

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Professor/Associate Professor in Food Systems Research	Grade:	AC4 (Associate Professor) or AC5 (Professor)
Department:	Natural Resources Institute (NRI): Food and Markets Department	Date of Job Evaluation:	March 2024
Role reports to:	Head of Foods and Markets Department	SOC Code	2311
Direct Reports	TBD – researchers		
This role profile is non-contractual and provided for guidance. It will be updated and amended from time to time in accordance with the changing needs of the University and the requirements of the job.			

PURPOSE OF ROLE:

The Natural Resources Institute (NRI) of the University of Greenwich is currently expanding its transdisciplinary research excellence in food systems. This expansion reflects recent funding successes, including funding by Research England as part of their highly competitive "Expanding Excellence in England" E3 scheme, the UK Food Systems Centre for Doctoral Training, the development of the Medway Food Innovation Centre (MFIC) under the UKRI funded "Growing Kent & Medway" project and the establishment of a Food Systems Research Centre.

As a transdisciplinary institute, our research includes the entire range of actors and covers the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal (loss or waste) of food products originating from agriculture (including livestock), forestry, fisheries and food industries, along with the broader economic, societal and physical environments in which these activities are embedded ([von Braun et al., 2021](#)) and contribute to sustainability of future food systems, supporting food security and nutrition for all.

Research Professor/Associate Professor

This role is intended to lead NRI's research in food systems in the UK in low- and middle-income countries and globally. The post-holder will need a PhD and academic background in food or consumer science, nutrition, economics, food engineering or environmental sustainability with experience in food systems research that is interdisciplinary in orientation and international in outlook and experience.

The role holder will be required to:

- Lead transdisciplinary research in Food Systems supported by a long-term vision that aligned with the NRI's and the University's strategy and core values.
- Inspire and coordinate food systems research activities across disciplines, the Department, Research Centres, Institute, and the University.

- Establish a long-term funding stream and partnership to support and grow this vision.
- Provide management support to the UK Food Systems Centre for Doctoral Training. The CDT is contracted to run through to September 2027. <https://foodsystems-cdt.ac.uk/>

As an authority and leading international scholar, the successful candidate will be expected to provide strategic research leadership and coordinate transdisciplinary research that addresses food systems-related issues. The candidate should have a proven record of attracting external research and other grants and the ability to add value to the NRI's and the University's strategic aims. The post holder is expected to have, and maintain, strong partner relationships at regional, national, and international levels. An outstanding, sustained, record of high-quality, internationally recognised, publication outputs is essential.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

Team Specific:

The role holder will be required to:

- Lead transdisciplinary research in Food Systems supported by a long-term vision that aligned with the NRI's and the University's strategy and core values.
- Inspire and coordinate food systems research activities across disciplines, the Department, Research Centres, Institute and the University.
- Establish a long-term funding stream and partnership to support and grow this vision.
- Provide management support to the UK Food Systems Centre for Doctoral Training. The CDT is contracted to run through to September 2027. <https://foodsystems-cdt.ac.uk/>
- Provide strategic research leadership and coordinate transdisciplinary research that addresses food systems-related issues.
- Bid for, lead and manage external research and other grants and the ability to add value to the NRI's and the University's strategic aims.
- Build and maintain strong partner relationships at regional, national, and international levels.
- Maintain an outstanding, sustained, record of high-quality, internationally recognised, publication outputs.

Generic:

- Clear recognition and esteem as an authority and leading figure by the international academic community in their disciplinary area
- Overall accountability for the acquisition and management of external research resources
- Integration of research and scholarship into published teaching or training materials
- Maintain high professional standing in their discipline
- Further develop their own scholarly profile, including a programme of high quality research, disseminated primarily in high-quality peer-reviewed academic journals or similar avenues appropriate for the subject

- Efficiently implement approved policies, guidelines and standard operating procedures in relation to own academic duties.
- Maintain an overview of the welfare, progression, examination and assessment of allocated students
- Keep abreast of development within their discipline and profession and seek continuous improvement of own professional practice.
- Undertake other such duties as may from time to time be directed by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Knowledge Exchange.
- Represent NRI at Faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange fora.

Managing Self:

- Develop expertise in research- led teaching with an increasing degree of autonomy
- Actively participate in established professional development framework activities
- Behave in a manner which reflects the University values and creates a positive environment for work and study
- Maintain a high standard of student engagement and satisfaction, and seek to maximise the learning outcomes of students

Core Requirements:

- Evidence of academic citizenship/leadership
- Adhere to and promote the University's policies on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Information Security;
- Ensure compliance with Health & Safety and Data Protection Legislation;
- Support and promote the university's Sustainability policies, including the Carbon Management Plan, and carry out duties in a resource efficient way, recognising the shared responsibility of minimising the university's negative environmental impacts wherever possible
- Adhere to current legal requirements and best practice relating to digital content and accessibility, including Web Content Accessibility Guidelines when creating digital content.

Additional Requirements:

The post-holder must be prepared to travel regularly in the UK and overseas and work flexible hours as required by specific circumstances. The post is based on the Medway campus of the University of Greenwich.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs):

- Achievement of the University, Faculty and NRI Strategic Plan KPIs.
- Achievement of the Research and Knowledge Exchange sub-strategy KPIs.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS (Internal & External):

- Director NRI
- NRI Deputy Director/Associate Director (Research & Knowledge Exchange)
- Faculty Associate Dean (Research & Knowledge Exchange)
- DVC Research and Knowledge Exchange

- NRI Centre Leads
- NRI Research Groups
- NRI colleagues, Funders
- Research & Knowledge Exchange Partners
- NRI Lead Post Graduate Research

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential	Desirable
<p>Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International standing and credibility in an appropriate field of food systems research • Extensive knowledge of current developments and challenges in food systems research and practice • Experience in leading large transdisciplinary research teams • Proven track record of publishing a significant and sustained (AC5)/sustained (AC4) body of internationally influential and impactful outputs as a leading, corresponding or senior author • Proven, sustained track record of successful supervision of student research activities of at various levels, including leadership supervision and completion of PhDs (Appropriate to level AC4/AC5) • Proven track record of leading and winning external funding bids (Appropriate to level AC4/AC5) • Proven track record of leading research or professional teams and large projects in complex multidisciplinary environments (Appropriate to level AC4/AC5) • Proven track record of working with and managing complex, diverse public and private sector stakeholder relationships at international, national and regional levels so as to achieve research impact on policy and practice • Experience of and willingness to undertake regular short-term local, regional and international travel, including to low- and middle-income countries. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the mechanisms for funding research and enterprise 	<p>Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of teaching or training in a higher education organisation or equivalent • Proven track record of developing and implementing research and enterprise strategies and policies (Appropriate to level AC4/AC5) • Working knowledge of aspects essential to Student Success including: quality assurance/enhancement and academic standards at Post Graduate Level • Experience in knowledge exchange within an academic environment • Demonstrable track record of engaging with businesses, the public sector or society in general, to address food systems challenges at the levels of international excellence in terms of reach and significance • Food systems policy engagement and/or research <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working knowledge of a second language of relevance to NRI's work

