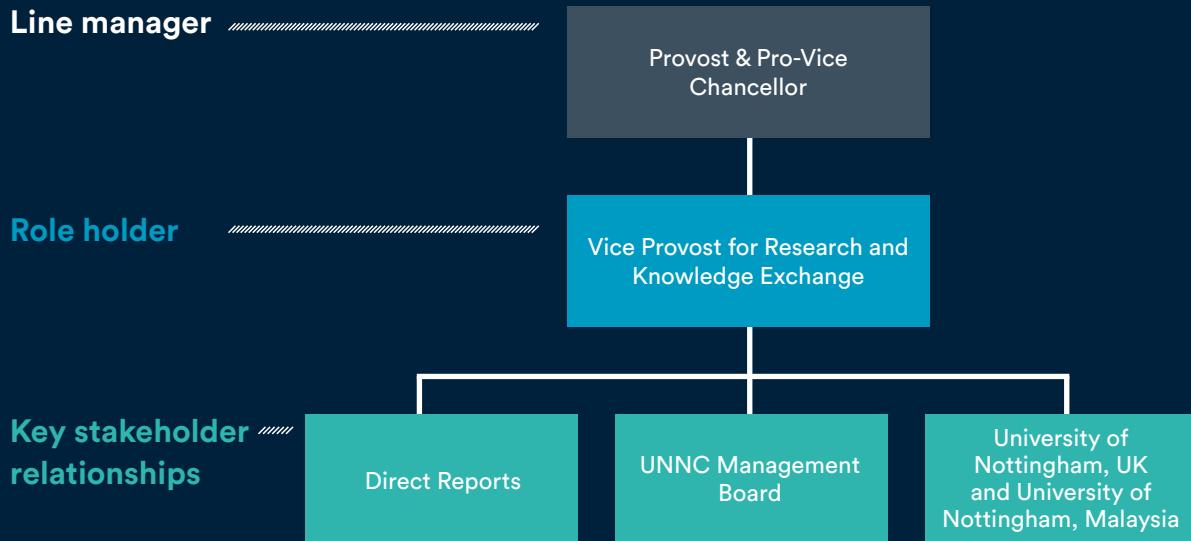
Goal is to be best in class; ensuring this can be achieved in line with long term strategy regardless of short term challenges. Supports people to do what is best for both the organisation and the department.

Always inclusive

Promotes how collaboration and positive partnerships are essential to success, always looking ahead to explore how to involve other potential stakeholders.



Key relationships with others



HOW TO APPLY

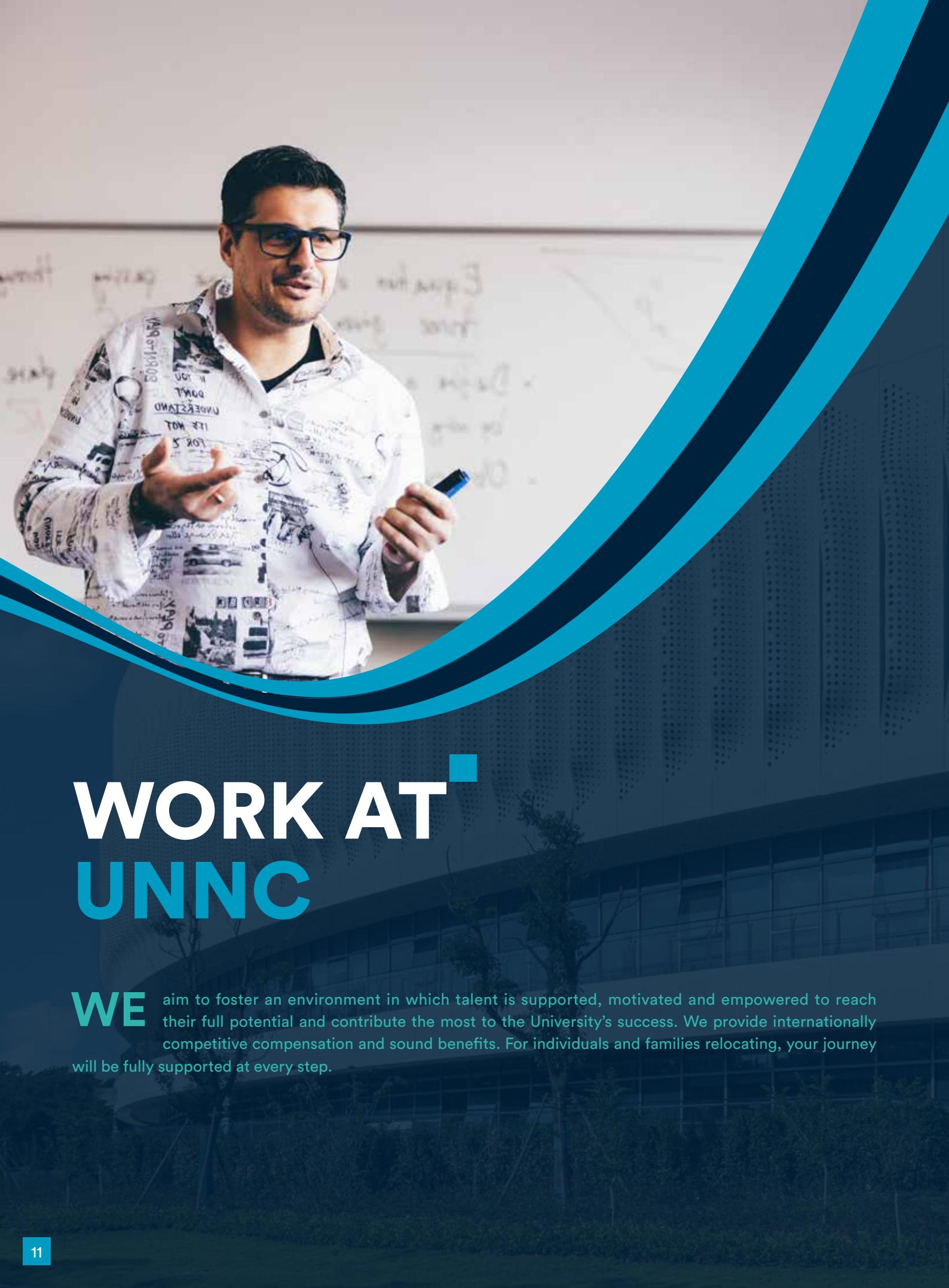
Informal enquiries and applications may be addressed to our recruitment partners at WittKieffer: Natalie Derry at nderry@wittkieffer.com or Evan Yeckley at eyeckley@wittkieffer.com.

