



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME

Search for the PROVOST
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME
ROME, ITALY

THE SEARCH

The American University of Rome (AUR), the oldest American degree-granting institution in Rome, Italy, seeks an energetic leader, compassionate manager, and engaged scholar to serve as its next Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. The University has made enormous growth strides in recent years and is poised to enter a new stage marked by amplified reach and impact. In close collaboration with the President and university community, the Provost will play a critical role in shaping AUR's future for years to come.

Established in 1969, AUR is a private liberal arts university founded on the idea that Rome is an ideal classroom and that a student's educational experience is broadened and enriched by living in a multicultural environment. A unique and extraordinary institution, AUR's faculty and staff teach, engage, and support approximately 700 undergraduate and graduate students representing over 50 countries. While all programs are conducted in English, 28 native languages are spoken among faculty and students. AUR's academic programs are defined by a combination of theory and practice, abundant opportunities to gain real-world experience, and small classes that create intimate learning environments.

Under the leadership of President Scott Sprenger, the Provost will join AUR at inflection point as the University embarks on a new chapter marked by enrollment growth, a strengthened financial position, and comprehensive strategic planning. The Provost will work closely with the faculty, President, senior leadership, and the Board of Trustees, providing visionary leadership and strategic thinking to advance institutional goals and support sustainable growth. The Provost will be a champion of the liberal arts and support a culture of continuous improvement, thoughtfully incorporating technological advances, pedagogical innovations, and best practices across teaching, learning, and advising.

The American University of Rome has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in conducting this important search and to help identify outstanding candidates. All inquiries, applications, and nominations for this opportunity should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

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The American University of Rome (AUR) enrolls approximately 700 students, providing an American liberal arts and pre-professional education to students from across the globe through Associates, Bachelors, and Masters degrees. Overlooking the historical center of Rome from the beautiful Janiculum Hill, AUR's campus offers a safe and peaceful environment for learning and provides spectacular views of the city and surrounding hills.

AUR is an attractive university for degree-seeking students desiring an international learning experience through well-established programs. It is also a popular destination for study abroad students. AUR excels in international higher education and is a long-time partner with renowned universities in the U.S. to provide a range of academically rigorous, locale-based programs. Although global in its outlook, AUR is firmly rooted in the local community, with strong links to Italian and European institutions.

AUR's institutional priorities are to:

1. Leverage AUR's location in Rome, Italy, and Europe for optimal, mission-driven teaching & learning experiences.
2. Strive for teaching and learning excellence (via a purpose-driven, interdisciplinary curriculum, student-centered pedagogies, research & academic services aligned with institutional mission and values, and partnerships) to achieve optimal graduate outcomes and academic reputation.
3. Continuously recruit for and nurture a globally diverse, inclusive, and ethics-based learning community of internationally-minded students, faculty & staff.
4. Maintain a beautiful and up-to-date campus & infrastructure that aligns with AUR's mission and student expectations.
5. Achieve long-term institutional growth & sustainability.

Accreditation

AUR was incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1970. It was licensed by the Education Licensure Commission of the District of Columbia in 1986 to offer bachelor's and associate degrees and graduated its first class in 1987. It is currently licensed by the Delaware Department of Education. AUR has been accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) since 2010 and was previously accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) from August 1992 until it voluntarily withdrew in June 2010. AUR is registered as a legal entity in Italy with the Rome Tribunal, and it is authorized to operate in Italy by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research.

The Faculty

The AUR faculty includes approximately 20 full-time professors and 80 adjunct faculty. Faculty are active researchers with established or growing reputations and expert teachers. Many faculty hold degrees from leading global institutions and/or possess high-profile industry experience in their fields. Motivated by a

love of teaching and a devotion to mentorship, faculty impart knowledge and skills that ensure students succeed in their chosen field while cultivating a passion to make the world a better place.

Academic Programs

Taking the best of the American approach to interdisciplinary, student-centered learning, AUR uses Rome as a classroom and Italy and Europe as invaluable resources. Academic and co-curricular programs promote intellectual excellence, personal growth, and an appreciation of cultural diversity, and prepare students to enter excellent graduate schools or to embark directly on a chosen career path.

