Role description

The University has recently launched its Digital Strategy which, underpinning the Strategic Plan, sets out the ambition that the University ‘will be digital by default in all the things that we do. Ensuring that appropriate use of technology enhances our learning and teaching, facilitates innovative research and improves efficiency in our management and administration activities’. We are also at a point where there are significant strategic decisions to be made that relate to the implementation of the Digital Strategy, including the future of the Virtual Learning Environment and the approaches to Distance and Blended Learning. Recognition that support for making and actioning these decisions will be required at a very senior level, has led to the proposal for creation of a DPVC role to take them forward. The DPVC (Digital) will provide strategic leadership in this vital area. The role is available to current members of academic staff (Grade 9 or above) and will focus on providing an academic lead for the implementation of the Digital Strategy, for supporting the associated decision-making processes and for working across the University community to champion implementation.

While the post-holder will report to the Provost, they will also have a very close working relationship with the PVC (Student Experience), the PVC (Research & Enterprise) and the Director of IT, as well as working closely with the PVC (International) and colleagues leading the development of our flexible and distance learning provision. Through this grouping, the DPVC (Digital) will be responsible for developing a challenging and feasible plan of objectives and actions to enable our University to achieve its digital aims and ambitions. The DPVC will both identify and represent the needs of the academy whilst also bringing new ideas in from outside the University and the sector on how we can innovate and improve.

Much of the role will focus on driving cultural change; contributing a high level, informed perspective to a range of institutional change projects; developing events and communications strategies that showcase key issues, achievements and challenges; and championing the implementation of ongoing initiatives. The DPVC (Digital) will therefore work with academic and professional services staff and with students from across the University, particularly engaging closely with the staff in IT Services and LLI. In terms of external focus, the DPVC will be expected to act as a conduit for keeping abreast of developments in the sector, be involved in engaging with potential external providers, including those operating outside the HE sector, and participate in events focusing on novel approaches to delivery utilising digital media.

As the role will focus on championing the Digital Strategy and moving the University forward, it essential that the DPVC has the credibility, passion and track record to engage effectively with professional services and academic staff, students and alumni, as well as external agencies. To enable them to support implementation and maximising the impact of internal and external engagement, the post holder will need a mix of enthusiasm and expertise in communicating to multiple audiences who have varying degrees of knowledge. They should also be effective and highly engaging as a
representative of the entire university and all of its disciplines, as well as their specific role in advocating for digital approaches.

Due to the mix of key responsibilities for this role, applicants must be current members of University staff who are Grade 9 or above. The role will form part of the post-holder’s overall contribution as a member of academic staff. This will be negotiated with the holder and their head of department.

The Provost, PVCs and Director of IT will also assist the DPVC in identifying and managing a small budget to support projects, activities and events. The role is available for a period of two years; this may be extended for a further period of two years should the University’s strategic needs warrant it.

Applications should be made in the form of an email to Nick Donnelly in Recruitment at nd144@le.ac.uk by midnight 21 July 2016. Your expression of interest should also describe your suitability for the role and, together with your short CV, should total no more than 3 pages.

**The Job Summary for this role can be found here.**

If you wish to discuss this opportunity further, please contact Nick Donnelly on nd144@le.ac.uk in relation to the process or Professor Mark Peel on mp462@le.ac.uk in relation to the role itself.