



## **CHRIS SPENCER FOUNDATION PROFESSORSHIP IN DYSLEXIA**

The Faculty of Education invites applications for the **Chris Spencer Foundation Professorship in Dyslexia**. We seek applications that articulate a clear vision for achieving demonstrable impact in Education through advancement of knowledge and improvement in practice. In line with our commitment to honor the intent of donors whose generous gifts establish professorships, the recipient of this Professorship is charged with pursuing the following mandate, which was specified at the time the Professorship was established:

- Pursue a research program in the field of learning disabilities focusing on dyslexia and related reading and writing disabilities, through securing grant support and recruitment of graduate students.
- Provide leadership and coordination of research activities involving graduate students and faculty, in Education and across UBC; specifically, develop linkages with related UBC faculty, particularly in the Faculty of Medicine and in the area of Rehabilitation Sciences.
- Work with school communities to develop programs that will effectively meet the needs of children with dyslexia and related learning disabilities.
- Adapt graduate courses and seminars to focus on the current state of research on dyslexia and related learning disabilities, support practicum placements that provide students with learning opportunities in the area of dyslexia and related learning disabilities.
- Develop symposia for faculty and students that bring international scholars in the field to campus to explore new avenues of research.

Applicants are asked to submit the following materials for consideration by the Search Committee:

- i. Cover Letter (2 page max.)
- ii. Curriculum Vitae
- iii. Vision Statement (1500 words max.)
  - Please outline your vision for a three-year term as incumbent of the Professorship, indicating how you would implement the mandate described above, and how you would assess the impact of the proposed Professorship activities and initiatives. [To note: Current financial resources for the Spencer Professorship are limited (see below) yet the mandate for the Professorship is ambitious. In developing a vision statement, applicants are invited to focus their plans on selected elements, while still capturing the overall intent of the donor's mandate.]
- iv. Two references
  - One university affiliated faculty member external to the UBC Faculty of Education;
  - One community member with whom the applicant has been engaged on issues relevant to this professorship.

Criteria for the Search Committee's evaluation, to be evidenced in the cover letter and curriculum vitae, will include: excellence and impact of research and scholarship; record of leadership, research and programmatic activities relevant to the mandate of the Professorship; and evidence of effective graduate and undergraduate student research mentorship. Further, the vision statement will be evaluated with respect to alignment with the mandate of the Professorship; its potential for advancement of knowledge and impact on practice in schools and communities; innovation; effective use of resources; and awareness of cultural issues relevant to educational engagement and intervention.

Note: Each short-listed candidate will be asked to participate in an individual interview with the committee followed by a one-hour Question & Answer session with the Faculty of Education community. Prior to this meeting, the candidate's curriculum vitae and vision statement will be made available within the Faculty of Education.

Terms of the position:

1. The Professorship will be awarded to a **full-time, tenured** UBC faculty member at the level of **Associate/Full Professor**.
2. The Professorship will provide financial support of **\$12,000 per year**, to be directed to research activities, research assistant support, and programmatic initiatives. With approval, funds can be used for research course release. Release of funds is contingent on acceptance of a proposed Year One budget for Professorship activities.
3. Following appointment of a recommended candidate, the new incumbent will be awarded a **three year term**; at the end of the term, the incumbent may apply for reappointment as part of an open search.
4. Implementation and oversight of the Professorship, with respect to budget review and annual reporting, will be guided by the Faculty of Education's Guidelines for Endowed Chairs and Professorships, as well as Development Office requirements for annual reports to donors who fund the Professorship.

The appointment will be effective **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**, or as soon as the position is filled. The position is subject to budgetary approval. Consideration of candidates will begin on **May 18, 2015** and will continue until the position is filled. To ensure full consideration, please submit application materials by **May 18, 2015**. The start date is subject to final arrangement with the appointee.

Please submit applications to:  
Dr. Beth Haverkamp, Associate Dean  
Office of Graduate Programs and Research  
Faculty of Education  
University of British Columbia  
2125 Main Mall  
Vancouver BC, Canada V6T 1Z4  
OR via e-mail: [michael.ferrazzi@ubc.ca](mailto:michael.ferrazzi@ubc.ca)

*UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. All qualified persons are encouraged to apply. We especially welcome applications from members of visible minority groups, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities, and others with the skills and knowledge to engage productively with diverse communities. Canadians and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.*