

Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow - Innovation Programmes Project Lead, EIT(Foodseed bed) SBS
School/Department: Institute for Global Food Security
Reference: 23/110796
Closing Date: Monday 3 April 2023
Salary: £36,333 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th April 2023
Duration: Fixed term available until 31 December 2023

JOB PURPOSE:

This exciting position will allow the successful candidate to join the Institute for Global Food's Security's EIT Food team. The postholder will work primarily on Queens partnership with EIT Food. They will be responsible for the development and delivery of the EIT Food Seedbed Incubator Programme attracting and supporting entrepreneurs, spinouts and startups to build successful agrifood ventures across Europe; and building the Seedbed agrifood innovation ecosystem.

The EIT Food Network has over 100 partners across Europe, including a range of non-academic stakeholders related to the food system. The post-holder will be based at the School of Biological Sciences, Queen's University Belfast.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Day to day project co-ordination and regular progress reports to consortium members.
2. Taking part in meetings with the Seedbed Coaches and other mission community managers and wider afield as appropriate to support work of Seedbed Incubation Programme.
3. Carry out administrative tasks associated with the project including the organisation of project meetings, preparation of required documentation, budget management and reporting.
4. Seedbed's mega connector and a knowledge expert around the three Mission Areas: A Net Zero Food System, A Fully Transparent, Resilient and Fair Food System; and Healthier Lives Through Food.
5. Mapping the agrifood innovation ecosystem, gathering research data and industry knowledge-sharing related to the three EIT Food Missions.
6. Leveraging and linking the EIT Food community with the needs of Seedbed participants.
7. Staying on top of the Europe-wide events that are relevant for the startups.
8. Connecting Seedbed participants and alumni to relevant Pan-European resources, corporates and investors.
9. Organising thematic events and demo days related to the three EIT Food Mission Areas and Be present at relevant external events to promote the Seedbed programme and the EIT Food Entrepreneurs community.
10. Work closely with the Marketing & Community Lead and the Scouting & Application Lead to support Seedbed's scouting activities, particularly in Northwest Europe.
11. Contracting experts in the three mission areas to undertake an evaluation of the Seedbed applications.
12. Support the Northwest Europe Seedbed Teams with fireside chats; and connections and exposure to the agrifood innovation ecosystem in UK, Ireland and Iceland as relevant e.g. Innovate UK, Enterprise Ireland, QUBIS.
13. Leverage EIT Food network to support teams connecting with specific experts and mentors as required e.g. technical expert's, IP expertise, regulatory advice etc.
14. Build collaborative relationships in the EIT Food's Entrepreneurship team (FAN, RisingFoodStars, startup investment team) as well as in the wider EIT Food organisation to ensure synergies around missions, support Investment team with connections for technical due diligence, contribute to EIT Food mission task force.
15. Help shape the growth and strategic direction of EIT Food Seedbed.
16. Contribute to further funding opportunities and proposals.
17. Undertake training as commensurate to the role.
18. Contribute to Queen's outreach activities by links with industry, community groups etc.

19. Work closely with the Institute for Global Food Security and the Global Innovation Institute to drive innovation activities and opportunities for entrepreneurs, startups and spinouts – related to agrifood, one health and secure connected intelligence - in the UK and Irelands for innovation flourish.
20. Carry out any other duties designated by the line manager related to the successful achievement of projects and outcomes under the EIT Food partnership.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or about to obtain a PhD in a relevant subject area e.g., Biological Science, Food Science, Agriculture or related subject
2. At least 3 years relevant experience of working within a research environment.
3. Experience of working collaboratively with partners, both academic and non-academic.
4. Experience of mapping and building agri-food innovation ecosystems and ability to drive EIT Food mission ecosystem building.
5. Ability to match deep tech entrepreneurs with relevant corporates and partners within the agrifood sector.
6. Collaborative team player with a passion and strong interest in the EIT Food Mission community topic areas.
7. Experience managing events or workshops with stakeholders related to the food system.
8. Ability to project manage and record keeping.
9. Evidence of strong interpersonal and networking skills with ability to relate to and collaborate with internal and external stakeholders.
10. Excellent written and oral communication skills.
11. Ability to communicate and present complex information clearly.
12. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
13. Ability to work independently on own initiative and in a team with other QUB staff engaged in EIT Food & the Seedbed Incubation Programme and with the Business Coach(es).
14. Must be willing to travel to national and international meetings and networking events.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Knowledge and previous experience of EIT Food Network.
2. Clear understanding of the agrifood industry market needs.
3. Easily understands and navigates the academic and corporate world to facilitate connections for the startup programmes and support the development of scientific/commercial opportunities within the mission areas.
4. Competency in data management e.g., databases, spreadsheets and CRM tools.
5. Experience of large scale project planning and management.
6. Evidence of disseminating research or best practice at conferences, workshops and events with non-academic audiences and stakeholders from the agrifood sector.
7. Willingness to engage or host key mission events across Europe to raise the public profile of the Seedbed Incubation Programme and the Mission Communities.