

Candidate Information

Position: Engaged Research and Impact Manager
School/Department: School of Biological Sciences
Reference: 26/113690
Closing Date: Monday 2 November 2026
Salary: £52,802 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Tuesday 17 November 2026
Duration: 29 Months Fixed Term Full Time

JOB PURPOSE:

The Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems has an ambitious programme of work which aims to develop a robust, resilient and sustainable food system in the transition to healthy diets from sustainable sources. It encompasses a research programme from plant science to nutrition and public health across three jurisdictions – the Republic of Ireland (ROI), Northern Ireland (NI) and Great Britain (GB). The Co-Centre will foster research and innovation to accelerate radical transitions towards a more environmentally and economically sustainable and transparent agri-food sector.

The post holder will drive the Engaged Research and Impact agenda within the Co-Centre. Working closely across the three jurisdictions, the post holder will be responsible for developing, coordinating, and implementing an ambitious and integrated engaged research programme, develop and mobilise pathways to impact and develop impact case studies from the ongoing research. They will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the Co-Centre's KPIs and for securing additional external funding to expand all engaged research and impact activities. They will link closely with the funder(s) engaged research Programmes. They will report to the Co-Directors and Co-Centre Manager.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Design, lead and coordinate the Engaged Research and Impact programme across the Co-Centre.
2. Monitor and evaluate performance and provide reports as needed.
3. Contribute to strategic planning within the Co-Centre and take responsibility for the development and delivery of substantial Engaged research and impact programmes and initiatives. Work closely with the Chair of the Co-Centre's Engaged research and impact committee which includes industry and external academic advisors.
4. Promote the work of the Co-Centre to research communities, funders, national business communities, international stakeholders, professional and specialist bodies and other organisations.
5. Network with, and maintain good relationships with all stakeholders, to align research agendas and engaged research activities.
6. Represent engaged research and impact within the Co-Centre research programmes to ensure that these aspects are considered in all the on-going activities of the Co-Centre.
7. Develop, organise and deliver specific training for the Co-Centre members in both engaged research and impact. Management of staff and collaboration with UCD and UoS teams as appropriate for engaged research activities.
8. Lead applications for further external grant funding to support and further develop impact activities, with input from Co-Centre research staff.
9. Undertake other such duties as required by the Co-Directors and Co-Centre Manager.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Honours degree (or equivalent qualification) in any subject.
2. Proven track record in leading and overseeing initiatives in public engagement with science/research, and/or science learning, including experience of participatory or co-creative approaches.
3. Knowledge of engaged research methodologies and evaluation methods.
4. Knowledge of monitoring pathways to impact while simultaneously identifying and developing impact case studies.
5. Strong networking and consultative skills, with the ability to grow professional relationships across diverse sectors.

6. Ability to make complex scientific concepts accessible and meaningful to diverse audiences through dialogic, participatory, and creative approaches.
7. Proven ability to manage complex, multi-partner programmes, including partnerships with civil society and cultural organisations.
8. Experience with monitoring, evaluation, and impact frameworks.
9. Experience designing and implementing mixed-methods evaluation frameworks, including qualitative, creative, and participatory approaches.
10. Project management experience associated with the development, delivery, reporting and monitoring systems for programmes, publications, and events.
11. Excellent oral, written and presentation skills, with experience of communicating with diverse audiences.
12. Ability to influence and negotiate in challenging environments.
13. Strong networking skills
14. Ability to think logically, create solutions and make informed decisions.
15. Excellent IT skills
16. A high level of numeracy and the ability manage and interpret data.
17. Good knowledge of financial systems, budget management, grant funding and procedures for procurement, to meet internal and external audit requirements
18. Ability to work as part of a team and on own initiative.
19. Strong interpersonal skills.
20. Excellent planning and organising skills.
21. Willingness to work flexibly when required and to undertake extensive travel across the co-centre partner sites which may involve overnight stays.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. An in-depth understanding of the Research Excellence Framework in the UK.
2. A relevant Postgraduate qualification.
3. Detailed working knowledge of relevant systems and policies and procedures associated with the Education and Public Engagement role within the HE setting.