

Vacancy for Director IUK Innovation as a Service

The Director of IUK Innovation as a Service is an opportunity to have impact by developing an outstanding innovation service unlocking innovation potential and driving growth for the UK across government departments.

Leading the delivery of a diverse, dynamic portfolio this leadership role gives the opportunity to establish a new unit, deploying IUK's range of products and services. Leading a team of over 70 people this is a unique leadership role spanning IUK, government and industry. A fantastic opportunity to bring a service mindset to mission delivery.

*Please note this advert will close on 23.59 on the date prior to Workday close date.

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

Title: Director IUK Innovation as a Service
Band: UKRI Band X
Salary: £x- £x gross per annum
Reports to: Managing Director IUK
Location: Field based
Contract: Permanent

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

Context:

Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency and part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Our vision is a UK where breakthrough ideas become industry leaders. We back innovative companies for national benefit, investing over £1 billion annually to accelerate business innovation for the nation.

We are partners in growing and scaling innovation—working with companies from early-stage startups to scaling businesses and industry leaders. We prioritise sectors, technologies and companies that deliver maximum economic impact: creating high-value jobs, attracting investment, and generating global opportunities aligned to the Government's Modern Industrial Strategy.

Innovate UK's capability in supporting innovation and business growth, whilst developed to support our core mission, is also deployable to support the innovation priorities of other government departments in the form of Managed Programme. This is an important service that supports UK growth.

As we reshape Innovate UK to drive greater impact a decision has been taken to drive excellence by bringing together this programme under a single leader to ensure that we deliver a consistent, high level of service both to the other government departments and, importantly, the innovators that are served and supported.

The current role is an exciting opportunity to lead Managed Programme within IUK. As the unit is established the opportunity is to unify the programmes, drive best practice from managing relationships to driving impact and outcomes. Under this leadership the Managed Programme Unit will deliver best in class service.

In addition, the job holder will be a member of the IUK Senior Leadership Team with responsibility for shaping direction for the wider organisation and ensuring that we continue to make Innovate UK a great place to work.

As this is new role, the role holder will get the opportunity to develop their optimum team organisation. The total team size is expected to be around 70 FTE with direct reports anticipated to be between 6 and 8.

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

Job Purpose:

To lead the design, delivery, and continuous improvement of managed innovation programmes that address national priorities, drive economic growth, and support the UK's innovation ecosystem. The Director will ensure programmes are strategically aligned, operationally excellent, and deliver measurable impact across sectors. Responsibility for managing stakeholders for Manager Programme for across multiple government departments, including DfT; Ofgem, DSIT, DBT; DESNZ and OLS

Key Responsibilities and Accountabilities:

- Lead in developing a strategic vision for managed innovation programmes aligned with government policy, UKRI priorities, and stakeholder needs. Following sign off from IUK CEO, *which may be delegated to IUK MD*, take accountability for on time and in full implementation.
- Oversee the end-to-end lifecycle of managed programmes, from scoping and co-design to delivery and evaluation.
- Overall accountability for Managed Programmes budget and team; currently around £500M per annum and 70 FTE
- Ensure programmes are agile, and responsive to evolving policy and market contexts.
- In partnership with the IUK Finance Director develop a cost structure that enables full cost recovery for dedicated resource and develop agile approaches to access wider capabilities as agreed and necessary.
- Embed robust governance, risk management, and assurance processes in line with IUK approaches across all programme activities.
- Build and maintain strategic relationships with key government departments, devolved administrations, industry leaders, academia, and third-sector organisations.
- Convene cross-sector partnerships to co-create solutions and foster collaboration across supply chains, disciplines, and innovation communities.
- Represent Innovate UK and UKRI at relevant high-level forums, conferences, and advisory boards, acting as a visible and credible ambassador for innovation.
- Lead and inspire cross-functional teams, fostering a high-performance, inclusive, and innovative culture.
- Role model organisational values, champion diversity and inclusion, and promote wellbeing across teams and partners.

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:

Qualifications:

Essential

- Educated to degree level or equivalent in a relevant field such as engineering, science, technology, innovation management, defense studies or public policy

Desirable

- Postgraduate qualification in a technical subject, innovation management or business management

Experience:

Essential –

- o Senior leadership experience in service delivery.
- o Successful management of multi-million-pound budgets and contracts with delivery partners
- o Experience in impact reporting and communicating programme outcomes to diverse audiences
- o Leadership of large, diverse team and building high performance teams
- o Management of a range of diverse, senior stakeholders
- o Proven track record of working at a senior level across government, industry, or research organisations

Desirable –

- o Familiarity with innovation funding mechanisms
- o Management of delivery partners

Skills:

- o Ability to translate national policy priorities into actionable innovation programmes.
- o Stakeholder management across government departments, industry and academia.
- o Working knowledge of public sector financial management, budgeting and procurement.
- o Inspirational leadership, commitment to inclusive leadership, talent development and organisational culture.

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 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. In general, you will need to work in the Swindon office once a week and may have four to six nights away from home per month on average to attend conferences and events.

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.