1. Advert

Post Title: Research Development Manager  
Division: Research and Enterprise  
Hours: Full time. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).  
Location: Brighton, United Kingdom  
Contract: Fixed term until 19 November 2024 for secondment cover  
Reference: 21859  
Salary: Starting at £37,099 to £44,263 per annum, pro rata if part time.  
Placed on: 16 October 2023  
Closing date: 13 November 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.  
Expected Interview date: To be confirmed  
Expected start date: 03 January 2024

About the role

Applications are invited for this full-time post in Research and Enterprise Services, which is responsible for providing professional services and support for the University’s research and enterprise activities.

The post will be based in the Research Development team which provides advice and professional support to the University's academic staff in their pursuit of research and knowledge exchange funding. The post-holder will support research for the School of Life Sciences.

The work involves:

- Promoting and supporting funding opportunities and applications for a wide range of academics
- Supporting Schools in the development and implementation of their research and knowledge exchange strategy
- Supporting and advising on bid development and award acceptance, including complex budgets, to a wide range of funders
- Advising on the policies and rules of funders
- Checking the terms of awards offered and supporting contract negotiations
- Managing direct line reports and working collaboratively with colleagues to deliver a high-quality professional service.

About you

You will have a degree or equivalent or be qualified by experience, and have experience preparing bids for funding including project costing experience. You must be highly numerate and have excellent organisational abilities, a knowledge of the research funding environment in which universities work, and the interpersonal and communications skills needed to work...
effectively with the University's academic staff and with external organisations that fund research.

About our Division

The Research and Enterprise Division is a leading developer of ideas and innovations that contribute to the Global Community. We contribute to new knowledge, ideas, and solutions. This leads to real change in the world and makes a difference in our lives. Our Strategy focuses on People, Research Strengths, Interdisciplinarity, Integrity, Grant Capture, and International Reputation. Last year alone we submitted 681 bids, received 230 awards, completed the set-up of 227 projects just to give an idea of how dynamic our Division is.

Why work here...

Our University is situated just off the A27, next to the beautiful South Downs where you will enjoy everything that our 150-acre campus has to offer. We are easily accessible by public transport; a 5-minute walk from the train station and bus stops within the campus. We have dedicated cycling paths and encourage our staff to cycle to work with our offering of a cycle to work scheme. Sussex is a renowned, research-led International University and this is only possible because of the people that work here. Whether you are Faculty, Student, or a member of a Professional Services Team, it’s our people that make us great and we want you to be part of that.

The benefits that you will receive from day one:

- Generous pension scheme 31.4% total
- Life insurance of up to 3 times your annual salary for any pension-enrolled employees.
- Purchase additional Annual Leave though our Scheme for a great home and work life balance
- Discounts of public transport, Cycle to work Scheme, and special rates in hotels in Brighton and the Sussex region.
- Discounts on high-street shops through our Rewards partner, along with a Cash back Health Plan.
- Considerable discount on our on-site Gym Facilities because we care about our employees’ Health and Wellbeing.

Please contact Deborah McGuchan (deborah.mcguchan@sussex.ac.uk) or Desiree Villahermosa Caballero (d.villahermosa-caballero@sussex.ac.uk) for informal enquiries.

For full details and how to apply see our vacancies page

*The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students, and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.*

**Please note: The University requires that work undertaken for the University is performed from the UK.**

2. **Job Description and Person Specification**

**Job Description for the post of:** Research Development Manager

**Division:** Research and Enterprise
Department: Research Development and Initiatives

Location: Falmer House

Grade: 7

Responsible to: Senior Research Development Manager

Responsible for: G6 Senior Research Development Officers (if applicable)

Role description:

To provide professional support for the planning, development and delivery of high-quality research and knowledge exchange applications, in particular, but not exclusively, through external funding calls and tenders.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. Manage, promote and maintain high quality, accurate Research Development Services, supporting and advising on the development of bids and acceptance of awards, engendering a culture of continuous improvement and service delivery.

2. Ensure compliance with all relevant funder requirements, legislation and University policies, interpreting the same and advising on their practical application to the funding applicant.

3. Work in partnership with other key stakeholders to ensure seamless service.

4. Manage the allocation of work and operational outputs of direct line reports.

5. Supporting Schools in the development and implementation of their research and knowledge exchange strategies.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Management and Leadership

1.1 Provide management and leadership to motivate designated line reports to achieve targets and objectives delegating according to ability.

1.2 Ensure the availability of resources to achieve targets and objectives including the selection, induction, performance management and development of all team members.

1.3 Ensure team understanding and application of operational standards are embedded in the team culture and methods of working.

1.4 Support the development of others, providing training and coaching in area of expertise.

1.5 Foster an ethos of continuous improvement and service delivery.

1.6 Manage complex internal and external processes to ensure delivery of timely and accurate research and knowledge exchange funding proposals and award acceptance.

2. Service Delivery

2.1 Work within university policy and procedure, undertake day-to-day delivery and management of operational matters in the iterative research and knowledge exchange development process for one or more allocated Schools. Plan and implement activities with direct line reports and across the wider Research Development team to ensure the achievement of internal timelines and funder deadlines.

2.2 Ensure effective systems and procedures are in place to support the management and tracking of research proposals and awards to facilitate the achievement of key performance targets.

2.3 Plan and implement improvements to systems and procedures in area of responsibility to ensure effective administration within area of responsibility.

2.4 Maintain appropriate records and documentation commensurate with policy and procedure, including capture of full and accurate project information for statutory and
other external reporting (e.g. HESA, REF). Monitor and review, with School(s), their proposal outcomes, to inform the quality of future proposals.

