

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Professor (AC5)/Associate Professor (AC4) of Food and Agriculture Policy Research career pathway	Grade:	AC4/AC5
Department:	Livelihoods and Institutions and, Food and Markets	Date of Job Evaluation:	
Role reports to:	Head of Department		
Direct Reports	To be decided		
Indirect Reports:	To be decided		
Other Key contacts:	Director/Deputy Director of NRI, FaNSI Partnerships Director, Leaders of FaNSI Programmes, NRI colleagues, Funders, Research Partners		

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 interdisciplinary research excellence to address food and nutrition security, especially in Africa. This expansion in capacity is funded by Research England as part of their highly competitive “Expanding Excellence in England” scheme, where NRI has received funding to appoint 22 members of staff, recruit 20 PhD students and enhance our research facilities.

Using a food systems approach, NRI and partners will focus on climate change, sustainable agricultural intensification, food loss and waste, and improved nutrition. More information on NRI’s Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (FaNSI) can be found at www.nri.org/FaNSI.

Whilst increased productivity of agricultural systems has contributed to economic growth and improved livelihoods, it has not effectively addressed the diverse nutritional challenges in low and middle-income countries. Sustainable improvements in human nutrition require efficient and equitable food systems, which enable on-going access to safe and nutritious food for all.

This particular role is intended to expand NRI’s capacity for research on food and agricultural policies at global, regional and local levels. The post-holder may have a main disciplinary background in agricultural science, nutrition, economics or other relevant science or social science discipline but will be interdisciplinary in orientation and international in outlook and experience. Candidates are expected to have an in-depth understanding of smallholder agriculture, especially in Africa, and familiarity with evidence-based approaches for identifying agricultural policies that strengthen the sustainability and resilience of (smallholder) agriculture to long and short term shocks such as climate change, conflict and increased urbanisation. This role cuts across the four programme areas of NRI’s FaNSI i.e. climate change, sustainable agricultural intensification, food loss and waste and food systems for improved nutrition.

Candidates should also have experience with analyses of the links between food production and consumption and the role of food policies for improving diets and nutrition in low-income and other settings. Research on the impacts of food production patterns and diets on the climate would be an advantage.

As an authority and leading international scholar, the successful candidate is expected to provide strategic leadership across the university. The candidate should have a proven record of attracting external research and other grants and the ability to add value to the NRI's Food and Nutrition Security Initiative. The post holder is expected to have, and maintain strong stakeholder relationships at regional, national and international levels, across his/her research disciplines. An outstanding record of publication at the highest level is expected.

This exciting new role will seek to strengthen our capacity and provide leadership in a strategically important area linking food systems and policy analysis, in developing long-term strategies and policies to tackle both undernutrition (including micronutrient deficiencies) and overnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa contexts including those in post conflict situations.

The role will bring together diverse aspects of food systems including, environment, nutrition, governance and social inclusion (and others) with a focus on maximising the impact of science and innovation on the lives and wellbeing of the poor and food insecure.

The focus of this role is on high quality research. There may however be a contribution to teaching of up to 10% of the the role.

Note: An appointment may be made at the Associate Professor (AC4) level for this role where a suitable candidate has relevant skills, experience and profile.

Note: The University of Greenwich is committed to promoting equality and diversity, and to providing an inclusive and supportive environment in which all individuals have the opportunity to contribute to their full potential. The University welcomes applications from candidates from diverse backgrounds.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

Team Specific:

- Lead research in food and agriculture policy leading to the publication and/or dissemination of original work of world-leading/international excellence quality
- Lead the acquisition and management of substantial research resources from Research Councils and other funding sources
- Engage in interdisciplinary research collaboration and team-building, within and beyond NRI
- Develop and lead research or innovation consortia with external partners including non-academic stakeholders
- Lead research at Institute/Faculty or University level including the development and implementation of strategy policy and plans
- Develop a portfolio of research and/or teaching activities that meet agreed targets. Support is provided for staff costs under until 2022.
- Develop, mentor and lead a significant research group including research students, research assistants/fellows and possibly early career academics
- Contribute to the integration of leading research or expert input into widely used published teaching or professional training materials
- Contribute to the development of research training programmes or novel taught programmes at the leading edge of the discipline
- Lead on the supervision of student research at various levels, including at doctoral level
- Contribute to the development of the academic discipline, within an interdisciplinary research environment

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 and 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 Enterprise.

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

- Commitment to key strategic priorities of the Faculty and University
- Adhere to and promote the University's policies on Equality and Diversity and Information Security. Ensure compliance with Health and Safety regulations 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.

Additional Requirements:

Any other duties commensurate with the post and grade as agreed with the Director of the Natural Resources Institute/Head of Department.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Performance Indicators will be established in consultation with the Director of NRI, Head of Department and Programme Leader as part of the post holder's annual Appraisal and Professional Development Review and with due regard to the University's KPIs.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS (Internal & External):

- Leaders of relevant NRI programmes.
- FaNSI leaders
- Colleagues in the Natural Resources Institute
- Colleagues in the Faculty of Engineering and Science and wider University
- Donor/funding agencies

- Research partners

PERSON SPECIFICATION	
Essential	Desirable
<p>Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International credibility in the domain of food and agriculture policy • Extensive knowledge of key policy issues relating to food and agriculture at institutional, national and sector-wide level • Experience in the purposeful integration of data and perspectives from different disciplines and different stakeholders • Proven track record of publishing a significant and sustained (AC5)/sustained (AC4) body of outputs with international impact at the highest levels of international excellence including world leading work as leading, corresponding or senior author • Proven, sustained track record of successful supervision of research activities of students at various levels, including PhD (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 leading large projects in complex 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 international travel to low- and middle-income countries <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding knowledge of the mechanisms for funding research and enterprise • Well-developed organisational and management skills • Well-developed interpersonal skills and 	<p>Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of work related to climate change and/or post-conflict situations. • 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 quality assurance/enhancement and academic standards <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working knowledge of a second language of relevance to NRI's work.

ability to motivate others

- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English
- Commitment to the promotion of high standards and excellence
- Ability to think strategically and conceptually
- Capacity to listen and consult, good negotiation skills
- Capacity to make informed decisions
- Ability to work effectively and deliver under pressure
- Able to use IT effectively
- Well-developed project management skills

Qualifications

- PhD degree in Food and/or agricultural policy or other relevant area
- Appropriate level of Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy or willingness to gain it.

Personal attributes

- We are looking for people who can help us deliver the values of the University of Greenwich: Excellence, Determination, Inclusivity, Ambition and Creativity

Qualifications

- Postgraduate Certificate of Education