

Executive Director, Quality Assurance

Established by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) in 2010, the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance (in short, the Quality Council) is responsible for overseeing the [Quality Assurance Framework](#) for Ontario's 21 Universities. Operating at arm's length from Ontario's government and the publicly-assisted universities in Canada's most populated province, the Quality Council's rigorous quality assurance processes—for all levels of university programming—are integral to ensuring excellence, innovation, and creativity in post-secondary curriculum, pedagogy, and education. Further, the Framework has been designed to support learning improvement while enabling transparency and accountability – i.e. quality assurance that produces quality enhancement and continuous program improvement. For more information about the Quality Council and COU, visit www.oucqa.ca and <https://cou.ca/>.

The Quality Council administers the [Quality Assurance Framework](#) in partnership with the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents (OCAV), and has regular engagement with a number of important bodies and committees across the higher education landscape. The Executive Director for Quality Assurance is the lead on all academic matters associated with the work of the Quality Council and its two Committees and must be a champion and custodian of the principles, objectives and guidelines delineated in the framework. The Executive Director works closely with the Director Operations, who is responsible for the administrative and operational aspects of the office, and reports to the Chair of the Quality Council. The incumbent also serves as an Advisor to the President of COU.

The ideal candidate for Executive Director will hold a doctoral degree, have experience in university administration at the most senior levels, and academic accomplishments and stature to garner respect, credibility and support from the academic community. The successful candidate must have knowledge of, and demonstrated experience with, the principles and procedures involved in academic program evaluation and quality assurance. The Executive Director must also have a strong appreciation for the diversity of academic disciplines found within the academy, will proactively develop and maintain effective working relationships with key contacts in the university setting, NGOs, and the federal and provincial governments, and will have strong leadership abilities and communications skills. While not essential, a passive knowledge of French is an asset, as is knowledge and understanding of the Ontario PSE context. The Quality Council operates in a fair, accountable, and transparent manner, produces clear and openly-accessible guidelines and processes, and makes decisions that are reasoned and evidenced-based. On both personal and professional levels, the Executive Director must align with these guiding principles.

The Quality Council and the Quality Assurance Framework has been externally reviewed, resulting in a recently approved Quality Assurance Framework (2021), which, when fully implemented, will take the quality assurance system in Ontario to the next level. An important responsibility of the Executive Director in their first one to two years in the role will be to shepherd through the changes

in procedures, and ensure the successful transition into the revised Framework.

Please note that all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply, but applications from Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. COU is an equal opportunity employer that values the strength that diversity brings to the workplace. COU is committed to providing an inclusive and barrier free recruitment process to applicants with accessibility needs, in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). If you require accommodation during this process, please inform Cindy Robinson (crobinson@cou.ca) of your requirements.

The Quality Assurance Secretariat is located within the COU offices in downtown Toronto. COU is committed to the health and safety of its staff. During the pandemic, COU is operating as a “remote first” workplace with staff predominantly working from home.

Consideration of candidates will begin immediately, and will continue until the position is filled. The successful candidate will ideally assume the role at the beginning of July 2021. The salary will be commensurate with experience and in the range of a university academic administrator at a senior level. Written nominations, applications, or expressions of interest may be directed, in confidence, to garecruit@cou.ca.