

# UC Berkeley

Opportunity and Challenge Profile

## Search for the Dean

University of California Berkeley, College of Environmental Design  
Berkeley, CA

### THE SEARCH

The University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), the nation's premier public research university, invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the College of Environmental Design (CED).

Since its founding in 1959, the College of Environmental Design has achieved distinction for its integration of architecture, planning, and landscape design with an emphasis on environmental and social justice within the built environment. Ranked #1 for Architecture and the Built Environment (2025 *QS World University Rankings*) among public universities, CED is renowned for theory, research, innovation, and practice focused on the built environment, with particular attention to design excellence, climate solutions, and new materials and technologies. The College brings together a wide range of disciplines and boasts strong connections with professions and practitioners, positioning its undergraduates to be highly competitive candidates for master's programs and its graduate students to be sought out by public entities and firms in the private sector.

The dean will be joining CED at an opportune time for impact—locally, nationally, and globally—as the CED community is eager for its next leader to shape a cohesive and forward-thinking vision. This vision should build upon CED's pioneering focus on how the built environment can improve lives. The next dean will also help strengthen connections across a college of 211 renowned faculty and committed staff, an extraordinarily talented and diverse student body of just over 1,200 students, and a network of nearly 24,000 distinguished alumni dedicated to an expansive curriculum and connections across disciplines.

Building on CED's unique identity and strengths, the next dean will be a strategic leader who excels in fostering collaborations and connections among scholars, practitioners, students, alumni, and other stakeholders to unite the various approaches to environmental design. This leader will need to navigate the complexities and opportunities of a public university, serve as a dynamic advocate for both CED and UC Berkeley, deeply value and uphold the principles of shared governance, and thoughtfully balance the College's teaching, research, and practice priorities centered in design excellence. The next dean will have the opportunity to build on CED's strong reputation, unique composition of programs, innovative

pedagogy, and blend of research and practice, leading the College into its next era of excellence and maintaining its prominence in the Bay Area and beyond.

To lead CED to new levels of success, the dean will address the following opportunities and challenges:

- Inspire, lead, and execute upon an integrative vision that builds on the College’s distinct identity, fosters interdisciplinary collaborations, and supports UC Berkeley’s mission and goals.
- Grow and steward resources to achieve the vision and ambitions of CED.
- Strengthen operational infrastructure and recruit, retain, and support a world-class faculty and staff.
- Promote an equitable learning environment and the academic and professional success of all CED students.
- Serve as a visible intellectual leader locally, nationally, and internationally to elevate CED’s brand and reputation.

A list of the desired qualifications and characteristics may be found at the conclusion of this document, which was produced with the support of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm. All confidential applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed to the parties listed at the end of this document.

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Founded in 1868, the [University of California, Berkeley](#) is the oldest of the 10 campuses in the University of California system. As the University of California has expanded across the state, the flagship campus at Berkeley has maintained its prominence within the system and among public universities around the world. Home to more than 33,000 undergraduates, 12,500 graduate students, and over 1,500 ladder-rank faculty across 15 schools and colleges, with almost 400 degree programs, UC Berkeley is consistently ranked among the very best universities nationally and globally.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, [UC Berkeley attracted \\$1.07 billion in new awards from external funding for research](#), including \$486 million from federal sources, \$74 million from industry, \$224 million from state and local government funds, \$244 million from non-profits, and \$41 million from the University of California. UC Berkeley is a leader in research addressing a variety of societal-scale issues. A focus on global issues is a hallmark of Berkeley, as a variety of international and area studies centers and institutes support research in every region of the world. The campus’s proximity to Silicon Valley and national centers of innovation puts it at the epicenter of advances in biotechnology, digital health, and big data. Berkeley is the nation’s number one university in terms of graduates who start venture-funded enterprises.

On December 31, 2023, UC Berkeley concluded its historic capital campaign, [Light The Way: The Campaign for Berkeley](#), far surpassing its goal and raising \$7.37 billion to advance the University’s institutional goals.

