

University of Birmingham

Institute for Global Innovation and Institute for Advanced Studies

Job outline – Deputy Director

Full/part time – 0.5 fte secondment from an existing post

Duration of post – One Year in first instance with opportunity to extend for 2 more years, to a total of 3 years.

Post is open to - internal candidates

Grade – Professorial. An honorarium is payable.

Informal Enquiries – Professor Hisham Mehanna, Director , h.mehanna@bham.ac.uk

The appointment: Deputy Director, Institute for Global Innovation and Institute for Advanced Studies

Job Summary:

The Institute for Advanced Studies, established 5 years ago, is one of the University's main mechanisms for supporting and engendering new, bottom-up cross-disciplinary research collaborations.

The Institute for Global Innovation is a new and exciting investment from the University of Birmingham designed to bring together diverse strands of research with the aim of addressing the most pressing global challenges.

Following the end of the successful tenure of Prof Mike Hannon, the outgoing director of the IAS, UEB has resolved to merge the Institute for Global Innovation and the Institute for Advanced Studies into one organisation, with one leadership team, to enable an even more coordinated and integrated approach to supporting cross-disciplinary research across the University, and to help leverage the combined capacity and activities of the two institutes.

The Deputy Director will join the leadership team of the combined Institutes, which are led by Prof Hisham Mehanna, Director. The Deputy Director will supervise the academic activities of the IGI and IAS, including the overseeing of seminars and workshops, capacity building activities, and public engagement activities. The post holder will also be the point of contact for the UBIAS network partnership at UoB. In addition, they will provide mentorship academics across the IGI and IAS, including the emerging themes and 'bottom-up' projects developing within the IAS. They will also assist the Director in the management of administrative and other functions of the combined institutes.

The Deputy Director will report directly and be accountable to the to the Director.

At the end of this initial one year period , there will be the opportunity for extension for another two years (to a total of three years) by mutual agreement.

Job Context

The Institute for Advanced Studies supports and encourages new, bottom-up cross-disciplinary research collaborations, mainly through funding and organising workshops, Distinguished and Vanguard IAS fellowships and, latterly, providing follow-on seed funding.

The IGI provides a structure where academic researchers and experts from outside Higher Education (including Policy and charitable sectors) can come together to define and address pressing global challenges. At any given time the Institute will support up to ten interdisciplinary teams. The researchers are brought together from a wide range of disciplines – medical and biological sciences, physical sciences and engineering, social sciences and humanities – to contribute their expertise to addressing the challenges.

With the Director, the Deputy Director and a small professional services team are responsible for coordinating the IGI and IAS's activities, maximising impact and championing inter-disciplinary research.

We envisage that the successful applicant will be of Professorial standing with a strong track record of research leadership and cross-disciplinary working.

Main Duties

The Deputy Director is a 0.5 fte post. The successful applicant will be expected to discuss with their line manager/ Head of College which of their existing duties they will be expected to continue in parallel with this post. It is expected that the Deputy Director will continue to be research active and that their research will broadly align with the goals of the combined Institutes.

The main duties will be

- To lead the programme of academic activities of the IGI and IAS, including the workshops, seminars, and public engagement activities, and assessing and selecting the proposals for response-mode, bottom-up research, ensuring that the IAS and the IGI make a strong contribution to the scholarly environment within the University of Birmingham through activities such as Research Seminars, Guest Lectures and providing training via mechanisms such as the *University Research Leaders Programme*.
- To lead the liaison and engagement of UoB with IAS's (or equivalent) at other universities internationally, via the UBIAS network partnership.
- Lead on the IGI and IAS efforts to identify and address impediments to cross-disciplinary research.
- Support and mentor research teams affiliated to the IGI and IAS and foster an environment that is conducive to cross disciplinary research.

In conjunction with the Director and the IGI/IAS team, the post holder will:

- Help establish several extensive multi-disciplinary research programmes that will ensure the IGI is positioned as a key contributor to policy and scholarly thought across an array of global challenges.
- Assess and select proposals for Distinguished and Vanguard fellowships

- Support IGI affiliated research teams to access additional research funds with which to further enhance and support their work.
- Represent and promote the work of the IAS and the IGI to external audiences, including key policy makers, international organisations, charities, media and research/philanthropic funders with a view to fostering engagement, influence and impact.
- Utilise personal networks to ensure IAS and IGI affiliated researchers have access to key audiences that can inform and enhance the impact of their research.
- Liaise with other University of Birmingham functions, such as the International Office, Development and Alumni Relations and Research Support Services to ensure a coordinated approach to areas of mutual interest.
- Provide expert advice internally and externally regarding multidisciplinary research.

Person Specification

The post holder should be an outstanding research leader, with a strong track record in leading cross-disciplinary research, and who can demonstrate successful engagement with multiple audiences, for example, policy stakeholders, the media and the development community.

Essential

- An international profile and reputation for excellence in research , especially in cross-disciplinary research, as evidenced for example by involvement in international collaborations, thought leadership, excellent publications in high quality refereed journals and a strong research funding profile.
- Experience of leading, inspiring and mentoring other staff, both as individuals and teams, in a high quality research environment.
- Skills in managing and/or coordinating multiple projects and working collaboratively with scholars and professional services colleagues.
- Familiarity with the funding mechanisms associated with supporting academic research.
- Commitment to the promotion of equal opportunities;
- The drive and commitment to play a key role in the leadership of the combined institutes to help them achieve their ambitions for impact at the global level.

Desirable

- Track record of establishing and/or leading national and international networks capable of bringing together global expertise that enhances research in cross-disciplinary areas.
- Experience in working across institutional and discipline boundaries, from sciences and medicine to the humanities, and to inspire similar behaviour in others.
- Experience of resource planning and management; experience in strategic planning, showing effective implementation and evaluation.
- A record as a “good citizen” who recognises the need to foster collegiate endeavour.