

School of Biological Sciences – Impact Academic Lead

Job Description / Person Specification

Reports to: Associate Dean for Research and Innovation Biological Sciences & Biotechnology, School of Biological Sciences

Organisational Unit: Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

Overall Purpose

The School Lead for Impact will be responsible for helping the School and relevant Associate Deans to develop and implement a sustainable strategy for Impact that supports our staff in developing, capturing and enhancing all areas of research impact across the School and other aligned areas in the Faculty.

In carrying out their role, the School Lead for Impact will work closely with the Associate Dean for Research and Innovation (Biological Sciences and Biotechnology), Heads of Division, and Faculty Knowledge Exchange and Impact Officers to develop a strategy to monitor, develop, support and encourage our staff and PGR students in all aspects of research impact, including but not limited to that emanating from industrial collaborations and spin-outs, social responsibility, policy making and training and development. They will also support ADs and Heads of School in developing impact cases for the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise or its equivalent.

Key Duties/Responsibilities

- To champion research impact within the School. This will involve promoting, supporting, encouraging and facilitating impact and Knowledge Exchange and identifying where opportunities may extend to colleagues elsewhere in the University/Faculty
- To work closely with the Associate Deans for R&I and Knowledge Exchange and Impact Officers aligned to the School to monitor our funding portfolio with a view to developing and encourage new opportunities to develop impact for our staff and students.
- To work with staff and students in the School to build impact cases, offering support and advice in writing grant applications, material for use on School, Faculty or University websites, or as REF Impact cases.
- Attending School Research and Innovation Committee meetings to report on impact activities, as well as Research Services Operations meetings to review potential impact cases and our current portfolio.
- To act as a key contact on behalf of the School in responding to impact opportunities and enquiries and to represent the School in Business Engagement activities
- To work with Divisions to identify and develop specific opportunities and support activities

Person Specification

The post holder should ideally possess the following skills, knowledge and qualities:

Essential

- Demonstrated experience of developing and working with research teams to develop impact cases, for promotion on University web sites or as part of the Research Excellence Framework
- Ability to take a strategic view and to develop operational plans to match
- Ability to work outside area of expertise
- An enthusiasm for impact activity, its development and monitoring

Desirable

- A wider appreciation of the REF exercise and associated impact assessment
- Good writing skills for the promotion of research to diverse communities including the lay public