ROLE DESCRIPTION
Leeds Humanities Research Institute Director / Interdisciplinary Theme Lead: Culture, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures

Role details

Summary

The Leeds Humanities Research Institute (LHRI) was established in 2004 with both University and Faculty of Arts strategic funding with the expressed aim to promote interdisciplinary research within and beyond the Faculty. The range of activities that are supported by the LHRI have developed in step with new inflections of the research and innovation aims of the Faculty and University. With the creation in August 2016 of the new, single Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Cultures the remit of the LHRI was extended to all our nine academic schools and institutes, and the LHRI further strengthened by the creation of the post of Deputy Director to work alongside this role.

Our University Strategic Plan and new Research and Innovation Delivery Plan seek to ensure that we are an outstanding research university, securely placed in the UK’s top ten, that achieves significant increases in research quality, income and impact. To successfully realise the plans, to align with new funding opportunities and to enhance our relevance and impact, we need to ensure that we conduct world-leading interdisciplinary and impact-oriented research on ‘grand challenge’ interdisciplinary themes including energy, water, food, cities, health and culture.

The convergence of the original, interdisciplinary aims of the LHRI with these strategic developments has provided our new Faculty with a timely opportunity to rethink and refresh the role of the LHRI Director within the changed institutional context, while at the same time simplifying our current research infrastructure. As a consequence, the latest iteration of the LHRI Director role has been recast to reflect these changes by now incorporating responsibility for the leadership of the Culture theme.

As LHRI Director, you will be an ex officio member of the Faculty Executive Committee, the Cultural Institute Steering Group, and report directly to the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures.
You will play a vital role in building our capabilities for interdisciplinary research. Working with the Dean for Interdisciplinary Research, and supported by the Head of Interdisciplinary Research Development in RIS, as well as the Research and Innovation Development Manager/Officer embedded in the theme, you will lead in the development and delivery of a clear strategic plan for the theme.

You will strengthen cross-faculty academic networks and build vibrant research communities that cross schools and faculties and that generate new ground breaking ideas and agendas. Supporting the development of high-quality funding bids, especially larger, longer bids, you will also play a role in enabling their successful delivery. Critically, you will celebrate success and help to showcase high-quality interdisciplinary research projects, outputs and impacts, both within the University and externally.

You will also be required to work collectively with other Interdisciplinary Theme Leaders to foster cross-theme collaborations. The role is expected to be 0.6FTE and you must hold an academic post at grade 9 or 10 within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Culture.

You are expected to work in accordance with the University's policies, procedures and values, promoting academic excellence through integrity, inclusiveness, professionalism and community.

**Main duties and responsibilities**

- Providing strategic vision, direction and leadership for the Institute and the Theme and generating commitment to that vision across the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures’ schools and Institutes and across the University more broadly;
- Working with the Executive Dean and Pro-Dean Research & Innovation and with the Dean for Interdisciplinary Research to develop, implement and monitor plans for the academic development of the Institute and the Theme, and advance and support projects to meet these objectives;
- Developing and delivering a strategy for the Culture Theme that identifies distinctive strengths and establishes a small number of clear priorities for the short, medium and long term and that is consistent with University strategy and delivery plans;
- Acting as an ambassador and role model for interdisciplinary research and its importance to the University research and innovation strategy;
- Strengthening academic networks and building vibrant communities that cross faculties, generating ground-breaking ideas and agendas and engaging with academics, including Post Graduate Researchers and Early Career Researchers;
• Engaging with broader ‘cross-theme’ activities to ensure effective interdisciplinary capability and collaboration across and beyond the other themes and platforms;

• Facilitating internal and external collaborations and partnerships, including with funders, researchers and research users, that build capabilities for interdisciplinary research and generate new ideas, approaches and agendas;

• Supporting the development of high-quality funding bids, especially larger, longer bids, and playing a role in enabling their successful delivery;

• Strengthening the impacts of interdisciplinary research, including by leading or supporting the development of relevant Research Excellence Framework impact case studies;

• Developing an understanding of stakeholders such that the University has an assessment of the competitive and collaborative environment;

• Ensuring that the LHRI supports its academic objectives within its financial means;

• Ensuring that effective mechanisms are in place for communication within and beyond the Institute, including an effective communications strategy which helps the Faculty and University to shape key messages for stakeholders;

• Promoting the activities of the LHRI and raise the profile of the Theme within the University as well as to significant external bodies (e.g. Research Councils) and stakeholders and through the Consortium of Institutes of Advanced Studies,

• Celebrating success, showcasing high-quality disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and developing key messages for the University;

• Helping to lead theme governance by playing an active role in steering and management groups, Research and Innovation Board and theme and platform meetings;

• Engaging with broader development of inter-disciplinary research and helping to transfer good practice between other themes and platforms;

• Working with the Head of Interdisciplinary Research Development to lead and guide the Research & Innovation Officer/Manager embedded within the theme.

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.
Person specification

- A clear vision for arts and humanities research, research and teaching links, and knowledge transfer dimensions;
- Personal experience in interdisciplinary research at a senior academic level;
- A portfolio of high quality research activity, evidenced by a track record of publication and funding;
- Experience in developing and leading high-quality interdisciplinary research proposals, working across disciplines and in partnership with external organisations;
- Experience in leading the development and delivery of strategic approaches to research for large and diverse research groups;
- The ability to facilitate large and small group effectiveness;
- A track record of successfully establishing and maintaining effective collaboration across academic and institutional boundaries;
- Outstanding communication skills, with the ability to mobilise different groups and to convey complex ideas to promote understanding;
- A strong understanding of the external research funding environment and of the requirements for high-quality research bids;
- A proactive approach and the ability to be seen as a role model for interdisciplinary research and the University’s research and innovation strategy generally;
- Experience of managing financial and other resources.
- The ability to identify key communications messages and supporting narratives for effective use internally and externally.

Additional information

The tenure of the role will be by mutual agreement on appointment. There will be a payment of £6,000 a year whilst in the role, to recognise leadership across both the LHRI and Culture Theme.

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.

Contact information

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