



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Innovation Fellow or Senior Innovation Fellow in Smart Agri-Systems,
Faculty of Biological Sciences**



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797- £40,322 p.a.) or Grade 8 (£41,526 - £49,553 p.a.)

Reference: FBSBY1110

Closing date: 21 November 2019

Fixed-term for 24 months

Job sharing and flexible working arrangements can be considered

Innovation Fellow or Senior Innovation Fellow in Smart Agri-Systems, School of Biology

Are you an ambitious and enthusiastic innovator looking for your next challenge? Would you like the opportunity to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team of academics and industrialists including biologists, environmental and atmospheric scientists, systems modellers, engineers, computer scientists and data analysts? Are you interested in tackling real-world challenges related to the agri-environment system? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading enterprising, research intensive Universities?

The University of Leeds' Smart Agri-Systems strategic research and innovation initiative uses industry-focussed, systems-based approaches to provide innovative solutions for a smarter farming future. The initiative draws on knowledge, skills and expertise across the Global Food and Environment Institute, the University Themes (Food, Water, Climate, Data, Energy) and Faculties to provide innovative solutions to industry-facing challenges. We are now looking for an Innovation/ Senior Innovation Fellow to support the delivery of our vision and mission objectives in industry-facing research and innovation, including the development of industry-facing, entrepreneurial academic roles at the University.

You will have a broad background in agricultural systems and innovation, and/or technological systems development, validation, and implementation in the agri-food sector. You will act as an innovation developer and consultant, working with a broad spectrum of academic and industry partners to develop solutions and conduct innovation projects to meet their needs and measure performance improvements. In parallel, you will work with the Academic Director of Smart Agri-Systems, the Director of the Global Food and Environment, and the Dean for Interdisciplinary Research to enhance the culture for innovation and enterprise more broadly across the University.

You will need an educational background in agriculture, agri-environment or agri-technology, and industrial experience in agri-technology innovation, agri-environmental consultancy, or an allied discipline.

The University of Leeds and the Faculty of Biological Sciences are committed to providing equal opportunities for all and offer a range of family friendly policies. The University is a charter member of Athena SWAN (the national body that promotes



gender equality in higher education), and the Faculty of Biological Sciences was reawarded a Bronze award in 2017. We are proud to be an inclusive Faculty that values all staff, and are happy to consider job share applications and requests for flexible working arrangements from our employees. Our Athena SWAN [webpage](#) provides more information.

What does the role entail?

As an Innovation Fellow your main duties will include:

- Contributing to the development of industry R&I strategy;
- Leading delivery of innovation and impact objectives and plans;
- Working proactively, as part of a multi-disciplinary research team, to ensure that project, partner and team objectives are prioritised and achieved in appropriate timescales;
- Analysing portfolio development against strategic aims and making recommendations with evidence regarding the direction of work;
- Working in collaboration with partners to understand the context of the research and establish information requirements;
- Providing the Smart Agri-Systems group and Global Food and Environment Institute Executive Board with regular feedback on progress, clearly explaining your activities to members of the team who are outside your discipline area;
- Supporting the development of cross-interdisciplinary, multi-institution, and cross-sector collaborations;
- Supporting the development of a university-wide culture for industry-focussed research and innovation;
- Communicating and presenting results, particularly through public and stakeholder dissemination, publications, and conference presentations;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development;
- Contributing to the training of undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of undergraduate projects in areas relevant to the project;
- Contributing and where appropriate, leading on impact, knowledge exchange and engagement activities, including farm open days, demonstrations, industry expos, and continuing professional development training.



In addition, as a Senior Innovation Fellow your main duties will include:

- Leading the development of industry facing R&I strategy, under the direction of the line manager(s);
- Taking a key role in R&I project management, including planning research timescales, performance management, monitoring progress and developing longer term strategic goals to ensure that the research and innovation objectives are achieved in a timely manner;
- Taking a lead in building cross-interdisciplinary, multi-institution, and cross-sector collaborations;
- Leading and participating in developing new ideas and partnerships for innovation projects, maintaining a personal innovation and impact trajectory;
- Providing broader expertise in the area of agricultural systems, agri-environment and innovation management and/or technological systems development, validation, and implementation in the agri-food sector;
- Advising and mentoring Global Food and Environment Institute and wider University staff in industry R&I practices;
- Designing, developing and delivering content for internal and external CPD training related to industrial R&I practices and Knowledge Exchange;
- Identifying new research & innovation areas, developing new collaborations and writing new proposals for external funding;
- Leading and developing external networks to identify sources of funding, generate income and build relationships for future activities;
- Making sustained contributions to publications, reports, impact case studies and engagement media as lead/senior author/major contributor;
- Supervising and co-ordinating the work of project team members, acting as a mentor for less experienced members of staff and, where appropriate, conducting staff review meetings such as annual appraisals;
- Supervising undergraduate research projects and contributing to the supervision of postgraduate research students;
- If appropriate, contribute effectively to the administrative processes and the committee structures of the School, and of the wider University.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.



What will you bring to the role?

As an Innovation Fellow you will have:

- A PhD (or be close to completion - meaning after you have handed in the initial version of your thesis) or equivalent research, and/or industrial experience in agri-technology innovation, agri-environmental consultancy, or an allied discipline;
- Practical experience of conducting research/innovation projects, and designing and developing studies that incorporate and respond to industry needs, priorities and drivers;
- An aptitude and enthusiasm for working in collaboration with a broad multi-disciplinary group of academics in animal and plant sciences, Earth and environmental sciences, food and nutrition, computer science, data analytics and engineering, articulating the potential industrial benefits and applications of the research, and incorporating industrial requirements into the research;
- A proven ability to analyse business situations to identify key issues and potential solutions;
- Experience in collecting and analysing qualitative and quantitative data using appropriate methods and statistical software;
- A proven ability to communicate complex results to industrial partners and the public;
- Strong experience of report writing and/or peer-reviewed publications in journals;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet deadlines, and work effectively;
- Good written and verbal communication skills;
- A commitment to your own continuous professional development.

In addition, as a Senior Innovation Fellow you will have:

- A broader background in innovation management and/or agri-environmental systems;
- A track record of self-directed publications, or equivalent industrial experience in agri-technology innovation, agri-environmental consultancy, or an allied discipline;
- Experience of grant application processes;
- Experience of delivering impact and innovation in research and/or industrial environments;



- Experience of supervising, or providing training to, staff or students;
- Good people management skills, and experience of managing a team to deliver results to a deadline.

At both grades, you may also have:

- A personal interest in agri-technology, sustainable food production systems and/or product design and development;
- Proven ability to generate innovative solutions and solve problems;
- Experience in working with colleagues in other disciplines, industrial partners and the public;
- A formal project management qualification, such as PRINCE2, or equivalent experience.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23:59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

Your application should include:

- A supporting statement providing evidence to support each requirement listed on the 'What will you bring to the role' section of the Candidate Brief (no more than two sides of A4, minimum font size 11);
- An academic curriculum vitae, including a list of your publications.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

[Professor Lisa Collins, School of Biology](#)

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 35940

Email: L.Collins@leeds.ac.uk

Or [Professor Steve Banwart, School of Earth and Environment](#)

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 3

Email: S.A.Banwart@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

Faculty and School Information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#) and the [School of Biology](#). The University of Leeds' Farm has received considerable investment, with the development of the £3M Smart Farm, and the £12M Spen Research Centre, the Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock Pig Research Centre.

Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

