



PRESIDENT
The American University of Paris
Paris, France

THE SEARCH

The American University of Paris (AUP), a private, independent university located in the prestigious 7th *arrondissement* of Paris, seeks a dynamic, innovative, and visionary leader as its next President. Chartered as a liberal arts institution in 1962, AUP provides a student-centered, academically rigorous, and career-enabling education to degree-seeking students, both undergraduate and graduate, from around the world.

A distinctive liberal arts university due to its mission and global focus, AUP's faculty and staff of 225 engage throughout the academic year with a student body of 1100 students, enabling them to cross cultural borders and academic disciplines with ease and to assume their places as responsible global citizens. These students represent more than 100 nationalities and speak 65 languages. Upon graduation, nearly 90 percent of AUP graduates are employed within a year or pursue graduate studies at institutions such as Cambridge, Columbia, Harvard, HEC, King's College London, London School of Economics, NYU, Oxford, the Sorbonne and The University of Chicago.

The size of the student body combined with the institution's pedagogical philosophy creates an intimate, engaging, and stimulating educational environment. Classes at AUP are conducted in English, though most students and faculty speak more than one language. The University's 21st century curriculum is designed to prepare students for tomorrow's world where critical thinking, communication skills, digital mastery and cross-cultural understanding will be required.

In recent years, AUP has benefitted from exceptional presidential leadership and the support of a highly engaged, knowledgeable, and international Board of Trustees. The University has expanded its physical plant, made gains in every major institutional metric, and established a firm foundation for growth.

For its next President, AUP seeks an experienced and accomplished leader to build on this positive momentum and accelerate its upward trajectory, firmly securing its financial base and its reputation. The successful candidate will enthusiastically embrace its liberal arts foundation, its deep commitment to educating global learners, and its ethos of social responsibility and engagement.

The AUP Presidency offers an exceptional opportunity for a gifted, inspirational executive to lead this distinctive center of liberal arts education in the heart of one of the world's most intellectually and culturally stimulating cities.

The AUP Board of Trustees has retained the services of Isaacson, Miller, a US-based executive search firm with extensive experience in higher education, to assist it in the conduct of this important search. Nominations and expressions of interest should be directed to the search team as indicated at the end of this document.

THE ROLE AND PRIORITIES

As Chief Executive, the President reports to the Board of Trustees and is responsible for:

- Articulating and reinforcing the University's vision, mission, and values with all stakeholders
- Enhancing the institution's academic program, attractiveness to students, and overall reputation
- Providing leadership and direction for the planning and operation of all aspects of the University's programs and services, while preserving AUP's personal approach and entrepreneurial spirit
- Overseeing a EUR25-30 million institutional budget, while strengthening its financial position and securing external funding support
- Setting out a vision for its future growth and development, which builds upon the traditions, distinctiveness, and strengths of the University

The next President at AUP will work closely with and be supported by an established, exceptionally able and experienced senior leadership team and administrative staff. Current direct reports include the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs; the COO and Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration; the Vice President and Dean of Student Services; the Vice President and Director of Enrollment Management; and the Vice President for Presidential Initiatives for development and advancement. This is complemented by a tradition of shared governance with dedicated faculty leadership as well as faculty fiercely committed to the University's educational mission.

While the University is well positioned for the future, numerous opportunities and challenges lie ahead – especially the initiatives and priorities framed in the University's 2020-2023 strategic plan, *Navigating 21st-Century Pathways*. Long-term residential housing, campus-wide digital transformation, student enrollment and fundraising top the list.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience

- Cross-cultural background and/or professional experience
- Demonstrated experience leading in a complex environment
- Familiarity with French culture and institutions
- Fluency in English and French required; additional languages a plus
- An earned doctorate or equivalent degree desirable

Capabilities

- A proven administrator and a gifted communicator
- An executive with interpersonal skills to interact effectively with the various constituencies of the University as well as with the Board, accrediting organizations and governmental bodies
- An inspirational leader who cultivates and energizes others; an effective storyteller.
- A visible and present executive who is an excellent listener; one who builds strong relationships and maintains open lines of communication with students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, donors, and the community at large
- A collegial, accessible, and consultative leader with unquestionable integrity and a collaborative leadership style
- An executive who demonstrates the ability to:
 - foster an innovative environment that attracts and retains high-quality faculty, students and staff by stimulating creativity, research, teaching and learning
 - identify opportunities and to convert challenges into entrepreneurial solutions and programs that will advance the University
 - raise funds from private and public sources and to articulate to external audiences the value of supporting the University
 - promote a shared vision to address challenges and create opportunities, especially in the areas of student recruitment, research support, finance, technology, and improvements to facilities
- Strong leadership skills in strategic planning, fiscal planning, and financial management

Values and Principles

The Board is looking for an individual whose values and principles mirror that of the University, including a firm commitment to:

