

POSITION PROFILE

Vice President for Student Life

December 2025





ABOUT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

Roger Williams University (RWU) dedicates our mission to strengthening society through engaged teaching, learning, and research.

Roger Williams University prepares students to be successful leaders and innovators in today's rapidly changing world. The distinctive focus on original research, engaged learning, and hands-on apprenticeships, practicums and clinical learning opportunities provides students with real-world experiences, on and off campus, that empower them to be career- and job-ready, to succeed immediately and continue to advance throughout their careers. The commitment to academic excellence, engaged learning and student success is the foundation of the university's mission. RWU delivers a world-class education and inclusive student experience.

RWU offers 50 majors and robust offerings of graduate and professional programs across eight schools of study, including Rhode Island's only law school, with campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the heart of Providence, RI.

A proud distinction of the university are the small class sizes, a 14-to-1 faculty-to-student ratio. This enables personal attention in the classroom, and a focus on undergraduate and graduate research and community engagement. A Roger Williams education blends the strength of liberal arts and professional studies, providing all students with the depth and breadth of interdisciplinary thinking and well-rounded knowledge necessary to succeed in this interconnected, global world. RWU is strengthening society through engaged teaching, learning, and research so that students graduate with the ability to think critically and apply the practical skills that today's employers demand.

Roger Williams University seeks to recruit and support a broadly diverse community of faculty and staff. RWU values diversity, equity and inclusion and respect for all races, genders, identities, and abilities and is committed to creating a thriving community that encourages lifelong learning, professional development, and academic innovation. To learn more about Roger Williams University's commitment and support of diversity and inclusion, please visit <https://www.rwu.edu/who-we-are/diversity-equity-inclusion>.

UNIVERSITY POINTS OF PRIDE

- **Student-to-Faculty Ratio** and Class Size is 14:1 for undergraduate programs. Students have a more personalized experience at Roger Williams University.
- **96% of RWU graduates** succeed by securing employment or graduate school within 6 months of graduation.
- **Powerful combinations are encouraged at RWU and** cross disciplines, majors, minors, graduate programs, JD, internships, leadership opportunities, research collaborations, and student activities.
- **Location matters at RWU** with innovative Marine and Natural Sciences building which is home to an aquatic animal diagnostic lab and the state's only shellfish hatchery. The proximity to the ocean supports the popular Marine Biology program which allows students to explore the aquatic world through lectures, labs, fieldwork, and independent research.
- **Real-world learning** is engrained through our undergraduate curriculum with an Experiential Learning Requirement.
- **Applied Learning Labs** offer real-world experience with new labs going online each year. The Richard L. Bready Applied Learning Laboratories is a 27,325-square-foot building with seven advanced labs and senior-design project rooms.
- **Global opportunities for our students** include innovative faculty-led programs, international partnerships (e.g., in the Dominican Republic that span multiple disciplines), and external program providers offering experiences around the world.
- **RWU is the only School of Law in the state of Rhode Island** and is ABA accredited receiving recognition for 'best price'. Students provide our local communities with pro bono legal services, serving real needs within our communities with more than 100 hours of service before graduation.
- **RWU Extension School serves a wide variety of learners** from our Providence campus offering certificates, associate's/bachelor's degrees, professional training, apprenticeships and micro-credentials.
- **Our Sailing program was home of the No. 1 collegiate champs in the nation in 2024.** RWU Sailing won the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association National Championship team race event and has finished second three times in the last decade.

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



President Ioannis Miaoulis

In 2019 Ioannis Miaoulis (pronounced YAH-nis Me-OW-lis) was appointed the 11th President of Roger Williams University. Prior to his appointment at RWU, President Miaoulis served as the President and Director of the Museum of Science in Boston and as the Assistant Provost and Dean of the School of Engineering at Tufts University. He has led large-scale efforts to spark passion for innovation and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education among young learners around the world.

President Miaoulis has helped lead transformations at the university in leadership, philanthropy and planning. Under his tenure, RWU announced [a \\$20 million partnership with Cummings Foundation](#) and dedicated the Cummings School of Architecture and the new Cummings Institute for Real Estate. He has also overseen the opening of the Richard L. Bready Applied Learning Labs, a state-of-the-art experiential learning building in engineering, computing and construction management; the transformation of the School of Engineering, Computing and Construction Management as a hub of science and emerging technology innovation, featuring a new interdisciplinary Data and Modeling Lab; and the opening of an interdisciplinary Design Thinking Studio in the Mario J. Gabelli School of Business.

