

POSITION PROFILE

Dean, Feinstein School of Social and Natural Sciences

January 2026



RWU
Roger Williams
UNIVERSITY



ABOUT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

Roger Williams University's mission is to strengthening society through engaged teaching, learning, and research.

Roger Williams University (RWU) 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 to 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 45 majors and has 70+ minors available. RWU has 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 is the small class sizes. Our 14-to-1 faculty-to-student ratio allows students to have expansive access to our faculty—as instructors, academic advisors, and mentors. This enables personal attention in the classroom, and a personalized 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 ingrained 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 and associate's/bachelor's degrees, as well as professional training, apprenticeships, and micro-credentials.

Leadership



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.



Margaret Everett has served as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs since 2020. She is the strategic leader across RWU's six schools of study and the RWU Extension School collaborating with faculty and staff on the design of new academic models and programs that enhance the university's mission to strengthen society through engaged teaching and learning. Previously she has served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Lesley University and as Dean of Graduate Students and Vice Provost for International Affairs at Portland State University.

Dr. Everett holds a PhD and M.Phil in anthropology from Yale University and a Bachelor of Arts in Latin American Studies from Smith College. She has published extensively in the areas of public health and urbanization in Latin America through an anthropological and sociological lens.

Strategic Action Plan

With a unique mix of liberal arts and professional programs, top-notch faculty, the state's only law school, and hubs of innovation in Providence and Bristol, Rhode Island, RWU is poised to align its efforts and provide what the world needs from a modern, comprehensive university. As a result, the university continually seeks new partners, adapts strategies and focuses on making a difference with the communities and organizations served by the institution.

Five strategic priorities emerged from the Strategic Action Plan. These provide a guiding framework for the years ahead for collective, divisional, and individual initiatives across the university. They include seeking ongoing opportunities to engage with the RWU community, the greater community and industry partners; refining efforts toward that goal continually; seeking new solutions; and using integration of institutional efforts and academic planning as an ongoing and iterative culture of planning. [Click here to learn more about RWU's action plan.](#)

Accreditations

Roger Williams University is accredited by several different accreditation bodies, including the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), the Association to Advance Collegiate Business Schools (AACSB), the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), and the American Bar Association (ABA), among others. [Click here to view all RWU's accreditations.](#)

ABOUT THE FEINSTEIN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES



Home to the Biology, Marie Biology, Environmental Science; Chemistry; Mathematics & Physics; Public Health; and Psychology departments, the Feinstein School of Social and Natural Sciences (SSNS) is a nationally recognized leader in undergraduate education in the social and natural sciences. SSNS is also home to the Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED)

which focuses on the Blue Economy at the local, regional, national, and global level through collaborative marine research, industry support, marine education, public outreach, engagement, and extension.

Our Marine and Natural Sciences (MNS) building is just a few hundred yards from Mount Hope Bay and provides direct access to the waterfront and aquatic research facilities with flowing seawater. This allows opportunity to conduct marine field- and lab-based research year-round. The MNS building is equipped with a Wet Lab, a commercial-scale Shellfish Hatchery and Farm, Aquatic Diagnostic Laboratory, Gagliardi Laboratory for Research in the Chemical Sciences, Molecular Biology laboratory, and research greenhouses. MNS houses advanced laboratory resources, including a confocal laser microscope, an epifluorescence microscope, a flow cytometer, a particle counter, thermal cyclers, controlled environmental growth chambers, and analytical chemistry instrumentation. Onboard RWU's research vessel, the *InVincible Spirit*, our faculty, staff, and students launch from our own 200-ft learning platform/dock for coursework, water quality testing, or collection of aquatic organisms.



Programs at the Feinstein School of Social and Natural Sciences prepare students for a variety of careers in the social or natural sciences. Programs focus on developing students skilled in analytical thinking, research methods, quantitative reasoning, and sociocultural learning. SSNS also offers undergraduate certificates as well as the opportunity for specialization within certain majors. All of our programs incorporate experiential learning through hands-on coursework, research, and internships, and the university's general education requirement assures students of an extensive and effective background in the transdisciplinary study of the social sciences and humanities.