With the appointment of [Dr. Richard K. Lyons](#), former Dean of Berkeley Haas, as its 12th Chancellor in July 2024, the stage is set for transformative leadership in the years to come.

## ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

### History and Structure

Since its approval by UC Berkeley's Academic Senate in 1959, the College of Environmental Design has been a pioneer in conceptualizing environmental design as inextricably intertwined with its social, political-economic, and cultural context. Two of UC Berkeley's many pivotal contributions to environmental design were first to help develop the concept of environmental design, and then to refine it in a college that included all design and planning disciplines, integrating their knowledge and contributions in a way that helps to shape the larger environment. CED's philosophy is to think globally but act locally, allowing the community to understand buildings, cities, and landscapes as products of specific histories, societies, economics, materials, and systems. CED continues to be at the forefront of solving the environmental challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, seeking to create communities that are equitable, resilient, and culturally vibrant.

The multidisciplinary approach to the built environment continues to be a hallmark of CED, today comprising three academic departments – Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning, and City & Regional Planning – as well as the Institute of Urban & Regional Development, which serves as the College's interdisciplinary research hub and houses three academic programs. All CED units come together in Bauer Wurster Hall, named after architect and founding dean William W. Wurster and housing expert Catherine Bauer Wurster.

### Degrees and Programs

CED's highly ranked degree programs address the challenges facing the built environment from multiple perspectives, and its expansive curriculum encourages exploration across disciplines. At the undergraduate level, the College offers four undergraduate majors in [architecture](#), [landscape architecture](#), [urban studies](#), and [sustainable environmental design](#), as well as seven undergraduate [minors](#). CED offers a wide range of [graduate offerings](#), with a mix of professional and academic degrees, as well as opportunities for earning concurrent degrees within the College and with other UC Berkeley departments. Professional degrees include [Master of Architecture](#), [Master of City Planning](#), [Master of Landscape Architecture](#), [Master of Urban Design](#), [Abbey Master of Real Estate Development + Design](#), and [Master of Design](#). Academic degrees include [Master of Science in Architecture](#), a post-professional [Master of Advanced Architectural Design](#), and PhD programs in [Architecture](#), [City & Regional Planning](#), and [Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning](#). Additional offerings include five [certificate programs](#) and six [summer programs](#) for high school, college, and postbaccalaureate students.

The interactive, intensive studio experience is a hallmark of CED, involving deep immersion in theory, technology, and real time practice for an array of clients. Local collaborations place students at the center

of key urban design and planning projects in the Bay Area, while graduate studios often focus on international sites and include travel abroad during school breaks. Studios are supplemented with lecture and seminar classes, which integrate the teaching of fundamental principles and analysis tools with applications in design, land use, policy, and planning.

The College seeks to pursue research addressing environmental and social challenges and opportunities facing the world, focusing on major themes of climate solutions, equity and social justice, and technology and material innovations. The Environmental Design Library, Environmental Design Archives, and Visual Resources Center all play critical roles serving and enhancing the research and teaching mission of the College. Additional research centers affiliated with CED include the Turner Center for Housing Innovation, the Center for the Built Environment, the Institute for Transportation Studies, and the Center for Environmental Design Research.

### **CED Community**

CED is committed to building an inclusive environment for its community and using design, research, and teaching as drivers of change toward equitable futures. The College's 650 undergraduate and 550 graduate students come from all over the world, reflecting a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives. To support this diverse student population, CED offers an array of design-oriented student organizations revolving around academic interests, professional practice, and identity.

CED faculty include designers, planners, researchers, data scientists, policy specialists, historians, and technologists who approach the built environment as a network of interwoven systems at multiple scales. The College has over 50 full-time Senate faculty and 92 part-time teaching and research faculty. The College employs 69 staff in various full-time, part-time, and limited appointments with responsibilities spanning across IT, facilities, student advising, business services, human resources, summer programs, and development and alumni relations.

