



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## POSITION DESCRIPTION

### POSITION NUMBER:

Full/Associate Professor (tenure) Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (NSERC) in DNA Nanotechnology

**FACULTY:** Faculty of Applied Science

**DEPARTMENT:** Engineering, School of (UBC-Okanagan)

### DESCRIPTION

#### INTERNAL POSTING: UBC SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING (OKANAGAN CAMPUS)

**Date Posted: June 13 2022**

#### NSERC Canada Research Chair - Tier 1 in DNA Nanotechnology

The Faculty of Applied Science, University of British Columbia (UBC) is accepting applications from scholars who currently hold an appointment in the UBC School of Engineering (SoE), Okanagan campus, for a NSERC Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC) position in DNA Nanotechnology. Applicants should be at the rank of Professor, though applicants at the rank of Associate Professor are eligible if they anticipate being promoted to Professor within one or two years of the nomination. Tier 1 CRCs are “outstanding researchers acknowledged by their peers as world leaders in their fields” (source: CRC Website) who (a) are outstanding, innovative world-class researchers, (b) are recognized as international leaders in their field, and (c) have superior records of training graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. The Chairholder must demonstrate an innovative, high quality research program and the ability to attract and train students and post-doctoral fellows. Chairs are tenable for seven years and are renewable once. All CRC nominations are subject to review and final approval by the CRC Secretariat. Please consult the [Canada Research Chairs website](https://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca) (<https://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca>) for full program information, including further details on eligibility criteria.

UBC is a global centre for research and teaching, consistently ranked among the 40 best universities in the world – and top 20 public universities. The University opened its Okanagan campus in 2005 as a bold new UBC presence in the interior of British Columbia, designed to deliver on the promise of a research-intensive institution purpose-built for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. UBC Okanagan is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation. With the campus rapidly emerging as a research powerhouse, UBC Okanagan students receive an outstanding education in a stimulating student-centric learning environment. Over the last five years, campus research income has more than doubled. Success rates at the Canadian tri-councils (SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR) have consistently exceeded national averages. Faculty have formal research partnerships with over 100 organizations (e.g. local non-profits, regional small and medium enterprises, national and multinational corporations, regional health authorities, hospitals, and municipalities), with activities on the main campus and in the Innovation UBC hub, which is located downtown in the Okanagan’s thriving [tech ecosystem](#). In 2019, UBC Okanagan published [Outlook 2040](#), a visioning exercise that positions the campus as one of Canada’s fastest growing post-secondary institutions. As the first CRC T1 on the Okanagan campus, the Chair has a significant opportunity to lead and accelerate this vision.

The Chair will be a highly-collaborative DNA nanotechnologist that works at the intersection of the materials, biological, and information sciences. While based at UBC Okanagan, the CRC Chair is expected to support collaborations with the Vancouver campus and grow the impact of the Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL) on both campuses. They will also have expertise in areas such as designing, building and testing nanostructures, machines, chemical reaction networks, lithographic masks, optical breadboards, and nucleic acid memory; all

made from DNA. With this foundation, they will explore future opportunities to integrate DNA nanotechnologies into more complex environments and systems that are of value to British Columbia, Canada, and industry partners.

With a focus on knowledge translation and industrial partnerships, the Chair will have extensive metrology experience when statistically evaluating molecular, structural, and functional performance of the prototypes they build. The CRC Tier 1 will help advance the UBC School of Engineering as a global leader in materials and biomedical engineering research. The Chairholder will also be able to articulate a strategic plan for further developing their exemplary research program, with experience in fostering collaborative and interdisciplinary research. In support of this effort, the Chairholder will have reduced teaching responsibilities but is expected to participate in graduate and postdoctoral training activities and to provide service to the School of Engineering, the UBC University system, and the broader communities they both support.

Please send your application via email by **July 15, 2022**. Applicants will be required to submit an equity survey as part of the application process. Applications should include: 1) curriculum vitae; 2) a maximum 5 page letter of interest describing your qualifications and research plans for the position; 3) a statement describing strengths and experiences in increasing equity, diversity and inclusion, in curriculum and in supporting diverse students; and 4) names and contact information for three referees. The complete application file should be submitted in the format of one book-marked PDF file and should be addressed to Dr. Walter Merida Faculty of Applied Science, and sent electronically to Ms. Jana Sanetrik [jana.sanetrik@ubc.ca](mailto:jana.sanetrik@ubc.ca). Applicants must hold an associate or full professor appointment at the School of Engineering (UBC-Okanagan).

In *UBC's Strategic Plan: Shaping UBC's Next Century*, inclusion, innovation, and collaboration have been identified as our key themes. In accordance with UBC's [CRC Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Action Plan](#), and pursuant to Section 42 of the BC Human Rights code, the selection will be restricted to members of the following designated groups: persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, women and gender minorities (transgender, gender-fluid, nonbinary and Two-Spirit people), and racialized minorities. **Applicants to Canada Research Chair positions are asked to complete this [equity survey](https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6WJHoi7SfPxRMu9)** ([https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6WJHoi7SfPxRMu9](https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6WJHoi7SfPxRMu9)) as part of the application, and candidates from these groups must self-identify as belonging to one or more of the designated equity groups to be considered for the position. As the search is limited to those self-identifying as members of designated equity groups, candidates must also provide their name to be considered.

Personal information is collected under the authority of sections 26(a) and 26(c) of the BC *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The information you provide will only be used to determine whether you qualify for participation in this hiring process. Data will be collected by the Equity & Inclusion Office and only the names of those who identify as persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, women and gender minorities (transgender, gender-fluid, nonbinary and Two-Spirit people), and racialized minorities. Currently, UBC has a gap in representation for people with disabilities. Until such time as this is remedied, the names of those self-identifying as having a disability will be provided separately to the search committee. Responses will be stored in a secure database.

*In assessing applications, UBC recognizes the legitimate impact that leaves (e.g., parental leave, leave due to illness) can have on a candidate's record of research achievement. These leaves will be taken into careful consideration during the assessment process.*

*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.*

*UBC welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for all candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. To make a confidential request for accommodations, please contact Ms. Jana Sanetrik at [Jana.sanetrik@ubc.ca](mailto:Jana.sanetrik@ubc.ca).*

Closing date: Jul 15, 2022

The anticipated start date of the Chair position is April 1, 2023 or upon a date to be mutually agreed.