

Job title:	Director of Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI) led from the Faculty of Humanities
Start/duration:	1 st August 2025 for 3 years
WAM Allocation:	40-60% dependent on negotiation with Faculty Vice-Dean for Research and Heads of School
Based at:	Alliance Manchester Business School and School of Social Sciences
Responsible to:	Heads of School / Vice-Dean for Research and UMRI

The Director of a Research Institute led out of the Faculty of Humanities (HUMs) reports to the relevant Head(s) of School, the Faculty Vice-Dean (Research), and the University of Manchester Research Institute (UMRI). The post holder will ensure the strategic development and management of the Research Institute and maintain a programme of activities against KPI targets and key performance measures. Strategic development plans are agreed at a HUMs Research Institute annual strategy board and are assessed against achievements on an annual basis through review of the Institute (reporting to UMRI – and as delegated to the Faculty Vice-Dean Research), ensuring Institutes make a robust contribution to the University’s research strategy and goals.

Main Duties & Responsibilities: the Director of a Research Institute will

1. Contribute to the delivery of the University’s Research & Knowledge Exchange, Business Engagement and Internationalisation strategies, through providing academic leadership of the Institute, with a coherent strategic vision for research and research training.
2. Be accountable for ensuring the overall delivery of the Institute’s strategic plan and performance metrics.
3. Be accountable for the effective governance and management of the Institute (including through the Chairing of an annual Strategy Board and where appropriate, an Advisory Board which includes external membership), and including adherence to all academic, research and administrative principles, processes (such as Ethics) and policies.
4. Champion the provision of internationally recognised excellence in research and research impact, and related activities (including where applicable Social Responsibility) ensuring a stimulating, and well-managed environment.
5. Ensure the effective and efficient use of allocated resources to maximise the Institute's contribution to the University’s overall strategy, with a particular emphasis on delivering world class interdisciplinary research. Allocate the Institute resources, accordingly, with clear objectives, targets and associated measurements.
6. Oversee career development and performance management of academic staff within the Institute as required and ensure alignment with the University’s Strategic Plan.
7. Attend and engage with relevant and regular UoM and Faculty networking events such as UMRI Leaders Forum and UoM Platform events,
8. Be accountable for the effective preparation and delivery of governance and management of the Institute in relation to annual UMRI review (both light touch and deep dive review).
9. Actively develop the Institute’s international academic profile and enhance its international partnership development, in line with the University’s Internationalisation strategy.

10. Develop the Institute's strategies and associated financial and operational plans in partnership with its staff and the Head of School, Vice-Dean for Research and UMRI Board.
11. Identify, promote and contribute resources to developing the Institute's research strengths and managing its portfolio. This will include identifying and supporting opportunities for research and postgraduate teaching programme developments internally, externally and internationally, both within existing funding streams, and where possible, through interdisciplinary collaboration across and beyond the University.
12. Ensure that the Institute capitalises upon funding initiatives from UK research funding agencies and, where appropriate, through business engagement and international sources.
13. Support and promote knowledge transfer between the University and non-academic users of research through appropriate mechanisms.
14. Ensure effective communication and full staff engagement, fostering awareness and application of University policies and procedures.
15. Forge and maintain external relations essential to the Institute's business, promoting the University to external bodies and organisations and enhancing its reputation, profile and influence in regional, national and international forums.

Person specification

Qualifications Experience and Knowledge

- Academic – Professorial Band 9 (T&R)

Essential

- A leading researcher in the field, evidenced by; a strong publication record; a successful and sustained record of winning high levels of research income; an assortment of learned society roles and/or fellowships, keynote speeches, major prizes, editorships and/or editorial board membership of leading journals and/or major books and book series in the field.
- Extensive successful and sustained research leadership and team building, for example, evidenced by; development and delivery of successful interdisciplinary research initiatives and collaboration; a history of successful training and development of early career researchers, including PhD students.
- Well-developed understanding of the priorities, operation and strategy of relevant funding bodies, as evidenced by a track record of funded research/research application reviewing and assessment.
- A thorough awareness of research ethics issues and UoM research ethics clearance processes.
- A demonstrable track record in strategic and operational management and planning; and/or proven experience of managing staff and their performance.
- Experience of financial planning and resource allocation.

Demonstrable ability to:

- Identify, create and articulate a coherent academic vision for the Research Institute.
- Combine and integrate the skills and expertise of highly motivated staff into interdisciplinary teams, developing and building upon existing collaborations as well as creating/facilitating new opportunities.
- Engage a range of internal and external stakeholders to collaborate in identifying problems and appropriate solutions, within agreed timetables and budgets.
- Effective monitoring and decision making skills to implement corrective action if a research activity is in difficulty.