

Vacancy for Innovation Lead - Medicines

Innovate UK's Health and Life Sciences team have a broad remit that includes health technologies (medtech, digital health, diagnostics), precision medicine, medicines & vaccines discovery, engineering biology.

*Please note this advert will close on the 18th February 2024 at 23.59

Watch our video “Why Join Innovate UK?” [here](#).

Title:	Innovation Lead - Medicines
Band:	Innovate UK Band 3 (UKRI Ts & Cs)*
Salary:	From £47,000 gross per annum**
Reports to:	Head of Medicines
Location:	Field based
Contract:	Permanent

*This position includes up to 10% Performance Related Pay per annum

** Subject to Pay & Reward Policy

Innovate UK recognises the importance of work-life balance and we will be happy to discuss any requests for flexible working arrangements.

The Team:

Innovate UK's Health and Life Sciences team have a broad remit that includes health technologies (medtech, digital health, diagnostics), precision medicine, medicines & vaccines discovery, engineering biology. The importance of this sector to the UK economy is highlighted in the UK Innovation Strategy: Leading the future by creating it and Life Sciences Vision: plan for 2021-22.

The team led by the Head of Medicines delivers on thematic health challenges highlighted in the UK Life Sciences Vision including cancer and infectious disease as well as managed programmes on behalf of Government departments such as the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC).

We particularly welcome female applicants as women are under-represented within Innovate UK in this type of role.

Job Purpose:

As an Innovation Lead, the role holder will be responsible for developing and implementing, with partners, the innovation strategy for UK wealth creation in the Medicines sector. This will involve

coordination of government support taking a key role in development of future strategic initiatives in this fast-moving area.

Commercially minded with significant industry experience, the individual will seek to deliver the objectives of our investment and to ensure that opportunities for UK businesses are maximised in line with the aims of the Innovation Strategy. The role holder will report to the Head of Medicines and work closely with the wider Health and Innovate UK teams.

Key Responsibilities and Accountabilities:

- Lead the development and implementation of Innovate UK's strategy and funding for health & life sciences to enable industry to develop and commercialise new products, processes, business models and services.
- Build and manage relationships with businesses, trade associations, Catapults, government departments and agencies, private investors, regulatory bodies, and research organisations.
- Work with funding partners and industry groups to ensure alignment of activities to maximise impact on relevant sectors in health and medicines
- Lead 'fund' and 'connect' activities in the area including delivery of funding competitions, ensuring that resources are targeted at the companies and technology areas that are most likely to create impact
- Apply project and programme management principles to ensure effective delivery of funding competitions and workshops. Take ownership of associated documents including strategies, plans and MoUs.
- Support Innovate UK communications and engagement activities, representing us at leading industry events, raising awareness of the innovation opportunities that exist and leading the thinking in your sector
- Support international activities to ensure that UK activity is set in an international context.

This is not an exhaustive list and you might be encouraged to undertake any other duties across the wider directorate, commensurate with the Band and level of responsibility of this post, for which the post holder has the key experience and/or training.

Person Specification:

This position requires a person with a good understanding of the pathway to commercialisation for novel medicines, the key challenges that companies in this sector face, the technologies involved, and a passion to see the UK achieve further success in the area.

They need to be technically literate and business-aware, with strong interpersonal skills. They should be capable of leading the thinking in their particular area of expertise, contributing to the creation and implementation of national strategies.

They should be able to work within a team, but be equally comfortable and confident to work on their own initiative. They should be motivated to achieve goals that enable the success of others (e.g. colleagues and UK companies).

