



**Health
Innovation
Leeds**

Supported by
Leeds Academic
Health Partnership



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Innovation Specialist, Leeds Academic Health Partnership

Hosted by Faculty of Medicine and Health



Salary: Grade 8 (£46,974 – £56,021 p.a. depending on experience)

Reference: MHLAH1020

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Overview of the Role

Are you a skilled innovation specialist with experience of working across the health and care sector? Do you have a high degree of personal initiative and flexibility, coupled with the ability to grow productive working relationships across a range of sectors? Have you supported organisations to successfully deploy their innovations into health and care?

Leeds Academic Health Partnership, one of the largest of its kind in the UK, represents the major, leading organisations and activities that comprise Health Innovation Leeds and is hosted by the University of Leeds. Our vision is that everyone in Leeds has the best opportunities to live a healthier life for longer. With a focus on reducing health inequalities, we bring partners together to help solve the city's hardest health challenges. You can find out more at healthinnovationleeds.com.

We are seeking an Innovation Specialist to join our small team. You will be responsible for connecting partners from across health, care, universities, the local authority, the third sector and industry. Working with them, you will help make it easier for innovators to access and engage with the health innovation ecosystem across Leeds and our region. Working closely with partners, you will understand the city's health and care innovation needs, identifying strengths, opportunities, interests, gaps and trends. The Innovation Specialist will support the city and region to build a culture of collaboration that will speed up the adoption of innovation into practice.

You will support regional economic growth through the co-development, testing and evaluation of new innovations, thus supporting innovation companies' growth and job creation. You will work closely with industry, universities and health and care services to understand the evidence levels for products and services, and how they fit with the priorities of the local health and care system. You will work closely with local and regional partners to influence the approach to real world validation, health technology assessment and efficient progression of products through the innovation pathway.

You will have experience of project management in innovation - such as commercialising new products or development of new pathways in health and care. You will have experience of working collaboratively and of influencing people from a wide range of backgrounds, including academics, health and care professionals, industry and the public. You may also have experience of product or programme evaluation in line with NICE guidelines and / or knowledge of regulatory and quality standards for medical devices and digital health technologies.



Main duties and responsibilities

As our Innovation Specialist, you will:

Understand our place, what we offer and how we can support:

- Understand our system's innovation offer (and gaps) – from ideation to commercialisation.
- Understand the city level operations and filling gaps where there is less capacity or maturity in the innovation space across different audiences / stakeholders including innovators.
- Use this understanding to help to foster a strong innovation ecosystem and testbed, encouraging accelerated uptake.
- Work with partners and other stakeholders to understand our system needs and priorities, using these to scope and shape programmes of work in line with our strategy and vision, securing senior support and buy-in and ensuring that the vision and benefits are clear and well-developed.
- Ensure that appropriate citizen engagement and involvement is undertaken, working with partner organisations as appropriate.

Support innovation adoption:

- Work with regional colleagues on initiatives to support innovation adoption, especially bringing a whole-system perspective. This could entail initiatives such as an Innovation Passport or Challenge and the implementation of system approaches to make it happen.
- Identify and develop opportunities to support SMEs with real world evaluation, including liaising with our university partners to co-design the methodology and ensure the output is commercially relevant and links to our city's needs (particularly as set out in the Healthy Leeds Plan and Best City Ambition).
- Work with other teams that have a front-door for innovators, meet SMEs where this is beneficial to help articulate our city's priorities (in the context of global and national health and care challenges) and effectively navigate our system where we can see value and create potential 'pull'.
- Rapidly appraise new technologies and services, support SMEs to develop business cases and plans, and work with the partner network to identify the best place to support. Alongside this, develop and maintain the evidence base for the technologies and services adopted to support wider adoption and dissemination.
- Provide regular updates and progress reports to key stakeholders, both verbal and written, and ensure that the appropriate reporting systems are in place and adhered to, as well as monitor projects against the required outcomes within the constraints of time and budget.
- Drive and support project planning, management and delivery using innovation implementation techniques, change management approaches and methodologies across primary, secondary, tertiary and community partners.



Partner engagement:

- Connect partners including but not limited to Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber, Nexus and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust's Innovation Pop-up in a complementary way, building a peer-peer network which helps Leeds, West Yorkshire, and Yorkshire have a well-connected and easy to access health innovation ecosystem.
- Work with the Leeds Health and Care Academy and other partners, to encourage an innovation-ready culture, and in the adoption and spread of innovation

Marketing and communications:

- Work with the team's marketing colleagues to communicate this support to innovators as part of Health Innovation Leeds, promoting the city and our region as a great place to locate and scale their business.

Networking and events:

- Network with colleagues from across the city and regional health innovation communities (such as the West Yorkshire HealthTech Cluster, conferences and events – within the city and nationally) so that we have a deep and live understanding of relevant partner activities.
- Attend and contribute to relevant internal and external meetings, in and beyond Leeds, promoting the Health Innovation Leeds' message and conveying complex information simply and clearly. This will involve representing the Partnership at events and conferences with regular travel across Leeds and West Yorkshire, as well as occasional national and potential international travel.

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 our Innovation Specialist, you will have / be:

Essential:

- A passion for transforming health outcomes through innovation, with a postgraduate level qualification in a relevant subject or equivalent level of experience. And demonstrable experience of working at a senior level in a health and care or research and innovation related role.
- Experienced in stakeholder management and able to work in an extensive and diverse system.



- Experience of product or programme evaluation (such as NICE guidelines, health economics and / or business cases) and knowledge of regulatory and quality standards for medical devices and digital health technologies.
- An understanding of how innovation support can drive economic growth and particularly the link between economic activity and population health.
- Working knowledge of the health and care service, university sector, and relevant industries and an interest in transforming outcomes and reducing health inequalities.

Desirable:

- Experience of commercialising new products and ensuring adoption into the NHS and / or social care, or experience of sourcing and bringing new products into the NHS and / or social care.
- Experience of working collaboratively with the public and third sector to support the adoption of health technologies into the NHS and / or social care.

Key Attributes:

- Communication skills with an ability to present complex information to a variety of audiences and promote discussion and agreement.
- Self-motivated with the ability to identify priorities and organise own workload effectively to meet agreed objectives and deadlines under pressure.

Additional information

Leeds Academic Health Partnership

Leeds Academic Health Partnership, represents the major, leading organisations and activities that comprise Health Innovation Leeds and is hosted by the University of Leeds. Our vision is that everyone in Leeds has the best opportunities to live a healthier life for longer. With a focus on reducing health inequalities, we bring partners together to help solve the city’s hardest health challenges.

We do this by

- using Leeds’ collective strengths to foster a thriving innovation ecosystem and support economic growth that benefits everyone
- building a shared understanding of local needs so health and care innovations are driven by research evidence
- helping attract talent and investment to Leeds and position our city as a globally-leading health and care research and innovation ecosystem.

Leeds is the UK’s third largest and economically fastest growing city. It has market-leading strengths in healthtech, digital, data and artificial intelligence. Its population



diversity reflects that of the UK, making it an ideal place for innovation: to start small, trial new ideas, and scale fast.

The Leeds ecosystem comprises an established and burgeoning industry cluster, world-class academic research and a single, integrated health and care partnership, all nested within state-of-the-art facilities, supportive infrastructure and a UK-leading fintech hub. It is underpinned by a strong talent pool, a culture of cross-sector collaboration and inclusion, and a shared focus on reducing health inequalities. You can find out more at healthinnovationleeds.com.

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.

Our University

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds. Whatever role we recruit for we are always striving to increase the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate.

Information for disabled candidates

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

