

Position: Director(s)

ORU: Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC)

Term Start and End Date: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029

Stipend: The position comes with a stipend and course load reduction as stipulated by YUFA or OHFA Collective Agreement, as appropriate

Application Due Date: April 3 2024

Applications and nominations are invited for the position of Director(s) of the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean for a term of five years, to begin on 1 July 2024.

ORU Description and History:

The Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean is a York University-based hub for inter- and multidisciplinary research on Latin America and the Caribbean, their diasporas, and their relations with Canada and the rest of the world. It provides a meeting space for faculty, students, and visitors to discover common interests; supports their projects by facilitating grant administration, partnership formation, and the co-production and sharing of knowledge; and trains new generations of regional scholars.

Recognized since its founding in 1978 as the preeminent LAC research body in Canada, CERLAC furthers York's mandate for excellence in international and community-engaged research by producing high-quality, socially progressive scholarship in collaboration with partners throughout the Americas and close to home. Crossing boundaries between North and South and building bridges between the university and its constituents, CERLAC grounds critical reflection on Canada's role in its hemisphere.

Over the last several years, CERLAC has focused much of its energies on internal equity concerns, especially those related to racial and regional differences. An ad-hoc Equity Working Group researched and developed an equity report over two years, which elaborated several key recommendations for the Centre. We are now in the midst of a multi-year process of actioning those recommendations in a thoughtful and collaborative way. Among its key recommendations are the establishment of an ongoing equity committee, greater diversity within CERLAC's leadership, a formal mentorship program, and reactivation of CERLAC's research clusters.

It is crucial that the next Director(s) continue to prioritize the equity experience of all of our members through their decisions. In particular, they should actively pursue diverse and balanced representation in the allocation of offices and carrels, those that serve on committees and speak at our events, and those who serve as part of CERLAC's decision-making bodies and leadership, etc. If equity does not continue to be the primary concern of the next Director(s), CERLAC will not be able to accomplish the community renewal that is required for the Centre to adapt, move forward, and grow.

In pursuit of greater diversity of leadership, CERLAC's executive committee and VPRI invite not only candidates for Director to apply, but also pairs of candidates for co-Director to apply, especially when a pair of candidates represent different regions within CERLAC. If a Co-Directorship is selected by the search committee, as a first step, the two professors involved will envision and commit to distinct portfolios of responsibility between them, such that there is clarity on who is leading (and who is supporting) each area. The expectation is that co-Directors will share the workload equitably and in proportion to the off-load they receive. They will present their proposal for shared responsibilities to CERLAC's Executive Committee for approval before their term begins.

Position Requirements:

Applicants are expected to be members of the full-time faculty at York University and to have a distinguished record of scholarship and research interests. The Director(s) is/are expected to administer the financial, organizational and academic and collegial activities of the ORU, to develop external funding sources, and to maintain an active individual and collaborative research program.

Stipend:

The successful applicant(s) will receive an administrative stipend and the appropriate course load reduction as stipulated by the YUFA Collective Agreement or the OHFA Collective Agreement. The Director(s) of the Centre reports to the Associate Vice-President Research.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion:

The Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean and York University are committed to decolonization, equity, diversity, and inclusion, broadly understood. We are particularly interested in candidates with diverse backgrounds and especially encourage candidates in equity, diversity and inclusion categories. As a part of this commitment, we hope to increase the representation in ORU leadership of faculty members from two primary groups: persons of African descent and Indigenous persons. Persons identifying as members of these equity-seeking groups are particularly encouraged to apply. As an ORU focused on Latin America and the Caribbean, CERLAC is also keen to increase the representation in ORU leadership of faculty members who have lived experience within our two primary geographical regions (including inter- and trans-generational experiences).

Application Process:

Applications and nominations (including curriculum vitae and the names of three referees who may be contacted) should be sent to Nathalie LaCoste Ling (nling@yorku.ca).

Applicants are also asked to submit a statement about their vision for the Centre including goals, objectives, strategy of action and leadership style.

Applications and nominations must be received by April 3, 2024.