The Department of Biology, Marine Biology, and Environmental Science provides high-quality education to our students, through a broadly-based academic program, and opportunities and support for undergraduate research. Students publish papers, present at conferences, and contribute to scientific advances. Lab-based courses ensure all majors are proficient in research skills, and many students continue working 1:1 with faculty on research leading up to senior theses.

The Chemistry Department offers American Chemical Society-certified B.S. degrees in Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Environmental Chemistry. Students can collaborate with faculty on research as early as their first year, presenting their research at chemistry meetings across the U.S. Through rigorous coursework combined with research and internships, students develop the laboratory, critical thinking, and research skills to succeed in graduate school, medical school, or a career in chemistry or bioscience.

The Mathematics and Physics Department provides a variety of courses and programs for those who need advanced training in mathematics and physics to pursue professional, educational, and technical careers. There is enough flexibility in the programs to allow a large choice of electives, and the programs, when combined with further study in a second area, can provide an excellent foundation for graduate or professional study in the physical sciences, computer science, engineering, or business.

The Public Health Department offers Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees, preparing graduates for careers in the diverse domains of the Public Health field. All Public Health majors graduate with strong skills in science, mathematics, ethics, social analysis, and cultural awareness, along with excellence in written and oral communication. Students pursuing a major in Public Health complete two field experiences, one of which is a semester-long field experience, connecting what they learn in the classroom to a contemporary public health issue.

The Psychology Department programs prepare students to pursue graduate study in psychology and other fields, or to enter a number of careers, including human resources, management, marketing, education and mental health professions. Our Master of Arts in Forensic Mental Health Counseling leaves students license-eligible and prepares them to provide mental health services in forensic or legal settings. Our Master of Science in General Psychology program is designed for students who wish to obtain additional research experience to strengthen and/or focus their applications to PhD programs in Psychology.

All SSNS programs develop well-rounded graduates, with the knowledge and skills to succeed in their careers or future study. Our graduates go on to successful careers, work on the forefront of climate change research, make a difference through science in action, pursue Ph.D. degrees, or, with the support of RWU's robust Pre-Health Advising program, pursue advanced degrees in health fields.





Feinstein School of Social and Natural Sciences Highlights

- SSNS faculty and staff receive \$1.2 million in federal, state and international research funding for projects ranging from studying local marine viruses to jellyfish predation.
- Each summer, over 35 students participate in immersive research through the EPSCoR Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship and other programs. The new Blue Fellows program, part of RWU's Blue Solutions Institute, provides students across the sciences and business majors with summer internships at laboratories, aquaculture facilities, and research-focused nonprofits and marine businesses.
- A Marine Biology and Environmental Science double major earned third place at the 2025 World Aquaculture Society Conference for research on sustainable seafood production.
- Students regularly earn recognition for research presented at the American Chemical Society's annual meetings.
- The Department of Public Health works closely with many community organizations and with the Rhode Island Public Health Association. Department faculty serve on executive boards with various community organizations, and their research and expertise directly contribute to state and local public health initiatives. The department also has the only endowed public Health focused Policy Lab in the State.
- SSNS partners with leading scientific organizations from the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program to Aqua Vet and the Atlantic Shark Institute, bringing research and internship opportunities to students and training for professionals across the sciences.
- The Aquatic Diagnostic Laboratory developed an early-detection cancer test for hardshell clams that will help farmers identify and manage this disease that decimates crops.
- SSNS convenes global scientists and researchers through international conferences focused on the marine aquarium trade, coral reef research, and aquaculture food systems.
- Our graduate students in psychology complete practica and internships in forensic settings such as Eleanor Slater Hospital and the Massachusetts Treatment Center.
- Students in Psychology work closely with Brain Waves RI, an organization co-founded by Dr. Victoria Heimer-McGinn, with the mission to "make brain science accessible to everyone and highlight neuroscience research happening in the Ocean State."

