Head of Knowledge Exchange, Impact & Communications

ROWETT INSTITUTE, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MEDICAL SCIENCES AND NUTRITION

Closing date: 28 November 2022
Interview date: To Be Confirmed
Reference number: ROW101A
INTRODUCTION

The Rowett Institute, University of Aberdeen, is one of the leading nutrition institutes in Europe undertaking research to address some of the most compelling contemporary problems in nutrition. The Institute is part of the SEFARI collective (Scottish Environment, Food and Agriculture Research Institutes) who collaborate to deliver the Scottish Government’s Strategic Research Programme (SRP). The current programme started in 2022 and is due to end in 2027.

The SRP is worth £38 million per year and forms an important part of Scotland’s science base addressing key mid to longer-term challenges for Scotland’s environment, land use, food and rural communities. The Rowett grant is worth ~£6.1 million per year and the core of our work is investigating the relationships between food, diet and human health working closely with our policy partners, RESAS and Food Standards Scotland. Additionally, we are working with Scotland’s Food & Drink industry to come up with innovative ideas to increase their productivity as well as make the links between the industry and public health to prevent disease and improve lifelong health. We are also increasingly aware because of the climate emergency that this needs to be done in a sustainable manner.

SEFARI aims to deliver ‘Leading Ideas for Better Lives’ reflecting that publicly funded research in Scotland must deliver positive impact for individuals, whether in Scotland or elsewhere. As part of this we are required to facilitate the flow of research, knowledge and expertise to and from policy, industry and the public. Consequently, Knowledge Transfer (KT) and Knowledge Exchange (KE) are critical to the ongoing success of our work and the Rowett works in partnership with the SEFARI Gateway, the knowledge exchange and impact hub for SEFARI, to achieve this.

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The role is to act as an external ambassador and representative for the Rowett Institute and in particular the work funded by the Scottish Government. It will involve promoting, facilitating and disseminating the work and expertise of the Institute to a wide range of external stakeholders, end-users and representative bodies including key policy officials as well as to industry (primarily the food and drink sector). Additionally, the post-holder will be required to identify and engage with new stakeholders ensuring effective impact of the Rowett’s research as well as cultivating new areas of investment.

The job includes, as part of the wider role within the SEFARI collective, the position of the Knowledge Broker for Food and Drink and will involve working with staff from other Institutes to create teams capable of delivering work funded from within the Gateway funding streams.

This is a managerial role and will involve heading the small Rowett Communications team and interacting with relevant KTE teams at the School and University level.
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Liaise with stakeholders, policy and industry to increase the visibility and impact of the Rowett’s research output.
- Cultivate old and establish new networks, collaborations, and partnerships with other organisations to communicate the Rowett’s research agenda, promote the Rowett as a centre of excellence for nutrition research as well as the wider SRP funded by the Scottish Government (SG).
- Knowledge Broker for the SEFARI Gateway for Food and Drink communicating the work of the SG’s SRP. As part of this there will be a requirement to build teams using staff from the other Institutes in the SEFARI collective to support or add value to the SRP.
- Facilitate new links and strengthen old ones between the Rowett researchers and policy teams and industry.
- Develop and implement innovative approaches to KT and KE.
- Manage media relations for the Rowett both in identifying and creating output.

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

The role requires an individual with strong knowledge and excellent links to policy and the food and drink industry, who can interact at a high level with external representatives and bodies. The successful candidate must be able to communicate confidently the work of the Rowett and SRP to the agri-food and health research area including Government policy, the industry sector and key external stakeholders. A strong understanding of nutrition and research is essential as is a proven track record of influencing policy and people.
Salary will be at the appropriate point on Grade 7, £42,149 – 50,296 per annum, and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and probation period.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Grant Rae, HR Adviser (e-mail: grant.rae@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

The candidate appointed to this post may be eligible for homeworking on an occasional or regular basis. For more information please refer to our Homeworking Policy.

AT A GLANCE

SALARY:
Grade 7
£43,414 - £51,805

HOURS OF WORK:
Full-Time, 37.5 hours per week

CONTRACT TYPE:
Funding Limited to 31 March 2027

LOCATION:
Aberdeen
## Person Specification

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<th>ESSENTIAL</th>
<th>DESIRABLE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education/Qualifications</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic, technical and professional education and training</td>
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<td>• Educated to degree level however experience and evidence of networking links in the Agri-Food policy area and/or Food and Drink industry are required.</td>
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<td><strong>Work and Other relevant experience (including training)</strong></td>
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<td>e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research</td>
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<td>• Knowledge of Scotland’s food and drink policy and industry is required.</td>
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<td>• Experience in disseminating research.</td>
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<td>• Experience in working with policy and industry.</td>
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<td>• Requires a broad understanding of external funding frameworks and collaborative structures.</td>
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<td>• Experience of developing and maintaining professional networks</td>
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<td><strong>Personal qualities and abilities</strong></td>
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<td>e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills</td>
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<td>• Requires a high level of self-motivation and the ability to motivate others.</td>
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<td>• Must have the confidence and ability to interact with others, build rapport, and form new networks.</td>
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<td>• Problem solving skills are required as well as strong attention to detail.</td>
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<td>• Must be able to plan and prioritise effectively managing conflicting demands and deadlines.</td>
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<td>• Excellent communication skills, both written and oral, are essential and must be able to engage with staff, policy and stakeholders at all levels.</td>
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<td>• Must be able to recognise confidentiality and boundaries</td>
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<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
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<td>e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.</td>
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<td>• Must be available to travel on a regular basis.</td>
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<td>• Occasional work outside of normal hours sometimes required.</td>
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Updated October 2022
open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others

The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.

CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to uphold the principals of the foundational purpose. We remain committed to delivering positive change both locally and globally. We work together and with our partners in an interdisciplinary way, catalysing world-leading research in our areas of strength: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing. We are investing in our future and have committed £100m to upgrading our campus, including the new fully digitised Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King’s Quarter and a new Business School building. Our commitment to our students, campus and community has led to us being named a Top 20 UK institution in two major league tables1 and 4th in the UK for overall student satisfaction2.

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1 The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023 and the Guardian University Guide 2023
2 National Student Survey (NSS) 2022
On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched Aberdeen 2040, our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- **Inclusive**  
  We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.

- **Interdisciplinary**  
  We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.

- **International**  
  We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.

- **Sustainable**  
  We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances.  
  We work responsibly.

**OUR EDUCATION**

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

**OUR RESEARCH**

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen’s Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

**INTERNATIONAL**

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships around the world, including Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students³.

³ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021

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IMPACT

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2022 we were listed in the global Top 100 for 8 of these goals\(^4\).

Our highly cited work in zero-carbon technology and global outlooks makes us Scotland’s best institution for environmental research\(^5\).

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\(^4\) Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022
\(^5\) QS World University Rankings 2022

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The School (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/smmsn/index.php) encompasses all of the disciplines that underpin today’s medicine, including biomedical sciences, health sciences, nutrition and medical, medical science and dental education and these are organised into five Institutes. The largest school in the University, the SMMSN has five Institutes: the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS), the Rowett Institute, the Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences (IEHMS) and the Institute of Dentistry, comprising all of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and our own graduate entry Dental School.

Staff are line managed and research opportunities are supported through our institutes which work together in an integrated and coordinated way to deliver research and teaching across the School, details of which can be found on their websites as below.

- The Institute of Applied Health Sciences https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/
- The Institute of Medical Sciences http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/
- The Rowett Institute http://www.abdn.ac.uk/rowett/
- The Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences https://www.abdn.ac.uk/IEHMS/
- The Institute of Dentistry https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/ https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/

Within the IMS, our scientists are working towards the creation of effective therapies for patients with a range of debilitating and life-threatening conditions. Current research areas include: arthritis and musculoskeletal medicine; cell developmental and cancer biology; immunity, infection and inflammation; metabolic and cardiovascular health; microbiology and translational neuroscience.

Within the IAHS, research is focused on improving health and health care delivery. It is home to a multidisciplinary grouping of around 100 university academic staff who conduct population and clinically-orientated health research and hosts the Health Services Research Unit (HSRU) and Health Economics Research Unit (HERU), both funded by the Chief Scientist’s Office (CSO) of the Scottish Government.

As well as being the organisational home to the teaching scholarship staff and responsible for oversight of the UG and PGT programmes offered by the School, the IEHMS promotes and supports excellence in medical education through research and development, with a focus on conceptually and theoretically robust research and development which has strong potential for reaching international recognition. The highly regarded University of Aberdeen MBChB programme and several postgraduate programmes including a Masters in Clinical Education are delivered by IEHMS.

The Dental Institute runs an undergraduate BDS programme and a growing suite of masters programmes for professional development.

We have a number of specialist Centres representing areas of particular research strength and capacity within the School all of which are willing to support colleagues on projects in their areas. More information is available at the following websites.

- The Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/cheri/)
- The Centre for Health Data Science (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/achds/)
- The Aberdeen Cardiovascular & Diabetes Centre (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acdc/) and
- The Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acamh/)

The School is home to over 800 staff and 2000fte students. It is located on the Foresterhill site, shared with our main clinical partner, NHS Grampian, with whom we work in close collaboration at primary and secondary care levels.

This is one of the largest integrated healthcare delivery, training and research sites in Europe and has rich assets including state-of-the-art academic (research and teaching) and clinical buildings. Excellent infrastructure is also provided through core facilities for biomedical science including flow cytometry, proteomics, microscopy and genome sequencing, support for data health science projects and clinical trials.

The last major academic capital development was the opening of the Rowett Institute, occupied in March 2016, whose staff undertakes nutrition research to help improve people’s lives through the prevention of ill-health and disease. Their new £40M building has provided the University of Aberdeen with a facility with unique capabilities for human nutrition and metabolic research.

Updated October 2022
Scotland’s third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland’s top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including His Majesty’s Theatre, Music Hall, Art Gallery, the P&J Arena, Museums, and Beach Leisure Centre. The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also one of Scotland’s most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

The city and the surrounding area have ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, coming out top 10 as one of the best places to live in Scotland in 2020 in the annual Bank of Scotland survey.

To find out more visit www.visitabdn.com
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The University is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php.

The University’s commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award at an institutional level and across all its subject areas. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT+ equality.

The University is signed up to Advance HE’s Race Equality Charter, affirming the University’s commitment to the charter’s aim of improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using contact SCOTLAND-BSL.

The University is delighted to be accredited as a Disability Confident employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment.

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277

HOW TO APPLY

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is 28 November 2022

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Jules Griffin, Director of the Rowett Institute
01224 438642, jules.griffin@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Professor Griffin.

Please quote reference number ROW101A on all correspondence.