

The UHI Policy Research Institute for Remote and Rural Regions

Institute Director Post, Professorial Level [Salary negotiable within the range £65,000 to £75,000 plus pension contribution]

Introduction

The UHI Millennium Institute is looking for a high quality and experienced researcher and policy advisor to direct the new Institute, which has been founded to further develop and expand the work of the UHI PolicyWeb, established in 2004 and directed on a part-time basis by Emeritus Professor John M Bryden who is due to retire shortly. The Director will be expected to have strong academic and non-academic qualifications, successful and relevant track record and experience, and be familiar with rural places, economic, social and environmental trends, and related policy issues in Scotland, the UK, other European countries and elsewhere. He/ She will be expected to have a sound knowledge of EU and other OECD member country rural policies and research. He/she will have been involved in post-Doctoral research, PhD level supervision, delivery of graduate and post-graduate level degree courses, and undertaken their own research over a number of years in relevant topics. She/he will have successful management and research funding track record, and a proven ability to work with other genders, ethnic groups, age groups, and with both academic and non-academic partners. She/he will be a member of relevant professional organisations at national and international level, and will have a number of esteem indicators. The applicant should be able to demonstrate qualities of leadership and innovation. He/she must be strongly motivated to develop the Institute into a long-term successful model of cooperation and partnership between academic and non-academic partners and across different disciplines with a high reputation for excellence and independence, and a sound track record in high quality research, knowledge transfer, and related post-graduate teaching. The Director will be expected to establish the conditions for long-term sustainability of the Institute. A secondment may be considered in appropriate circumstances. The core funding for the first three years will be approximately £250,000 per annum.

The post will be based in the small and dynamic Highland city of Inverness. Frequent travel will be required within and beyond Scotland. The Director will lead a team comprising two senior Research Fellows, a number of PhD level researchers, and support staff including an Institute Manager, Event Manager, and Web and Publications Officer.

Main duties and responsibilities

- To provide leadership in relevant internationally recognised social-science based research, publication and knowledge transfer activities, and establish the capacity and reputation of the institute as a leading player in the areas of social and public policy

related to rural and remote regions in Scotland, UK, Europe and internationally with the aim of achieving a high standard of Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) submission, and be awarded an RAE grade in the top two grades by the next RAE

- To maintain, develop and promote existing national and international collaborative activities in relation to research and research-based post-graduate teaching and learning activities and related knowledge transfer and consultancy activities. Existing collaborative arrangements include the **QUCAN** research partnerships with Queens University Belfast, UHI, Cornell University, Aberdeen University and Newcastle University; the **International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS)** collaboration with Aberdeen University, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Leuven KN University, Corvinus University Hungary, University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Guelph, Brandon University, University of Quebec at Rimousky; SARP (Scottish Academy of Rural Policy) which involves collaboration mainly with partner Universities and Institutes in Scotland; and the knowledge exchange partnership with MSPs on the Cross-Party Group on Rural Policy in the Scottish Parliament.
- To provide strategic direction in order to enable the Institute to fulfil the objectives set out in the Business Plan in partnership with the different Academic Partners of the UHI Millennium Institute.
- To develop and maintain a high quality social science research capacity and related research culture focussed on public policy relevant to remote and rural regions. Applicants should note that the scope of the Institute covers broad, territorial, rural policy and goes far beyond traditional concerns with agriculture and land use
- To promote and implement effective approaches to data management, data and research repositories, knowledge transfer, enterprise, innovation, and the interface of science and society within the Institute's research and knowledge transfer programmes and activities.
- To manage and provide leadership to Institute staff and graduate students.
- To have overall control of the financial management of the Institution
- To act as a member of relevant committees as may be required for the necessary performance of these duties, including the Institute's Management Board and Advisory Committee, the UHI Research Committee and the Faculty Research Committee.

Essential Qualities

1. Excellent social science qualifications (PhD or equivalent) and research experience, with a history of publications in recognised and peer-reviewed national and international quality journals. The Institute is an inter-disciplinary social science based unit, and applications will be welcome from economists, sociologists, anthropologists, geographers and political scientists.

2. Significant experience of policy related research, consultancy and other advisory activities at national and international levels.
3. Excellent business management skills in research and university contexts, demonstrating ability to raise funds for research, consultancy, specialised teaching and knowledge transfer activities, and ability to manage teams of researchers as well as other staff.
4. Sound grasp of relevant theories of sustainable rural development, especially those concerning sustainable economic and social development, and of theories concerning social exclusion, the evaluation of public goods and their role in economic and social development and quality of life, and theories of place-based and territorial development.
5. Ability to demonstrate an up-to-date familiarity with the relevant literature.
6. Experience of relevant cross-country comparative research, e.g. within an EU Framework Programme
7. Successful record of working with a wide range of both academic and non-academic stakeholders.
8. Experience of working with the media.
9. Track record of successful funding bids for research and knowledge transfer.
10. Knowledge of relevant EU policies, and OECD policy discourse, relating to rural and remoter regions.
11. Management and organisation experience demonstrating leadership and innovation.
12. Relevant IT and computing skills.
13. Willingness to live in the Highlands and Islands and ability to travel frequently within and beyond Scotland.

Desirable Qualities

1. Knowledge of rural Scotland and related policy challenges
2. European language capacities.
3. Knowledge of relevant international policies and debates.
4. Membership of relevant professional bodies, editorial panels, etc.
5. Conference, seminar and workshop organisation experience.
6. Management of trans-national research projects.
7. Experience of inter-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary research and problem-solving activities.

8. Experience of working with parliamentary committees etc.
9. International Organisation, Civil service and/or NGO experience