THE OPPORTUNITY

Dean, Feinstein School of Social and Natural Sciences



Under the direction of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Feinstein School of Social and Natural Science Dean is the principal academic of the school and advances the mission of the university, contributes both academic and administrative leadership, and provides the first level of review for matters within the school. The Dean will provide and manage effective support mechanisms for faculty and students and assist in the development and implementation of the school's long-range strategic plan and diversity initiatives. The Dean provides leadership and management for the school in the areas of the quality and content of the curriculum, successful student outcomes, budgeting, and faculty and staff recruitment and development. Additionally, the Dean is responsible for new program development and represents the school externally with employers, donors, and industry.

Essential Functions/Characteristics

- Provide leadership for and oversee the development, coordination, organization, scheduling and supervision of instructional programs in the school, and promote interdisciplinary collaboration with programs in other academic units of the university.
- Provide leadership for school strategic planning efforts and participate in university strategic planning as part of the academic leadership team.
- Articulate the annual and longer-term goals of the school.
- Oversee the development of curriculum initiatives, including graduate program development, with faculty, and shepherd those initiatives through the appropriate approval process.
- Develop, maintain, and manage budgets according to the timeline of the university, review proposed budgets, and make recommendations to the provost.
- Allocate resources to the programs within the school, including faculty, support staff, budgets, and space.

- Plan, develop, and manage the school's day-to-day operations.
- Ensure that reports, course schedules, and other written material are submitted in a timely manner.
- Support faculty in teaching, scholarship, and grant writing.
- Provide leadership in hiring, retaining, mentoring, managing, and evaluating faculty and non-faculty staff.
- Ensure the school's compliance with all program and institutional accreditation standards and external regulatory and accreditation standards/bodies, where applicable, including oversight and support of program assessment and evaluation.
- Proactively pursue and participate in fundraising and grant proposals either personally or through faculty and/or staff members of the school.
- Administer and maintain accurate records for students, faculty, and staff, such as advising reports, professional development plans, annual evaluations, and other personnel records as appropriate for specific program needs and responsibilities of the school.
- Provide oversight for the promotion, tenure, and post-tenure review process and recommend faculty reappointments, promotions, tenure, sabbatical leaves, committee appointments, and other teaching program assignments to the provost within the parameters of the faculty contract.
- Participate in admissions activities, including orientation sessions, open houses, admissions days and other programs for prospective students.
- Resolve student or faculty concerns and complaints.
- Maintain compliance with safety and health codes in buildings, classes, laboratories and in faculty/student research.

Additional Functions

- Periodically teach an in-discipline course, schedule permitting and in consultation with the provost.
- Respect and maintain confidentiality, parameters of operation, professional protocols, and individual privacy.
- Perform other administrative/instructional duties assigned by the provost.

Required Qualifications

- Terminal degree in a field of study relevant to the programs within the Feinstein School of Social and Natural Science.
- A record of successful teaching and scholarship.
- Experience with program leadership and faculty development.
- Ability to relate to and work with students in various aspects of their academic pursuits.
- Good interpersonal, management, and conflict resolution skills.
- Ability to establish organizational priorities and make difficult choices among competing demands.
- Ability to foster continuous and open communication for faculty, staff, and students.
- The ideal candidate will be a collaborative, inclusive, strategic-thinking leader who will leverage the school's current strengths while advancing program innovation and growth.



PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

Roger Williams University will begin a confidential review of application materials immediately and continue until the position is filled; parties who apply by February 15, 2026, will be given first consideration. Please include a resume, cover letter, and list of four professional references (to include one supervisor, one direct report, and one colleague/peer in addition to two others).

All applications will be held in confidence.

Questions may be directed to the Provost's Office via email to Lisa Quinn (lquinn@rwu.edu).





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 is ranked among:

- [Best small towns in America](#)
- [Safest Cities in America](#)
- Most Interesting U.S. Destinations

In addition to our Bristol location, we also have a 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.



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.

Click here to learn more:

Town of Bristol, RI: <https://www.bristolri.gov/quality-of-life/>
City of Providence: <https://www.providenceri.gov/>