Applications should include:

- a full and up-to-date CV
- a cover letter which addresses the key selection criteria.

Equal opportunities

The University of Nottingham Ningbo China is an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to providing a fair, equitable and mutually supportive learning and working environment for our students and staff. It is our intention to ensure that job applicants and staff are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, age, socio-economic background, disability, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.



WORK AT UNNC

WE aim to foster an environment in which talent is supported, motivated and empowered to reach their full potential and contribute the most to the University's success. We provide internationally competitive compensation and sound benefits. For individuals and families relocating, your journey will be fully supported at every step.

Compensation & Benefits

Our compensation and benefits packages are designed to attract and retain diverse, highly motivated talents while reinforcing our care for staff members and shared purpose to work beyond the ordinary, which includes:

- Competitive salary, with a clear road ahead for progression
- Various types of leave benefits
- Long Service Awards
- Team building activities
- Annual health check
- Additional allowance and support to eligible staff, covering relocation, accommodation, home leave, private medical insurance, education support and more.

Career development

We are committed to a collaborative, flexible and interactive approach to staff learning and development, to empower individuals to contribute fully to the achievement of the University's goals.

The UNNC Learning Academy was launched in April 2021 to provide a wide range of training opportunities in line with the University's strategy by providing our staff with the tools to empower high-performing talent and to unlock their full potential and develop further, cultivate inspirational leadership, and support a high performing and learning culture across UNNC.

Members of staff have enriched opportunities to engage in a mixture of in-house and externally provided learning and development activities, as well as digital learning.

Support

UNNC provides a variety of staff support allowing you the opportunity to customize an employment journey that meets your personal needs to live beyond the ordinary.

Before you onboard:

For international staff members, we have a dedicated team providing visa support and assisting with the application of the work and residence permits for you and your accompanying family.

For overseas-based staff members, we provide support for flight bookings, airport pick-ups and accommodation arrangements.

As you embark on this exciting chapter of your career, we are dedicated to facilitating your seamless transition and sustained success. From onboarding assistance to induction programmes, buddy schemes, and cultural and engagement events, we are committed to enabling every new colleague achieve a solid start at UNNC.

To promote an inclusive university experience that encourages a proactive, accessible, holistic approach to health and wellbeing, we provide an array of professional services tailored to support your physical, emotional, mental health and wellbeing needs during your time at UNNC.

OUR CAMPUS



To promote intellectual engagement, stimulate innovative inquiry, and preserve knowledge, the University establishes an intellectual setting equipped with cutting-edge technologies to facilitate learning, teaching, and research.

- With extensive resources, advanced technologies and a welcoming environment, our Library aims to build flexibility and responsiveness to support your working beyond the ordinary.
- UNNC provides world-class sports infrastructure and campus activities, with staff able to take advantage of our modern, recently-renovated Sports Centre and its gym facilities.
- Active staff clubs promote activities that foster connection, collaboration, and communication among staff members and their families, such as the Mama and Papa Club, Arts Club, Staff Gardening Club, Staff Wellbeing Club, and many more. There are also numerous sports engage programmes like badminton, basketball, cycling, Taiji, rugby, and yoga.
- The comfortable and clean staff lounges offer employees a place to unwind and recharge. For nursing mothers, we have private lactation rooms furnished with confidential access.
- There are numerous cafes, restaurants, stores, and canteens on campus to help facilitate daily life.



LIFE IN NINGBO

Ningbo is a dynamic, modern city steeped in thousands of years of history. Eight million people live in this port city at the mouth of the Yangtze, and the Ningbonese people are known for their entrepreneurialism and innovation, as well as their famed Jiangnan cuisine.

Surrounded by mountains and nature, Ningbo has plenty to see and do and enjoys warm summers and mild winters. Many staff members value being able to readily access both a vibrant city and the countryside so easily. Whilst Dongqian lake – which offers hiking and biking trails as well as water sports – is close to campus, there are plenty of shopping centres and city activities to explore, too. Ningbo has always been home to people from all over the world, and as a result the city has many international restaurants, supermarkets and shops.

Ningbo has fantastic transport links to cities all over China and is within hours of other major cities such as Hong Kong, Shanghai, Nanjing and Hangzhou, as well as countryside getaways and tourist spots such as the Zhoushan island chain. Ningbo is home to high speed train stations and an international airport with links to Bangkok, Tokyo and Singapore and other regional hubs.



Find details on
Career Website



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