

PROFILE: Professor Janaka Ruwanpura, Ph.D., P.Eng., PQS, MRICS, FCSCE, NAC



Professor Janaka Ruwanpura is the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (International) (equivalent to Pro-Vice-Chancellor in the UK system) at the University of Calgary. He is a winner of 2022's Top 25 Canadian Immigrants by the Canadian Immigrants Magazine, introduced by the Prime Minister of Canada. He was the elected Executive Chair (2019-21) of the Commission of International Initiatives of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) as the first Canadian and Non-American to chair any councils and commissions of APLU. He is a full professor who served as Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Project Management Systems (2007-13) in the Schulich School of Engineering at the University of Calgary, Canada, before becoming the Vice-Provost International in 2013. He was the Founding Director of the Centre for Project Management Excellence at the University of Calgary and has been the Director of Project Management since 2005. He earned his Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, in 1992, a Master of Science in Construction Management from Arizona State University in 1997, and a Ph.D. in

Construction Engineering and Management from the University of Alberta in 2001. Professor Ruwanpura joined the University of Calgary as an assistant professor in 2001.

Prof. Ruwanpura, a former US Fulbright scholar, has developed many best practices and tools that have been successfully implemented in the construction industry for productivity improvement, project management, project planning, construction management, risk management, decision analysis and sustainability. He has published over 180 technical papers in refereed journals and conference proceedings. Prof. Ruwanpura has also been recognized with many national and international awards for teaching, research, innovation, leadership, service, graduate education and internationalization. These awards include the "Industry Partnership Award" in 2012 for his contribution to the Canadian Construction Industry in terms of collaboration, innovation and transformation, Walter Shanly career award for construction engineering from the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (2012), Brian D. Dunfield Education Service from the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (2012), "Immigrants of Distinction Award" for his contributions in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math from Immigrant Services Calgary (2016), Life Time Achievement Award from Sri Lanka Foundation in Los Angeles (2016), International Achievement Award from the City of Calgary (2020) and the Board of Directors Leadership Award for Internationalization from the Canadian Bureau for International Education (2020). During his Vice-Provost role, he was active in research and received two awards – prestigious Alberta Science and Technology's for one of his research projects under "Outstanding Achievement in Applied Technology" (2018) and a research achievement award from the Schulich School of Engineering (2017). He was inducted as a Distinguished Alumni to the Academy of the School of Sustainable Engineering and Built Environment, Arizona State University (2019).

As the recipient of the University of Calgary's International Achievement Award in 2006, Prof. Ruwanpura's passion for international activities grew over the years. The University of Calgary appointed him as the Vice-Provost (International) in 2013 to lead the University's international strategy. Prof. Ruwanpura had agreed to give up his second term of the Canada Research Chair appointment to lead the University's Internationalization efforts due to his passion and interests in this area. Before being appointed as Vice-Provost (International), his international activities were comprehensive, including teaching, training, research, administration, and service activities. He also served as the convener (from 2010) and co-leader for the International Institute for Infrastructure Renewal and Reconstruction, a multi-university consortium of over 20 universities worldwide, which has collaborative research in disaster planning and management.

During his 9 years as VPI and Associate Vice-President Research, he has brought new initiatives to the University of Calgary, including developing and implementing collaborative degree models for undergraduate and graduate levels, offering customized training and capacity building programs, co-developing Global Research Initiatives and Sites in China and Mexico and raising funding for research and infrastructure (over \$57 Million), establishing and promoting new research opportunities and partnerships in several countries (USA, UK, Germany, China,

Mexico, Norway, India, etc.), promoting and developing new funding models (over \$1 Million per year) for opportunities for students' international experience and to enhance global exposure for faculty and staff and securing, raising research internships through MITACS (\$5.4 Million), lobbying for international development grants (over \$25 Million), establishing an international research and partnership unit and building a strategic university alliance with Curtin and Aberdeen universities. Because of some of these initiatives, UCalgary has won 6 competitive awards since 2016, including the "Comprehensive Internationalization" award from the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) and the "Platinum" Institutional Award for "Global Learning, Research & Engagement" from APLU. He also led to the development of an International Partnership Assessment Rating Index (IPARI) to assess existing university partnerships, identify top partners in each country and develop strategic partnerships. UCalgary received the Catalyst award for innovation for IPARI from CBIE (2019) and the Innovation Award in Internationalization (2020) from the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA).

He is a licensed professional engineer (P.Eng.) in Alberta and a professional quantity surveyor (PQS) in Canada. He is also a Professional/Chartered Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, UK (MRICS) and a fellow of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (FCSCE). Professor Ruwanpura has been a CBIE board member since 2020 and elected member of the Council of Research at APLU since 2021. He was recently inducted into the National Academy of Construction (NAC) in the USA and received Gold Seal Certification (GSC) from the Canadian Construction Association.



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