Qualifications:

Essential

- Degree in a scientific or technical subject relevant to health and life sciences, or with equivalent experience

Desirable

- Post graduate qualifications would be advantageous
- MSP Practitioner, PRINCE2 or other recognised project/programme methodology would be advantageous

Experience:

Essential –

- Strong business experience in a decision-making capacity
- A sound, up-to-date and broad-based knowledge of the medicines sector in the UK and globally
- Specific experience in one or more aspects of commercialisation of healthcare innovation, such as technology assessment, product development, Pharma, CRO, regulation
- Specific experience in one or more aspects of healthcare innovation such as drug delivery technologies, vaccines, antimicrobials, immunotherapies etc.
- Proven ability to deliver major and complex programmes to time, cost and required quality
- Strong experience in managing relationships with various internal and external stakeholders
- Demonstrative ability to facilitate cooperation/partnership working, and to work across boundaries

Desirable –

- Familiarity with the wider research environment
- Familiarity with use and future direction of digital applications in healthcare e.g. AI in drug discovery
- Knowledge of Global health care priorities and opportunities for innovation to address needs.
- Experience tracking impacts and managing a portfolio of activities or investments
- Experience of working across technology fields

Skills:

- Ability to think and act strategically
- Exceptional relationship management skills with both internal and external stakeholders
- High degree of organisational ability and attention to detail
- Excellent written and oral communication and presentation skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Self-organisation and ability to manage and prioritise a workload with multiple work streams

- Ability to manage often conflicting demands of multiple stakeholders whilst protecting the integrity and ownership of the documented processes
- Developed negotiation skills

Competencies:

All team members demonstrate compatibility with and capability against our Core Competencies such as:

Thinking and Problem Solving – Stakeholder management – Communication skills – Influencing – Self-awareness/self-management – Strategic awareness – Working with others– Project management

Travel Requirements:

Field-based: There will be a requirement to travel, mostly national, and there is some flexibility in this. Innovate UK staff make extensive use of telepresence tools for meetings to minimise unnecessary travel.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

Innovate UK is a diverse workforce of people. We believe that encouraging these differences and drawing the best from them will build a productive environment in which everyone feels valued, where talents are fully utilised and in which organisational goals are met. Underpinning this is a belief that it is a fundamental right for everyone to be treated equally, with fairness, respect and dignity. We will act directly and use our influence to ensure that this right is promoted and upheld; we encourage applications from all those who meet the criteria set-out in our role profiles.

Equal Opportunities:

We are an equal opportunities employer, committed to employing any person who meets the criteria for our roles. When undertaking recruitment we may require applicants to undertake certain tests or assessments, some of which will be online and others may be in-person. If you have a disability, health condition or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia then you may be entitled to support with undertaking this type of assessment exercise. Where you feel that reasonable adjustments are required to support you, we ask that you advise your recruitment point of contact in a timely fashion, providing further information. In confidence, Innovate UK will then review your application for adjustments and provide support as required.

UK Research and Innovation:

Innovate UK is partner organisation within UK Research and Innovation. If successful in securing the position, your employer will be UK Research and Innovation. More information can be found online <http://www.ukri.org/>

Employee Benefits:

We offer a benefits package crafted to provide an excellent work/life balance. This includes 30 days' annual leave, 10.5 public and privilege days, flexible working hours, an exceptional defined benefit pension scheme, and access to a variety of support networks and discount schemes.

Flexible Working:

We understand the importance of work-life balance, and are happy to discuss the possibility of flexible working with applicants.

Pre-employment Screening:

To enable us to hire the very best people we will conduct a comprehensive pre-employment check on successful applicants as part of the recruitment process.

The role holder will be required to have the appropriate level of security screening/vetting required for the role. UKRI reserves the right to run or re-run security clearance as required during the course of employment.

UKRI supports research in areas that include animal health, agriculture and food security, and bioscience for health which includes research on animals, genetic modification and stem cell research. Whilst you may not have direct involvement in this type of research, you should consider how this aligns with your personal values or beliefs. To enable us to hire the very best people we will conduct a full and comprehensive pre-employment check as a crucial part of the recruitment process on all individuals that are offered a position with UKRI. This will include a security check and an extreme organisations affiliation check.