ABOUT STUDENT LIFE

Student Life and Campus Experience

- RWU's dining program is consistently recognized for excellence, ranked No. 21 in the nation on Niche's Best College Food list, with a recently renovated Upper Commons.
- Students can get involved at RWU through more than 80 clubs and organizations spanning academic, service, performance, and special interest groups, fostering community and leadership outside the classroom.
- Residence Life offers a range of housing options for nearly 2400 of our 3500 undergraduate students. The housing portfolio ranges from traditional halls to apartment-style living in communities like Bayside and North Campus, and the off-campus Almeida Residential Community in Bristol with fully furnished apartment options and private kitchens.
- RWU's Living-Learning Communities connect students around shared interests such as sustainability and pop culture, helping new students build community from day one. Pet-friendly housing options are available in designated areas of Willow and Almeida, adding a unique residential experience for students who want to bring pets to campus.
- With coastal New England surroundings and a waterfront campus overlooking Mount Hope Bay, RWU offers outdoor recreation and scenic connection to Bristol's historic downtown and regional attractions. rwu.edu

Athletics and Club Sports

- RWU Hawks compete at the NCAA Division III level primarily in the Conference of New England, with 23 varsity sports and a growing roster of programs including men's and women's ice hockey and women's golf.
- The sailing team competes at the national level under the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association, with multiple sailors earning All-America honors in recent seasons. RWU Sailing won the 2024 College Sailing Open Team Race National Championship
- RWU has a strong tradition of athletic achievement with more than 50 student-athletes named All-Americans over the years and more than 100 Academic All-Americans, highlighting excellence on the field and in the classroom.
- Club sports further contribute to a vibrant co-curricular athletic culture, with RWU Women's Rugby earning national championship in 2007 (NERFU Division IV) and 2014 (NSCRO Women's National Championship).





THE ROLE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE

As the University's Chief Student Affairs Officer, the Vice President for Student Life provides visionary and transformative leadership for a comprehensive, student-centered portfolio that shapes the educational, social, and personal development of every Roger Williams University student. The VPSL sets strategic direction and ensures operational excellence across a wide range of student life functions that collectively define the residential experience and the day-to-day life of the campus, from engagement and housing to wellness, safety, and community standards. Leading within a unionized environment, the VPSL builds strong, collaborative relationships with represented staff and advances a culture of transparency, respect, and shared purpose in service of student success.

The VPSL will be a visible, accessible presence in the life of the community and our students, deeply engaged with students, faculty, and staff, serving as an advocate for an inclusive, thriving student community. The successful candidate will possess a deep understanding of contemporary student needs, including mental health and wellness, inclusion and belonging, and co-curricular learning that extends the academic and professional development of our students. While the VPSL is not expected to be a clinical practitioner in any one area, they must be highly attuned to national trends and best practices, able to support and empower strong professional teams, and capable of leading campuswide strategies that amplify student success.

A defining element of this role over the years ahead is being a strategic and collaborative campus partner and architect in advancing RWU's emerging Life Design philosophy, a holistic framework that will advance student retention and success by empowering students to explore, build skills, and design meaningful lives and careers of impact and purpose. The VPSL will partner closely with the Center for Career and Professional Development, Academic Affairs, to help shape and initiate all the activities of a soon-to-be-constructed new Campus Center that will be the central hub of Life Design and the student experience. The next VPSL will deepen the integration between academic and co-curricular learning, strengthening collaborations that support retention, belonging, and the overall student journey.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A New Campus Center as a Catalyst for the Next Era of Student Life

The next major construction project for campus, a forthcoming Campus Center, represents a rare opportunity to design a cohesive and modern student life ecosystem. The VPSL will function as a key institutional leader shaping the facility's programming, aligning it with the University's Life Design model, and enhancing the total portfolio of student programming, events, and engagement pathways that reflect the needs of today's students.

Enhancing the Residential and Co-Curricular Experience

With a three-year residency requirement and a vibrant athletics and recreation program, RWU's environment offers rich opportunities to deepen engagement. The VPSL will strengthen partnerships across Residence Life, Athletics, Dining, and student organizations, ensuring cohesive, high-quality experiences that reinforce belonging, persistence, and student success across all aspects of campus life.

Strengthening a Culture of Belonging and Connection

RWU's students value relationships, community, and a sense of place as a coastal university. The next VPSL will enhance a campus culture where every student feels connected, welcomed, and able to find their community from orientation to graduation. This includes expanding and honoring traditions, elevating student engagement, and ensuring that programming resonates with an increasingly diverse student body while remaining grounded in RWU's mission and values.

Advancing Collaboration Across Academic and Student Life

There is significant opportunity to deepen alignment with Academic Affairs, faculty partners, advising, and Life Design initiatives. The VPSL will help shape a shared vision of student success that spans academic and co-curricular learning, strengthens the residential experience, and builds new bridges that support persistence and retention across the full student lifecycle.

Evolving Approaches to Student Well-Being and Mental Health

RWU seeks a leader who can champion proactive, comprehensive strategies that support all aspects of student mental health and well-being. The VPSL will guide coordinated efforts across counseling, health education, case management, and student care teams, ensuring that staff are well-trained and prepared and that students receive timely, compassionate, and developmentally grounded support.

