

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Associate Professor/ Professor Food Systems Research (Centre Leads). (Note: an appointment may be made at Associate Professor level for a suitably qualified candidate)	Grade:	AC5 (Professor) AC4 (Associate Professor)
NRI Department:	Natural Resources Institute: Food and Markets Department	Date of Job Evaluation:	
Role reports to:	Head of Department		
Direct Reports to:	To be decided.		
Indirect Reports to: Other Key contacts:	Director NRI, NRI Deputy Director/Associate Director (Research & Knowledge Exchange), Faculty Associate Dean (Research & Knowledge Exchange) NRI Centre Leads, NRI colleagues, Funders, Research & Knowledge Exchange Partners, NRI Lead Post Graduate Research		
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 wishes to further expand its transdisciplinary research excellence in food security and nutrition. This expansion reflects recent funding successes, including funded by Research England as part of their highly competitive “Expanding Excellence in England” scheme (Food and Security Nutrition Initiative known as FaNSI), the UK Food Systems Centre for Doctoral Training and, the development of the Medway Food Innovation Centre (MFIC) under the UKRI funded “Growing Kent & Medway” project.

The principal purpose of this role is to be an Internationally recognised research expert, ideally at the level of Professor (or an experienced Associate Professor) within the NRI’s Food and Markets Department and, as appropriate, across NRI’s Department, Centres and disciplines.

The role holder will also be required to:

- (a) Lead the Centre for Food Systems. This additional responsibility will be for three years (renewable) in line with Centre Leader appointments across the University of Greenwich.
- (b) Provide management support to the UK Food Systems Centre for Doctoral Training. This CDT is contracted to run through to September 2027.

Research Professor

This role is intended to further expand NRI's capacity for research on food systems at global, regional and local levels. The post-holder may have a main disciplinary background in agricultural or food science, nutrition, economics or other relevant science or social science discipline but be interdisciplinary in orientation and international in outlook and experience. The role is particularly exciting because of the opportunity to contribute to a rising research area: the development of better food systems spanning from the UK to low- and middle-income countries, and globally. Whilst based in the Food and Markets Department, this role has the potential to cut across NRI's seven innovation and impact themes, and contribute to the work of NRI's other Research Centres, depending on the background, skills and interest of the successful candidate.

The focus of this role is on the generation of high-quality research. As research authority and leading international scholar, the successful candidate is expected to provide strategic leadership across the university and externally. Candidates must have experience with coordinating transdisciplinary research groups that address 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 strategic aims. The post-holder is expected to have, and maintain, strong stakeholder relationships at regional, national and international levels, across their research disciplines. An outstanding sustained record of internationally recognised publication outputs is expected. Some teaching and supervision responsibilities may be required.

Leadership of the Centre for Food Systems

The University of Greenwich is implementing an ambitious new strategic plan with ambitious targets for growth in research and knowledge exchange. As a globally recognised research organisation, NRI is at the forefront of this plan and has formed three new Research Centres, building on existing research expertise and staff profile. The leadership of the Centre for Food Systems Research, (with 20-25 academic staff) is part of this role. This exciting new role will seek to strengthen NRI's research capacity and provide leadership in a strategically important area linking food systems and policy analysis, in developing long-term strategies and policies to address current global development challenges such as climate change, food loss and waste, gender inequalities, poverty, deficient nutrition, and develop more sustainable, resilient and socially inclusive food systems. The focus of this role is on ensuring the delivery of high quality research. Leadership of the Centre will involve developing a theory of change for the anticipated impact of the Centre, setting research objectives, ensuring research quality, managing a research budget,

promoting postgraduate and early career researcher development, encouraging research business winning and engaging with non-academic actors in the food sector. NRI is developing a fourth Research Centre around the work of the putative “Medway Food Innovation Centre”, which will have a complementary role to the Centre for Food System. The role will also involve supporting developing this concept, seeking university approval, and working with colleagues to ensure delivery of the new Centre.

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Management role in the UK Food System Centre for Doctoral Training.

The Natural Resources Institute leads the UK Food Systems Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT), which aims to train ca 60 interdisciplinary food system students a year. The CDT is taking a very innovative approach to doctoral training. Your role would be to work with the CDT Director and CDT team to ensure effective management of the CDT programme, to ensure a high quality student experience and the achievement of key performance indicators.

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:

The post is based in the Food and Markets Department of the Natural Resources Institute.

The role requires independent work and leadership of research. NRI is a self-financing independent Institution. This means that the role requires the development and winning of new research grants to fund salary for self and other NRI staff.

The role requires a high level of independent work and initiative, interacting with research/student supervisors at all levels, representing NRI at appropriate Faculty and University levels as necessary. Liaison with those in similar roles in other Universities and multi-national organisations is likely.

Team Specific:

- Establish a world-leading research Centre focussing on food systems research

- Lead research in food and nutrition including also, agriculture policy leading to the publications and/or dissemination of original research of world-leading/international excellence quality potentially leading to high impact
- Lead the acquisition and management of substantial research resources from various UK or international funding sources
- Engage in transdisciplinary 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
- Lead the work of the NRI Centre for Food Systems Research
- Support the development, approval and launch of the Medway Food Innovation Centre
- Provide management support to the UK Food Systems Centre for Doctoral Training.
- Develop a portfolio of research and/or teaching activities that meet agreed targets
- Develop, mentor and lead a significant number of 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
- 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:

- 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 occasionally travel in the UK and overseas and work flexible hours as required by specific circumstances
- 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:

Achievement of the University and Faculty Strategic Plan KPIs.

Achievement of the Research and Knowledge Exchange sub-strategy KPIs.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS (Internal & External):

Head of Department, Food and Markets
Other NRI Research Centre Leaders
Research Group Leaders
NRI Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange

NRI Deputy Director
 NRI Director
 Faculty Associate Dean Research and Knowledge Exchange
 Other Faculty (and wider University) School/Institute Associate Heads Research and Knowledge Exchange
 NRI Lead, Innovation and Impact
 NRI Lead, Post Graduate Research
 Faculty Ethics Board
 Key NRI partners and collaborators
 Own research partners and collaborators
 Research clients.

PERSON SPECIFICATION	
Essential	Desirable
<p>Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International credibility in the domain of food systems research • Extensive knowledge of current developments and challenges in food systems research and practice • 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 leadership and completion of PhDs (Appropriate to level AC4/AC5) • Proven track record of leading and winning external funding bids (Appropriate to level AC4/AC5). 	<p>Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in leading transdisciplinary research • 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

- 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

Skills

- Outstanding knowledge of the mechanisms for funding research and enterprise
- Well-developed organisational and management skills
- Well-developed interpersonal skills and 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 agriculture, nutrition, food science, veterinary science or other relevant area to food systems research

Skills

- Working knowledge of a second language of relevance to NRI's work.

Qualifications

- Postgraduate Certificate of Education

- Appropriate level of Fellowship of the UK's Higher Education Academy (Advance HE), or equivalent international membership, or willingness to gain it.

Personal attributes

- We are looking for a research leader who can help us deliver the values of the University of Greenwich. Inclusive, Collaborative and Impactful

Personal attributes

- N/A