2.5 Provide reports internally and externally as appropriate. Undertake analysis, interpretation and presentation of standard data to inform research and knowledge exchange funding and planning decisions.

2.6 Identify critical issues when resolving problems and use university policy and procedure to support the application of appropriate resolutions.

3. Policy and Procedure
3.1 Work within internal and external policy, procedure and regulatory requirements (including VAT, state aid, Insurance, IR35, GDPR, Sanctions, Due Diligence, and Export Control), providing advice, particularly to School-based colleagues, as required.

3.2 Contribute to policy decisions and improvement in area of expertise.

4. Customers and Stakeholders
4.1 Proactively work with internal and external stakeholders and colleagues to ensure the effective service delivery, exchange information and provide data to inform decisions as necessary, showing appropriate sensitivity when needed. Ensure key project documentation is in place for the establishment of a project account with complete project records and history. Support the Directors of Research & Knowledge Exchange in relevant School(s) to development and deliver their Research and Knowledge Exchange strategy.

5. Support and Advice on the Development of Bids and Award Acceptance
5.1 Proposal Support. Support of all research proposals and relevant services and knowledge exchange proposals. Accurate costing and pricing, drafting of non-technical and institutional position content. Review of full proposals for coherence, completeness and consistency with funder requirements. Risk assessment and due diligence as required and keeping key School stakeholders informed as appropriate. Ensuring final approval is in place before submission of proposals to the funder.

5.2 Research Funding Intelligence. Build relationships with key funders and disseminate funder information and intelligence around funding strategies and priorities; promote and strengthen strategic research capabilities.

5.3 Award Acceptance. Support and where appropriate lead the negotiation and contractual aspects of successful proposals; being responsible for ensuring the accuracy of awards and that the due process is followed, and that all regulatory requirements e.g. ethics are in hand before accepting the award.

5.4 Intellectual Property and Commercial Opportunity Identification. Understand the University’s commercialisation support mechanisms and proactively encourage new IP disclosures or commercial development ideas, sign-posting academics to the Innovation and Business Partnerships team.

5.5 Training and Development. Provide support to faculty, including new starters, through training and staff development activities at individual, School, Division or institution-wide level. Provide reference materials and user-friendly guidance on key aspects of bid development and managing projects.

5.6 Team working. Work closely with Research Development colleagues to ensure continuity of support at peaks in bid volume, in particular for areas where you have expertise e.g. key funders. Provide cover during times of absence.

To carry out any other duties that are within the employee's skills and abilities whenever reasonably instructed.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.
INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Leading a team of staff (typically 0 or 1 line reports) to manage a School or Schools research funding portfolios.

- Working with Principal Investigators (PIs) and appropriate internal and external contacts to ensure accurately costed, funder-compliant bids are submitted with, full School and institutional approval, on time to the relevant funder.

- Working with PIs and appropriate internal and external contacts to ensure awards are accepted in a timely way, meeting funder requirements.

- Ensure accurate data and records are recorded and maintained in a timely manner for all bids and awards submitted by the allocated School(s).

- The post holder reports to the Senior Research Development Manager. Working under general direction within a clear framework the post holder will manage their own workload (and as appropriate their direct reports) to achieve their agreed objectives. The role holder will play a key role in supporting the Divisional leadership team to achieve the strategic and operational goals of the University, School(s), Professional Services and their Division. The post holder is expected to work collaboratively across the University and with key stakeholders to deliver single team working that efficiently and effectively supports the achievement of those goals and objectives.

- Support achievement of the Division’s compliance with all applicable statutory and regulatory compliance obligations, including (but not limited to): UKVI, Health & Safety, the Prevent Duty, data protection, Competition and Markets Authority requirements and equal opportunities, as appropriate to the grade and role. Additionally, to promote good practice in relation to University policy, procedure and guidance in relation to those compliance matters in respect of students, staff and other relevant parties.

Person Specification

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to degree level or equivalent qualification or qualified by directly relevant experience.

2. A minimum of two years detailed practical knowledge and understanding of Research and Knowledge Exchange funding and the research funding landscape.

3. Effective management skills, both of self and others. Including the ability to manage complex situations within time restraints.
4. Well-developed oral and written communication skills with the ability to present policy and procedure in a way that can be understood by multiple stakeholders.

5. Strong planning and organisational skills, including project management with the ability to delegate to team members where appropriate.

6. Well-developed interpersonal skills with the ability to effectively influence in area of expertise, positively contribute to team working to build and develop working relationships. Thrive in a team environment.

7. Analytical skills with the ability to generate effective solutions and make effective decisions.

8. Commitment to customer service excellence.


**ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA**

1. Experience of research funding applications

2. Proposal development and review

3. Numerate and experienced with numbers with evidence of complex project costing and pricing.

4. Ability to risk assess projects and apply appropriate governance and/or related policy.

5. Evidence of working under pressure to demanding deadlines, whilst effectively managing and prioritising high levels of workload, delivered to high standards.

6. Strong interpersonal and communication skills (verbal and written) and able to communicate effectively with a wide range of professional and academic staff and with external funding bodies (including international and cross-sector organisations).

7. Ability to develop training materials and confidently present them to a stakeholder audience.

8. Demonstrate a flexible/multi-tasking approach to managing workload, being positive and responsive to stakeholders and team.

9. Willingness to occasionally travel (for training) including overnight stays, where necessary.

10. Willingness to work longer/flexible hours as necessary to meet deadlines.
DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Knowledge of the Higher Education sector, including the research policy context in the UK.

2. An understanding of the key elements of research contracts and of intellectual property.

3. PhD, equivalent research degree or research management qualification

4. Experience of working in a similar role in higher education, research or funding organisation.

5. Support the development and implementation of a research and knowledge exchange strategy.