At the undergraduate level, AUR offers 10 bachelor's degree programs with 16 concentrations or tracks, two associate degree programs, and 23 minors. With a student-faculty ratio of 14:1, teaching and learning at AUR is intimate and student-focused. For their entire university experience, undergraduate students are guided by a diverse and dedicated team of faculty. Each resident student is also assigned an advisor to provide mentorship and monitor academic progress.

To ensure students make the most of their time in Italy, AUR provides courses and social experiences that facilitate successful integration into the community. For study abroad students whose stay is usually one semester, AUR offers courses focused on Italian culture and encourages intercultural communication. Internships are supported in all programs, and in 2023, AUR piloted a new initiative called *Real Projects* in which small teams of students work collaboratively on a project for a company or nonprofit organization, providing another venue for students to engage in real-world, hands-on learning.

The Graduate School offers three Master of Arts programs: Cultural Heritage, Food Studies, and Peace Studies & Conflict Resolution. Graduate programs emphasize skill development and are designed to nurture mission-driven, theoretically informed, yet pragmatic problem solvers. The programs encourage an innovative community-based approach through unique collaborations with local organizations. All graduate programs are 15 months long and designed with professionals in mind, although they are open to students coming directly out of an undergraduate program.

Diversity

AUR actively works to eliminate discrimination in hiring, student recruitment, and operations. The university also intentionally strives to maintain equitable and inclusive conditions for individual success, free and frank expression of diverse ideas, and the vitality of AUR's learning community.

Campus with a View

AUR's campus is situated at the top of Janiculum Hill in the Monteverde district—one of Rome's most desirable residential areas—and overlooks the historic city center, medieval Trastevere, and the Tiber River. The University is an urban campus composed of five buildings. The main campus is formed of two

buildings, an auditorium, and a spacious garden. Building A hosts administrative and faculty offices, student services, and the main computer lab, while building B houses classrooms, laboratories, and faculty offices. Evans' Hall, a liberty villa dating back to 1920, is made up of the library, student lounges, and a beautiful garden. A section of the palazzo in via Masina contains art studios, classrooms, and faculty offices. AUR is currently refurbishing existing spaces and is nearing completion of negotiations with landlords to expand the campus to support recent and anticipated enrollment growth.

President Scott Sprenger

Dr. Scott Sprenger began his tenure as President of The American University of Rome on 1 July 2020. He came to the post after serving as Provost of The American University of Paris (AUP), Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities at Weber State University in Utah, associate dean of the College of Humanities at Brigham Young University (BYU) as well as professor of French Literature and European Studies.

President Sprenger's administrative work as both provost and dean has covered a broad range of traditional areas, such as strategic planning, institutional budgeting, curriculum development and oversight, international programming, academic and career advising, and the creation and oversight of research centers and fundraising operations. At AUP, he secured Andrew W. Mellon institutional grants to improve first-year programs and to open a Civic Media Lab and a Center for Critical Democracy Studies. With private funding, he oversaw the founding of a Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights, and Conflict Prevention and a Center for Design.

While at BYU, President Sprenger was the architect of Humanities+, an innovative and comprehensive approach to bridging liberal arts and humanities study to careers in the global labor market. Humanities+ has been acclaimed in the national press and by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences as one of the most innovative initiatives in the liberal arts and careers in the United States. He has also advocated for the humanities and liberal arts with the U.S. Congress via the Humanities Alliance Conference, on radio, podcasts, and YouTube, and in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Dr. Sprenger's graduate degrees in French Studies are from Johns Hopkins University and Emory University. In 2009, he was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholar award at the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris and Brussels for work on language policy in the EU. He was also awarded an Andrew W. Mellon post-doctoral position at the Humanities Center at UCLA from 1999 to 2001.

President Sprenger's main publications are on modern European literature and culture.

THE ROLE OF THE PROVOST

The Provost is the Chief Academic Officer of AUR, providing primary administrative leadership, direction, and evaluation for all academic activities and faculty affairs of the campus. The Provost oversees the

academic divisions and departments, the Library, other centers and offices, Assessment and Instructional Support, and the Registrar.

