

**CANDIDATE BRIEF**

**Technology & Innovation Manager (National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre, NAPIC), Faculty of Environment**



**Salary: Grade 8 (£46,974 p.a.- £56,021 p.a.)**

**Reference: ENVFS1123**

**Fixed term for 36 months (80%FTE)**

**We will consider job share/flexible working arrangements**



# Technology & Innovation Manager, National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre (NAPIC), Faculty of Environment

## Overview of the Role

**Are you ready to help deliver a dynamic, internationally leading innovation and knowledge centre in alternative protein? Are you an exceptional innovation manager with the ability to translate the scientific solutions into commercial products and services? Do you have a successful track record in brokering academic/industry partnerships to drive pre-competitive research for multi-industrial benefits?**

We are looking for a Technology & Innovation Manager to join the National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre (NAPIC). NAPIC is a £38m entity (including a £15m UKRI investment) to lead the UK's alternative protein knowledge and Innovation ecosystem. NAPIC's vision is to make alternative proteins mainstream for a sustainable planet. The centre is led by the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield, Imperial College London and the James Hutton Institute, in collaboration with over 100 national and international partners. NAPIC is a cohesive pan-UK centre poised to revolutionise the UK's agri-food sector by harnessing our world-leading science base through a co-created alternative protein strategy across the Discovery → Innovation → Commercialisation pipeline to support the transition to a sustainable, high growth, blended protein bioeconomy. NAPIC features four integrated activity streams: research to address innovation challenges; a national alternative protein knowledge base; workforce of the future; and accessible Innovation facilities.

NAPIC is currently undergoing an exciting investment in a number of innovation-facing roles across the four leading organisations. As the Technology & Innovation Manager located at the University of Leeds you will be a part of a dynamic Operational Management Team and report directly to the Operational Director and functionally to the CEO of NAPIC. Working in close partnership with members of the Operational Management Team and other external stakeholders from industry and academia, you will drive a wide range of innovation-facing initiatives. You will be an excellent team player with a proven ability to work proactively. You will be well organised and adaptable taking a positive approach to managing a busy and complex workload. You will have excellent communication, organisational and



interpersonal skills to lead the brokering of academic and industry partnerships on behalf of NAPIC across the focus area of valorising natural kingdom (e.g. plant, algae, insects), fermentation (biomass, precision), cultivated meat and other emerging areas from food to feed to allied sectors.

You ideally would have knowledge of alternative protein research with a solid track record of working across academic and industry partners. You will have proven ability to plan multiple stakeholder programmes across diverse industry sectors. You will be able to communicate new and complex information effectively, both verbally and in writing.

## **Main duties and responsibilities**

Working in concert with the Operations Director and CEO, your main duties will include:

- Proactively identify and build strategic partnerships and relationships for NAPIC
- Shape and develop pre-competitive research into projects by working with NAPIC academic partners and identify suitable funding models
- Provide and maintain a high level technical expertise to develop and maintain collaborative, positive relationships with industries
- Plan and drive the industrial advisory board and international science engagement board meetings, set up and host NAPIC events and forums and actively promote the transformational and disruptive power of the NAPIC portfolio
- Provide academic leadership to SMEs to ensure potential academic member are being identified across the UK for agile projects, project teams are developed and the projects are funded
- Lead partnerships with investors for successful conversion of NAPIC intellectual assets into economically viable business opportunities
- Lead the intellectual property portfolio management of NAPIC as it develops to maximise its economic impact;
- Oversee the development of a innovation-facing marketing and communications strategy for the Centre to advance its profile with current and prospective partners.



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.

## Qualifications and skills

As Technology & Innovation Manager you will have:

- A PhD or equivalent background in a scientific discipline/ relevant industrial experience;
- Proven track record in scouting, analysing and evaluating new trends, technologies, and market developments in alternative protein sector;
- Strong experience of working with industry, with an awareness of the associated commercialisation challenges and opportunities;
- Sound understanding of innovation ecosystems and innovation management;
- Experience of taking a lead in building cross-interdisciplinary, multi-institution, and cross-sector collaborations;
- A track record in portfolio management in a research and innovation environment;
- Experience of producing entrepreneurial business cases to support investment;
- Know-how of supporting partners throughout their innovation journey;
- A track record of the effective management of grant writing process particularly involving industries and SMEs;
- Enthusiasm for working in collaboration with a broad multidisciplinary group of academics and industry partners;
- A breadth of management and leadership expertise as well as highly developed communication skills with the ability to build and maintain effective and productive working relationships with commercial and academic stakeholders.

You may also have:

- Experience of working with business stakeholders at senior level;
- Experience in working with policymakers and regulators

## 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 the following:

- A completed **online application** addressing each of the criteria;
- An uploaded copy of your **curriculum vitae** giving full details of qualifications and experience.

## Contact information

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

**Professor Anwasha Sarkar, Professor of Colloids and Surfaces**

Email: [A.Sarkar@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:A.Sarkar@leeds.ac.uk)

**Andy Duley, Director of Commercialisation**

Email: [a.j.m.duley@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.m.duley@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information please visit: [www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa](http://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa)

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#)

Find out more about the [School of Food Science and Nutrition](#)

Find out more about [Equality and Inclusion](#) in the Faculty



### **A diverse workforce**

The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.

### **Working at Leeds**

We are a campus based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit 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](mailto: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.

