The mission of Brown University is to serve the community, the nation, and the world by discovering, communicating, and preserving knowledge and understanding in a spirit of free inquiry, and by educating and preparing students to discharge the offices of life with usefulness and reputation. The University does this through a partnership of students and teachers in a unified community known as a university-college.
BROWN’S NINETEENTH PRESIDENT

Brown University stands today as one of the most esteemed universities in the nation, with a recognized commitment to academic excellence. With its rich history of academic and intellectual freedom, leadership position in undergraduate education, and excellent programs in graduate and medical education, Brown has emerged as a university focused on both education and scholarship. Since its founding almost 250 years ago, Brown has been a progressive, forward-looking institution with a distinct culture characterized by a rare level of interdisciplinarity, collegiality, and shared governance.

Brown achieved preeminence by establishing a collaborative university-college in which faculty are as committed to teaching as they are to research and by embracing a unique curriculum that requires students to be architects of their own education.

In selecting its nineteenth President, Brown is seeking a leader who can embody and evolve Brown’s identity with imagination, courage, and resourcefulness.

BROWN’S DISTINCTIVENESS: At the core of Brown’s distinctiveness lies its signature approach to education and scholarship, which is characterized by intellectual independence, close interaction between students and professors, a focus on the merits of a liberal education, and a commitment to research. Faculty are committed to teaching as well as scholarly research – which is conducted in conjunction with undergraduate, graduate, and medical students – and students are self-directed and intellectually mature. In addition to the undergraduate college, Brown comprises the Graduate School, the Alpert Medical School, and the newly established School of Engineering, as well as a growing program in Public Health. Brown has remained true to the same principles of diversity, fairness, and inclusion that distinguished the institution nearly 250 years ago.

BROWN’S FUTURE: Brown University is seeking as its nineteenth President a leader with a clear vision that embraces its longstanding core values and is relevant in a contemporary context. Consistent with Brown’s historic commitment to engagement at all levels, he/she will be dedicated to preparing the University, its faculty, students, and staff for the realities and opportunities of the new era we are entering. Specifically, he/she will have a global perspective and understand the ways in which Brown can enhance its impact and stature within the global academic community and ensure that all members of the Brown community can compete on an international basis. Brown will also need to expand its presence and impact locally, ensuring that Brown’s evolution benefits the broader community in Providence and Rhode Island. In addition, Brown will need to capitalize on the potential presented by the digital revolution to improve and support both teaching and research. Diversity, which has always been a priority at Brown, will continue to require investment and attention, and Brown’s next President will have a demonstrated commitment to diversity, broadly defined.
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: Over the past decade, Brown heightened its focus on academic excellence, as evidenced by the Plan for Academic Enrichment. The plan included growing the faculty by twenty percent, building new academic facilities, adopting a need-blind admissions policy, and strengthening faculty tenure and promotion processes. The next President will continue to invest in faculty, students, and infrastructure to support knowledge creation and dissemination, ensuring that investments in the academic enterprise accrue benefit to the undergraduate, graduate, and medical programs. The President also will lead the community in a collaborative way through the priority decisions and strategic resource allocations required to fulfill Brown’s promise as a prominent research university.

RESOURCEFULNESS: Brown, like other strong academic institutions, will need to steward its resources wisely. With an abiding sense of what is truly important to the next generation of students and scholars, Brown’s next President will help to identify, secure, and invest resources in innovative and strategic ways. In terms of revenue growth, this will include philanthropy, partnerships, and new programs while on the expense side it will include new approaches that enhance productivity and effectiveness. The President must have a significant level of financial and operational acumen, the ability to make a compelling case for investments, and a willingness to set strategic priorities.

FURTHER CONTEXT

Brown University was founded in 1764, making it the nation’s seventh-oldest institution of higher education. A member of the Ivy League and the Association of American Universities (AAU), Brown is renowned for the quality of its teaching, research, and student-centered curriculum.

With 6,118 undergraduates, 1,919 graduate students, 417 medical students, more than 680 full-time faculty members, and over 1,500 hospital-based and voluntary clinical faculty members working in affiliated hospitals, Brown provides both the close mentoring relationships characteristic of a liberal arts college and the intellectual excitement of a research-intensive university. The University’s distinctive undergraduate Brown Curriculum empowers students to be the architects of their own education, designing unique courses of study within the framework of rigorous concentration requirements. Mentoring and interdisciplinary collaboration also are hallmarks of graduate and medical education at Brown, and these attributes are prized elements of the intellectual and research environment.

Deeply committed to teaching and research, Brown faculty members view and engage with undergraduate, graduate, and medical students and post-doctoral scholars as vital members of their scholarly teams. More than 80 percent of the faculty have mentored undergraduate researchers. Interdisciplinary collaborations are common among faculty and between faculty and students.
The campus encompasses 238 buildings and 143 acres in historic Providence, the capital of Rhode Island. Brown’s operating budget is approximately $834 million for fiscal year 2012, with an endowment of approximately $2.5 billion. In the near future, Brown plans to continue its ambitious program of investment and campus renewal that has characterized Ruth Simmons’ presidency and has impacted the campus community in significant ways.

Ruth Simmons has announced she will step down as President of Brown University, concluding her term at the end of the current academic year. Early in her presidency, Simmons articulated a vision for Brown that would revitalize its core teaching and research activities. The Plan for Academic Enrichment and the supporting “Boldly Brown” capital campaign – which raised $1.6 billion, three times the amount raised in the prior campaign – were approved by the Corporation early in Simmons’ presidency, and the Plan continues to inform the University’s growth and strategic planning efforts today.

SEARCH PROCESS

Consistent with Brown’s custom and tradition, a Presidential Selection Committee of the Corporation is working in conjunction with a Campus Advisory Committee, comprised of faculty, student and staff representatives, in selecting the University’s next President. Members of both Committees are actively engaged in seeking input from all quarters to identify the best candidates to lead Brown into its next era of continued excellence and growth. To that end, the Committees welcome your comments, applications and nominations.

If you wish to submit your own application materials or nominate someone to serve as the next President of Brown University, please send an email with supporting materials to president_search@brown.edu.