The Provost serves as a member of the President's leadership team, which includes the Vice President of Enrollment Management, the Dean of Students and Director of Study Abroad, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Senior Director of Advancement.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

As the Chief Academic Officer of the university, the Provost will:

1. Foster intellectual growth, student learning, and scholarly and creative activities by providing academic strategic planning, administrative leadership, direction, and evaluation for all academic activities and faculty affairs at the University, providing leadership in advancing the mission, goals, and objectives of the University, particularly regarding academic excellence and student success.
2. Demonstrate sound fiscal management and empirical-based decision-making by overseeing program development, budgets, and facilities of all academic and academic support units.
3. Ensure an active and expanding dialogue with external constituencies by encouraging partnerships with external constituents and public organizations.
4. Implement the strategic academic vision by authorizing faculty appointments, recommending all promotions and tenure decisions to the President, making final decisions about the allocation of academic space, working closely with the Dean of Student Services in addressing the educational support needs and extra-curricular priorities for students, and with the other senior leadership of the University in coordinating and overseeing the overall mission of the University.
5. Generate meaningful information for the improvement of the overall academic program, and where appropriate, services that promote student success by understanding, demonstrating, and encouraging assessment in all aspects of the University, but particularly those areas within the academic program.
6. Remain competent and current through self-directed professional reading, developing professional contacts with colleagues, attending professional development conferences, and attending training and/or courses as required.
7. Contribute to the overall success of the University by performing all other duties as needed.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES + CHALLENGES

The Provost will join AUR at a moment marked by dynamism, optimism, and growth. Under the vision and leadership of President Sprenger, the University emerged strongly from the crisis triggered by the COVID pandemic, bolstered by robust, mission-driven, and data-informed strategic planning and careful financial and operational management. With enrollments now projected to reach 1,000 by 2028, the Provost will play an important role in shaping the University's future as an innovative liberal arts institution.

Specifically, the Provost will work to address the following opportunities and challenges:

Provide visionary leadership and adept strategic planning

Working closely with the President, the senior leadership team, and the Board, the Provost will advance academic strategic planning in alignment with the University's institutional mission and goals. The successful candidate will ensure resources best support institutional priorities and are deployed for maximum effectiveness and desired impact. The Provost will foster a sense of pride in AUR's unique position, character, and offerings, work collaboratively to set priorities, and make transparent and strategic choices that advance the University's academic excellence and differentiating features.

Review and support the undergraduate and graduate curriculum

The Provost will ensure the continued distinctiveness, academic excellence, and impact of AUR's undergraduate curriculum. The Provost will be strategic about seizing low-cost/high-impact opportunities such as experiential learning, technological advances, and professional development that enrich AUR's curricular and co-curricular offerings. Adopting a stance of continuous improvement, the Provost will review academic programs to ensure they meet educational and strategic goals, respond to changing student needs and interests, and prepare students for future academic and professional aspirations.

The Provost will also review AUR's graduate programs and support faculty in identifying and crafting graduate offerings that leverage the University's strengths, support strategic priorities, and address student demand. With an entrepreneurial spirit, the successful candidate will collaborate with faculty and administrative leaders to ensure efficient and cost-effective program administration.

Support institutional growth and sustainability

The Provost will be central to ongoing conversations around enrollment targets, working closely with leadership to advance strategies that achieve an ideal student body composition and size, always keeping retention top of mind. As AUR grows, the Provost will remain conscious of budget constraints, while being sensitive to the university mission, focusing on operational efficiency to expand without increasing costs linearly. Partnering with the chief financial officer, the Provost will carefully manage the academic budget, including faculty salaries and contracts, department funding, and other academic programs. The successful candidate will anticipate and articulate the impact of programmatic decisions on AUR's academic and financial future and play a critical role engaging with external funders.

