

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Director, Nexus Centre for
Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research**

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) seeks a Director for its new Nexus Centre for Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research on the St. John's campus of Memorial University. The goal of the Nexus Centre is to open new possibilities for interdisciplinary research, and thereby enhance the Faculty's research profile, increase our policy relevance and support our attraction of high quality graduate students. The Nexus Centre is driven by the assumption that spaces that promote interdisciplinary thinking can yield powerful research results, for both policy development and attending to place-based social, economic, political and cultural challenges.

DUTIES

Under the direction of the Dean, the Director will provide leadership and vision for the Nexus Centre for Collaborative Research under the umbrella theme of HSS Innovation. The incumbent's responsibilities will include the strategic direction and operational activities of all aspects of the Centre, with the following objectives:

- stimulating interdisciplinary research in HSS by encouraging encounters outside one's discipline
- nurturing and supporting new and emerging interdisciplinary research clusters
- connecting "real world" issues with interdisciplinary research opportunities
- offering a social space for exchanging interdisciplinary ideas about research-based teaching initiatives, research partnerships, methodologies, effective research teams, co-publishing, etc.
- encouraging graduate students to also learn across disciplinary borders, offering them the opportunity to obtain an interdisciplinary graduate diploma through the Centre.

The Director will be guided by the principle of consensus-based decision-making, with the support of an Advisory Committee. The Director will be managing a loose federation of research clusters working with a common vision, on the one hand, and gathering resources for disseminating interdisciplinary skills and knowledge on the other. Nexus is thus both a learning centre and an incubator for interdisciplinary research for faculty and graduate students.

Review of the position will occur at the end of year 2, with possible renewal to 5 years. The Centre will have a five-year timeline and, at that time, research trends will be reassessed and research needs re-aligned.

The Director's duties will be to:

- facilitate communication across different research clusters – ensuring, in particular, “cross-talk” between the Humanities and the Social Sciences
- create opportunities for the development of interdisciplinary research projects
- organize events that bring disciplines (and interdisciplines) together, e.g., working seminars, speakers, symposia, etc.
- connect our grants-crafter, grants facilitator and film unit so that they may provide support for on-going projects and clarify how Nexus can be useful for grant applications
- With the Associate Dean (Research & Grad Studies), shepherd in the interdisciplinary graduate diploma
- Develop a business plan for the Centre

QUALIFICATIONS

This is an internal position; applicants must be full-time faculty in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The applicant should have experience working with interdisciplinary initiatives; a strong research profile; excellent communication, collaboration and interpersonal skills; demonstrated leadership, strategic planning and teamwork experience. The Director will receive a \$4000 stipend and two course remissions annually.

CLOSING DATE November 14, 2016

To apply for this position, please send to Darlene Kennedy (dkennedy@mun.ca) an updated CV and a 2-3 page statement outlining the applicant's experience, suitability and vision for this position.