The [CED Advisory Council](#) is also an important pillar of the CED community, providing strategic guidance to the dean and other college leaders on issues of environmental design futures in education, research, and practice. The council members are distinguished leaders in their fields who bring a diversity of perspectives in support of CED's mission to education future leaders in all the fields of environmental design.

To learn more about the College of Environmental Design, please visit: <https://ced.berkeley.edu/>

### **ROLE OF THE DEAN**

Reporting directly to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, the dean will serve as the chief academic and executive officer of CED, overseeing all areas of its operations and a budget of approximately \$45 million. Reporting to the dean is a 12-person management team comprised of the following: Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration, Assistant Dean for Development + Alumni Relations, Director of Communications,

Director of Summer Programs, Curator of Environmental Design Archives, three department chairs, and two research directors.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

The College of Environmental Design community seeks an exceptional leader who has the vision, judgment, and values to meet and advance several key opportunities and challenges, outlined below.

***Inspire, lead, and execute upon an integrative vision that builds on the College's distinct identity, fosters interdisciplinary collaborations, and supports UC Berkeley's mission and goals***

The College of Environmental Design is known for its unique makeup of disciplines, and the dean must understand and appreciate the constellation of units centered around design excellence. As CED dean, the incumbent will integrate the values and ambitions of faculty, staff, students, alumni, professional partners, and external stakeholders into a shared vision and corresponding strategic plan, emphasizing CED's core concerns with distributional outcomes and democratic participation. The dean will be a highly collaborative and innovative leader who will ensure the College adapts to the future needs of all disciplines, increase connections among departments, and incentivize cross-disciplinary teaching, research, and work.

***Grow and steward resources to achieve the vision and ambitions of CED***

The CED is in a stable financial position due in part to successful revenue-generating programs. Given the College's complex budget and the nationwide challenges in research funding, the dean will aim for transparency in financial decision making and will lead a comprehensive approach to strengthening its financial position. As the University prepares to embark on a new strategic planning process and capital campaign, the dean will be called to build on the College's previous campaign success, in which it raised \$83 million over the past ten years. The dean will have an entrepreneurial spirit in identifying new sources of revenue and establishing new partnerships with alumni and professional practice globally. Through savvy budget management, the dean will ensure that the CED community has the proper resources to fund its ambitious aspirations.

***Strengthen operational infrastructure and recruit, retain, and support a world-class faculty and staff***

CED faculty and staff are central to the College's mission, and the dean will drive and support their recruitment, promotion, and retention. By collaboratively establishing priorities, the dean will further establish trust and transparency, encourage a cohesive culture across all faculty and staff groups, manage the CED's infrastructure needs, and bring together appropriate leaders to best address challenges around instructional and studio space, staffing, and facilities. The dean will support a wide range of approaches to environmental design and will provide professional development and mentorship opportunities for faculty and staff to grow and advance in their areas of expertise. The dean should be accessible, foster open communication, and support UC Berkeley's strong tradition of shared governance.

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***Promote an equitable learning environment and the academic and professional success of all CED students***

CED is committed to building an inclusive environment for all community members, with special focus on student support. The dean will champion efforts to ensure that CED students receive an exceptional education experience that positions them for success while in CED and in their careers beyond graduation. The dean will thoughtfully balance student interests in interdisciplinary academic offerings, ample research opportunities, study abroad, strong internship pipelines, advising, and career support programs to ensure student success. As CED boasts the most diverse undergraduate student population at UC Berkeley, the dean will continue the College's commitment to build a broadly diverse student body, nurture a supportive culture, and provide a culturally attuned educational experience.

