

Candidate Information

Position:	Future Medicines Institute Director
School/Department:	Faculty Office MHLS
Reference:	24/112299
Closing Date:	Monday 9 December 2024
Salary:	An attractive remuneration package, commensurate with the seniority and responsibilities of the role, will be provided.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Week commencing 20 January 2025
Duration:	5 years

JOB PURPOSE:

To work with FMI partner organisations and QUB leadership in the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences to co-develop, lead and execute the strategic plans of the FMI. To ensure the operational delivery, growth and long term financial stability of the FMI, managing staff, financial and physical resources.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Working with the QUB project lead (senior academic role) and stakeholders in the development of FMI strategic and business objectives through membership of steering group and chair of FMI management group.
2. Lead development of the positioning and integration of FMI as a new operational unit in QUB alongside existing school structures within the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences.
3. Lead the development and implementation of operational plans and processes to meet FMI strategic objectives.
4. Be accountable to FMI Steering Group and Faculty leadership for the management and probity of financial and physical resources of FMI including monitoring, authorising, forecasting FMI activities, estate, and equipment.
5. Liaise with the UKRI Strength in Places Fund delivery team, including participating in quarterly review meetings and attending meetings with other Strength in Places Fund projects.
6. Have overall people management responsibility for FMI, ensuring that appropriate structures and approaches are in place to establish and grow a motivated and high performing team.
7. Lead development of growth business plans and processes to evolve the capabilities of FMI across the region with connectivity to GB and Ireland.
8. Develop the ambition and the long-term financial sustainability of the FMI beyond the current funding window (5 years), working closely with partners and Faculty to identify further funding opportunities to leverage the capabilities and ambition generated by FMI and other core technology units at QUB.
9. Lead the development of appropriate operational, governance and contractual arrangements for the use of FMI staff, facilities and research, based on models agreed by the steering group.
10. Represent FMI nationally and internationally to build reputation and support ambitious growth plans.
11. Lead in the development and monitoring of a high level project delivery plan with the steering group and oversee multiple project work streams, supporting the business development, workforce planning and scientific research teams to achieve partner KPIs and milestones.
12. Lead attraction of new partners and instigate R&D collaborations linking new relationships to both FMI and academic research centres/clusters.
13. Lead the development and presentation of FMI management information and KPI reporting to the steering group to meet internal and external governance requirements in line with UKRI and InvestNI requirements.
14. Liaise with relevant University leaders and professional support teams to ensure that FMI is managed in accordance with QUB values and organisational procedures.
15. Work with Faculty leadership to develop an ecosystem where positioning of FMI, core technologies units, Belfast Region City Deal innovation centres and other growth deals under development in NI can achieve synergies of scale for the NI region.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. A degree in a relevant life and health science discipline.
2. Substantial management experience in a relevant organisation with a track record of operational, financial or executive leadership in life and health sciences.
3. Significant strategic project leadership and delivery experience with evidence of effective resource planning and risk management.
4. Excellent leadership skills with a proven track record of setting strategic direction and leading large scale change initiatives whilst inspiring vision and confidence for change amongst partner organisations.
5. Team leadership, encompassing team building and individual professional development with the ability to build, manage and motivate multi-disciplinary teams, creating effective and innovative teams with proven customer focus.
6. Experience of successfully securing research incomes and/or negotiating collaborative contracts for the generation of commercial income.
7. Excellent interpersonal skills with the proven ability to negotiate, influence and persuade with integrity and diplomacy.
8. Well-developed planning and organisational capabilities with ability to work effectively in a fast changing environment with competing priorities.
9. Excellent IT skills, including confident and proficient use of the Microsoft Office suite.
10. Strong oral and written presentation skills with the ability to prepare and present high quality and engaging reports and presentations.
11. Demonstrable commitment to the purpose and objectives of FMI and the Life and Health Sciences vision for NI.
12. Motivated self starter and ability to align a team around a collective vision.
13. Willing to work flexibly to meet the requirements of the post including travel nationally and internationally as required.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. A PhD in a life and health sciences discipline or MBA.
2. Experience of working with or within a university, a research environment or a knowledge or technology transfer environment.
3. Experience in therapeutics and/or diagnostics development.
4. Strong international links for example into Europe, the USA and/or SE Asia.
5. Experience of R&D and product management, including the successful management and exploitation of intellectual property and 'know how'.
6. Experience of establishing or developing a life and health sciences company.
7. Experience of managing change in an R&D intensive environment.
8. A strong knowledge and appreciation of the life and health sciences sector.
9. Understanding of sources of research funding and of venture and seed capital, grant and other business funding mechanisms.
10. Special understanding of relevant national and regional economic needs and priorities and how the University can address those needs and priorities through knowledge exploitation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal inquiries may be directed to: Maeve Murphy, email maeve.murphy@qub.ac.uk.