Champion continuous improvement of student experience and learning

The Provost will work closely with academic and student affairs teams to create and/or strengthen policies and programs that support student retention, academic success, and graduation rates and outcomes. The Provost will oversee academic advising, ensuring that advising is well-designed, well-resourced, aligned

with best practices, and provides diverse students with tailored and responsive guidance and support. The Provost will be attuned to opportunities that advance faculty development, such as offering resources and seminars focused on teaching and learning best practices.

Across all areas of student learning and experience, the Provost will monitor performance and outcomes, collecting and using data to support decision-making and program assessment. Importantly, the Provost will leverage data to support institutional accreditation efforts and ensure that all academic programs comply with external regulations, including government and accreditation body standards.

Support the smooth functioning of Academic Affairs

The Provost will oversee all areas that fall under Academic Affairs, including the Registrar, Outcomes Assessment and Institutional Research, Computer Services, Internships & Career Development, Graduate Studies, and the Library. The Provost will be attuned to the work being done across these units and actively involved in decision-making, administration, planning, and budget decisions happening within and across each. Building on recent successes, the Provost will assess and improve organizational structure, workflows, and procedures, identifying areas for increased efficiency and facilitating collaboration. The Provost will also support the professional development of the Academic Affairs staff.

Shepherd a culture of trust, mutual respect, and transparency and lead faculty governance

The Provost will lead by example and follow effective principles of shared governance that are central to AUR's tight-knit community. Harnessing strong communication and interpersonal skills, the Provost will clearly articulate the University's priorities and goals to all members of the AUR community, ensuring that faculty, administrators, staff, and students have the systems and support mechanisms needed to work together to achieve the University's academic mission. To facilitate transparency and operational effectiveness across the institution, the Provost will clarify the roles and responsibilities of the academic administration to the faculty, enforce policies and procedures related to tenure, sabbaticals, faculty recognition, and teaching loads, and clearly communicate and uphold expectations and standards.

Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the AUR community

As a multicultural university that recruits students and faculty from around the globe, diversity is fundamental to AUR's institutional success, mission, and vision. The Provost will nurture an environment that celebrates a diversity of viewpoints, backgrounds, and experiences and champion the open expression of ideas, as these values are vital to AUR's learning community.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will have demonstrated success as a transformative, results-oriented leader who can partner with the President, senior leadership, and faculty to carry forward AUR's academic vision.

Harnessing creativity and flexibility, this person will be capable of marrying academic priorities and needs with the realities of a tuition-driven institution. The successful candidate must be detail-oriented and operational to manage the work of Academic Affairs while also seeing the “big picture” and communicating this vision to others. Specifically, candidates should meet the following minimum acceptable qualifications:

Education: Ph.D. in a field taught at (or related to disciplines) at AUR, with a strong academic profile.

Experience: Five years progressively responsible administrative and supervisory experience of academic personnel and programs in an educational institution, experience in international education a plus. A minimum of five years of experience as a full-time professor in higher education is required; prior experience at the associate dean level or above is preferred. A proven record of effectiveness in strategic planning and program assessment is required. Evidence of effective collaborative relationships with peers is required.

Skills: An appreciation of shared governance and evidence of strong abilities to work effectively and collaboratively with University administration, faculty, students, staff, and other constituent groups and partners, both within and outside the University, is required. Strong oral and written communication skills are required, as well as excellent interpersonal skills, an appreciation and understanding of instructional technologies and pedagogies in expanding curricular offerings, and an understanding of contemporary issues in higher education. Demonstrated commitment to ongoing professional development of faculty and academic administrators is required.

APPLICATIONS, NOMINATIONS, AND INQUIRIES

Review of applications will begin immediately. The preferred application deadline is Monday, December 2, 2024, although applications will be considered until the position is filled.

Confidential inquiries, nominations/referrals, and applications (including resumes and letters of interest responding to the opportunities and challenges outlined above) should be sent electronically to the Isaacson, Miller executive search team via the link below.

Dan Rodas, Partner
Amble Ryan, Senior Associate
Nicole Sancilio, Senior Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/american-university-rome/provost>

The American University of Rome is an equal-opportunity employer committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive academic environment. We strongly encourage applications from individuals who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education, and candidates of all genders are welcome to apply.