Assessment, Data, and Modernization

RWU is committed to evidence-informed decision-making that is collaborative and inclusive of other campus decision makers. The VPSL will provide executive leadership in elevating assessment practices across the division, strengthening systems and technologies that support the student experience, and using data-informed insights to guide continuous improvement and measure impact.

Leading with Care, Clarity, and Operational Strength

The Student Life division is large and complex. The VPSL will steward resources thoughtfully, advocate for staff development and empowerment across a division that includes both non-represented and unionized staff, champion transparent communication, and model an inclusive leadership style that strengthens team culture and builds a shared purpose that puts students first.

QUALIFICATIONS AND ATTRIBUTES

The successful candidate will bring substantial experience in leading student affairs or related functions in higher education, with demonstrated success fostering inclusive, student-centered environments. The next VPSL will be an accomplished and collaborative leader who inspires trust and advances student success through partnership, innovation, and care.

Desired qualifications include:

- A forward-thinking, creative approach to student engagement, including facility with introducing new ideas, modernizing traditions, and designing programs aligned with contemporary student needs.
- A record of progressively responsible leadership within student affairs or a closely related area, ideally at the cabinet or senior level.
- Deep understanding of the residential university experience.
- Demonstrated commitment to fostering environments of belonging, inclusion, and engagement.

- Experience managing within higher education and within complex, unionized environments.
- Fiscal and operational acumen to oversee large budgets and multi-functional teams.
- A collaborative, transparent, and student-centered leadership style.
- A master's degree in higher education, student affairs, or a related field (doctoral degree preferred).

Additional qualities and attributes welcomed by RWU include:

- A visible and accessible presence across campus, with an authentic interest in students and their lived experience.
- Strong collaborative orientation, with the ability to span boundaries effectively with Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, DEI, and all other campus offices and community relationships.
- A leadership style grounded in empathy, fairness, and clarity, combined with the confidence to make timely decisions.
- Experience supporting teams engaged in counseling, health education, crisis response, or well-being initiatives, and the skill to lead campuswide strategies for student support.
- Capacity to oversee complex operational areas, including housing, dining, athletics, recreation, campus safety, and student conduct.
- Demonstrated ability to remain current with national trends in student life and to guide the development, revision, and implementation of policies that enhance the student experience
- An ability to cultivate a positive team culture that supports professional growth, shared purpose, and organizational excellence.
- Commitment to fostering belonging and supporting students of all identities, with a commitment to inclusive excellence in developing staff and the student experience.
- Experience overseeing or partnering closely with intercollegiate athletics, bringing an understanding of the evolving NCAA landscape and the strategic capacity to align athletics programming with student success, enrollment, retention, and diversity priorities.

NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. The priority consideration deadline for submission is February 1, 2026. Confidential nominations and inquiries are welcome. Along with a resume or curriculum vitae, candidates should provide a letter of interest addressing how their background aligns with key themes of this prospectus.

Materials should be submitted electronically at:

<http://rwu.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=195919>





BRISTOL & PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

From a quaint New England town to the center of the capital city, Roger Williams University has two campuses that provide students with diverse learning experiences and opportunities. Both campuses are home to a tight-knit community of citizen scholars, leaders, world travelers, athletes, environmentalists, artists, music fans, thinkers, and doers.

RWU's main campus is located in Bristol, Rhode Island, a historic town that is home to the nation's oldest Fourth of July parade. The campus sits on a sprawling 143 acres overlooking Mount Hope Bay and is just minutes from downtown Bristol – home to restaurants, ice cream shops, boutiques, antique shops, the East Bay Bike Path, and Colt State Park. It is only a 30-minute drive to Providence and Newport, Rhode Island's beach capital, and a 60-minute drive to Boston with New York just three-hours down the road.

BRISTOL



Bristol is ranked among the [Best small towns in America](#), [Safest Cities in America](#), and most Interesting Destinations in the U.S.

Nestled between New York City and Boston, a half hour from Newport, RI, Bristol is a quiet, serene waterfront town with lots of rich history, and local flavor with state parks, ferries, restaurants, shops, and a paved walking path that spans up to Providence.

Town of Bristol, RI

<https://www.bristolri.gov/quality-of-life/>

PROVIDENCE



Providence is dubbed the Creative Capital, and the city is home to amazing restaurants, concerts, festivals and the internationally-acclaimed WaterFire. It's consistently rated as one of America's favorite food cities by *Travel + Leisure* magazine and is filled with great shops and a thriving music scene. RWU'S campus in Providence, RI, home of RWU EXT, which offers flexible programs in the trades as well as professional studies. The Providence campus also hosts the MBA program, several graduate program classes, and our law school clinics.

City of Providence: <https://www.providenceri.gov/>