***Serve as a visible intellectual leader locally, nationally, and internationally to elevate CED's brand and reputation***

The dean will be an engaged University leader and champion the pioneering work of the best-in-class faculty and students across design research and practice. Building upon CED's top-ranked academic programs and reputation, the dean will represent the College effectively, create new connections within and beyond UC Berkeley, and serve as a viable intellectual leader and advocate in the environmental design community. Not only will the dean inspire CED faculty and students to engage in important applied research and professional practice that will benefit the surrounding communities and beyond, but they will also be attuned to sharing CED's innovative work and maintaining CED's stature as a premier design school that includes faculty experts in architecture, landscape design, policy research, engineering, data science, spatial science, materials science, and more.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

UC Berkeley seeks a collaborative and innovative leader who will enhance the mission, vision, and culture of the University of California, Berkeley and the College of Environmental Design. Strong candidates will have many of the following qualifications and personal characteristics:

- A renowned scholar-leader with credentials that merit appointment at the rank of full professor with tenure within the College of Environmental Design.
- A record of providing visionary and motivational leadership, and effective management of a complex organization.
- A commitment to the teaching, research, and public service mission of a public university. A candidate with exceptional experience as a practitioner of architecture, landscape architecture, planning, urban policy, sustainable environmental design or related fields will be considered an added bonus.
- Experience in vision-setting, strategic planning, managing complex budgets, and developing strategies for long-term financial sustainability.

- A record of success in or aptitude for external relations and development; an ability to solicit and steward private financial and other support from alumni, the philanthropic community, firms, and other partners of CED.
- Deep respect for and encouragement of different theories, methodologies, and bodies of work across all disciplines within the College.
- Understanding of and commitment to principles of shared governance, with ideally a proven record of working in such an environment.
- A deep dedication to students, working on their behalf, with demonstrable commitment to student success.
- Demonstrated commitment and record of success in enacting principles that support a vibrant and inclusive academic community and workplace.
- Excellent people management and supervisory skills.

## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Applicants must have a terminal degree at the time of application and submit a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile. Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. For best consideration, please submit materials by August 20, 2025.

**Applicants must apply directly to UC Berkeley at:** <https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/JPF04923>. Electronic submission of materials is required.

Inquiries, nominations, and referrals should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-california-berkeley-college-environmental-design/dean>.

The posted [University of California Deans' Salary Bands](#) set the pay ranges for deans. UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design dean position is included in Band 2: \$239,600 - \$611,100. The minimum salary that UC Berkeley expects to pay for this position is \$375,000.

Courtney Wilk-Mandel, Ben Tobin, Lauren Wilkes, and Cara Meyers  
Isaacson, Miller

*UC Berkeley offers excellent benefits, including medical, dental, vision and retirement plans as well as moving, relocation, and housing assistance.*

*UC Berkeley is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in our public mission of research, teaching, and service, consistent with [UC Regents Policy 4400](#) and University of California Academic Personnel policy ([APM 210 1-d](#)). These values are embedded in our [Principles of Community](#), which reflect our passion for critical inquiry, debate, discovery and innovation, and our deep commitment to contributing to a better world. Every member of the UC Berkeley community has a role in sustaining a*

*safe, caring and humane environment in which these values can thrive.*

*The University of California, Berkeley is an Equal Opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or protected veteran status.*

*For more information, please refer to the [University of California's Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination in Employment Policy](#) and the [University of California's Anti-Discrimination Policy](#).*

*This is a sensitive position and is subject to a criminal background check.*

*The University of California is committed to creating and maintaining a community dedicated to the advancement, application, and transmission of knowledge and creative endeavors through academic excellence, where all individuals who participate in University programs and activities can work and learn together in a safe and secure environment, free of violence, harassment, discrimination, exploitation, or intimidation. Consistent with this commitment, and with California State law, finalists for this position will be required to complete an Employment Misconduct Disclosure Questionnaire form indicating if they have been subject to any final administrative or judicial decisions within the last seven years determining that they committed any misconduct, and provide information related to investigations and appeals. Finalists will also be required to complete and sign an Authorization of Information Release form that authorizes current and/or previous employers to release information regarding past substantiated allegations of misconduct. Finalists will only be subject to institutional reference checks if and when they are selected as the candidate to whom the University would like to extend a formal offer. More information is available on [this website](#).*