- the development of faculty, staff and students and a proven track record of inspiring people and organizations through principled leadership
- the student-centered mission of AUP and an understanding of student interests
- student safety and welfare and a sensitivity to issues related to campus culture
- academic quality and to the role of scholarship and research
- academic freedom and shared governance and an understanding of their importance
- equity, social justice, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of university life

THE UNIVERSITY

On the eve of its 60th anniversary, AUP enjoys prominence as a private, urban university and a global center for interdisciplinary research and teaching. Throughout its existence, AUP's mission has been to provide students from all over the globe with a transformational educational experience that crosses disciplines, cultures, and borders. The University achieves this mission by providing its students with a curriculum combining liberal arts inquiry, preparation for professional life, and interactive, student-centered learning in small classroom settings. An AUP education supports cultural fluency, a sense of global engagement and a capacity to negotiate differences that emerge from diversity.

The University engages in multiple international networks and has relationships with institutions in the US, Europe and elsewhere including: The George Washington University; the University of Southern California; Denison University; the Sorbonne; Lingnan University; Oxford University; Southern Methodist University; Tulane University; Vanderbilt University; Wellesley College; University of Cape Town; and the University of East Anglia. AUP participates in three consortia that include other American universities abroad: the Association of American International Colleges and Universities; the Consortium of American Academic Libraries Abroad; and the Global Liberal Arts Alliance. The Board of Trustees is a member of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

AUP is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in the US as a non-profit corporation, registered with the US Internal Revenue Service as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and registered in France as a non-profit association. It is licensed by the Board of Education of the State of Delaware as an institution of higher learning; accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools; and authorized by the French *Rectorat* as an *établissement d'enseignement supérieur*.

The Academic Program

AUP educates its students to communicate well in a world of many languages; to think critically about history, culture, the arts, science, politics, business, communication, and society; to develop creative, interdisciplinary approaches to important contemporary challenges; to be technologically and culturally literate in a world of rapid change.

A key element of the undergraduate experience at AUP is its flagship Global Liberal Arts Core Curriculum. Eight academic departments administer undergraduate and graduate programs, which include 25 majors and 39 minors. Seven graduate programs offer Master of Science or Master of Arts degrees. Interdisciplinary programs flourish across all departments, driven in part by faculty research and student interests.

Anchored by an interactive media lab, AUP houses four interdisciplinary research centers designed to blur boundaries between academic disciplines and national cultures. By convening students, faculty, and internationally recognized scholars, AUP research centers create global impact in fields related to AUP's mission. Overall, they link teaching and research in a hands-on environment, fostering a greater sense of engagement by students and the larger AUP community. Research centers include: *The Center for Critical Democracy Studies*; *The Center for Writers and Translators*; *The George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention*; *The Joy and Edward Frieman Environmental Science Center*; and the *Civic Media Lab*.

The AUP faculty includes more than 100 assistant, associate and full professors and adjuncts from 30 different nations. Over two thirds speak three or more languages and hold terminal academic degrees. All permanent faculty members who participate in graduate teaching also teach in the undergraduate program.

Dedicated to teaching, research and service, the faculty produces relevant research that focuses on the cross-cultural, the comparative, and the interdisciplinary – all in support of the University’s mission of producing graduates for a world held in common. Members of faculty lead cultural study trips for students, publish in prestigious journals and produce scholarly conferences – such as the 2019 Paris Peace Centennial Conference convened by AUP and Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government – which enrich the AUP community and the broader public. AUP faculty contribute often to prestigious scholarly journals and are quoted frequently in the media.

The Campus

Situated on the banks of the Seine, AUP’s urban campus occupies seven buildings in Paris’s *7th arrondissement* between *Les Invalides* and the Eiffel Tower. A recently built Learning Commons overlooking the Quai d’Orsay connects via glass archway to the Combes Student Life Center, forming the heart of the expanded campus. A new Monttessuy Center for the Arts, with its Olivia de Havilland Theatre, is opening in fall 2021 at the foot of the Eiffel Tower.

Over the past few years, every space on campus has been built or renovated to enhance student learning both in and outside the classroom and to foster student collaboration with faculty and staff, in order to achieve a heightened sense of community. By 2023, AUP will have substantially completed a master plan to create an architecturally eclectic, modernized, and consolidated urban campus.

The University’s intellectual and cultural endowment has always been its location on the Left Bank, at the center of a bustling, cosmopolitan world capital brimming with culture, cuisine, and history. AUP has successfully adapted its curriculum and extracurricular life to Paris’s many centuries of art, music, film, literature, history, and politics. The city’s monuments, libraries, educational institutions – in addition to its neighborhoods, and its cultural and linguistic plurality – make it a true “living laboratory.” AUP students come to Paris for its rich heritage as well as for the internships and capstone experiences possible in the international public and private institutions located close by.

TO APPLY

Inquiries, nominations and referrals are welcome and will be held in strict confidence. Applicants are invited to submit a confidential letter of interest outlining relevant experience and a resume or curriculum vitae via the Isaacson, Miller website: www.imsearch.com/8083.

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