

# FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF **INNOVATION FELLOWS**



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH



EDINBURGH INNOVATIONS



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# INTRODUCTION

Dr George Baxter, CEO, Edinburgh Innovations and Professor Christina Boswell, Vice-Principal Research and Enterprise



Over the past six years, the University of Edinburgh has achieved a remarkable increase in activity in all areas of commercialisation, helping hundreds of our researchers make a positive impact on the world socially, economically and environmentally.

Our many partnerships with industry and the public sector are facilitating world-class innovations, particularly in data and AI, sustainability and healthcare. This has contributed to the University being ranked 5th in the world for industry, innovation and infrastructure, for the second year running, in the Times Higher 2023 rankings.

We are building on this positive foundation with the second year of our new Innovation Fellowships, a key element of the Edinburgh Career Development Scheme.

We are committed to enabling academics and those supporting our research and innovation activities to realise ambitious goals, providing them with the skills, support and inspiration to develop transformative ideas with real impact.

Edinburgh Innovations (EI) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of Edinburgh and an integral part of the University team. Working closely with academics and other professional service staff, we help to connect the University with sources of funding and partners from industry, Government, other universities, charities and a host of others internationally.



# THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

The University of Edinburgh's Innovation Fellowships build on our strong record of investing in early career researchers and aim to propel new technologies from the lab into market ready applications. The Innovation Fellowship will support outstanding researchers, over three years, with targeted support and development to help them achieve the next step in their innovation career.

This year the University is appointing three additional Innovation Fellows, to join our existing cohort of five. The Innovation Fellows will have a track record of innovative research and/or translation, and will develop a novel research and translation programme, incorporating strong pathways likely to produce impact of reach and significance (e.g. commercialisation or other innovation activities).

The Fellow will be expected to develop an academic career based on a signature technology or distinct societal need/benefit (e.g. commercialisation of research through business engagement or spin-out).

Host Schools supporting the Fellows are:

- Edinburgh Medical School
- Institute for Regeneration and Repair
- Institute of Genetics and Cancer
- Usher Institute
- Roslin Institute
- Institute of Cardiovascular and Neuroscience
- The UK Dementia Research Institute
- The Royal Dick School of Veterinary Studies
- School of Biological Sciences
- School of Chemistry
- School of Engineering
- School of GeoSciences
- School of Mathematics
- School of Informatics
- School of Physics and Astronomy
- Edinburgh College of Art
- School of Health in Social Science
- School of Economics
- Edinburgh Business School

Applications are welcome from researchers across our full range of disciplines who have relevant experience of, or demonstrable potential to, lead interdisciplinary initiatives.

We are particularly interested in applicants with potential to make a key contribution in one or more of the three University priority research areas (which span the University's three Colleges Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, Science & Engineering and Arts, Humanities & Social Science):

- Future Health and Care
- Data, digital and AI
- Climate and Environment

At the University of Edinburgh, we know diversity fosters creativity and innovation. We are committed to equality of opportunity, to being fair and inclusive, and to being a place where all belong.

We therefore particularly encourage applications from candidates who are likely to be underrepresented in our workforce.

We also encourage applications from those with non- traditional career paths. This includes those returning from a period of parental leave or those who have moved or will move to academia from a career in another sector.



# JOB DESCRIPTION

## **PURPOSE**

- to develop independent research that adds distinct value to the university portfolio in line with the research strategy of the host School or Institute, as well as of the University
- to develop a strong route to commercialisation for the research or impact

## **REMIT**

You will concentrate on establishing both a research and innovation programme (independently or in partnership with your PI/mentor) and your knowledge exchange and outreach programme in partnership with EI. Specific duties will include:

- undertaking research in the defined programme area
- undertaking development training to be competent in the relevant academic and outreach roles
- establishing and exploiting a pathway to impact/commercialisation for your
- research in collaboration with Edinburgh Innovations

## **PLANNING AND ORGANISING**

You will be required to develop and execute a novel and innovative research project independently or in partnership with your PI. You will be required to plan and execute a route to impact in partnership with EI.

## **PROBLEM SOLVING**

As an Innovation Fellow you will need to meet with potential external commercialisation or impact partners and develop a way forward together.

## **DECISION MAKING**

There are a variety of day-to-day independent decisions that need to be made in undertaking a research programme, and decisions made jointly with colleagues in commercialisation/impact.



# KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

ATTRIBUTE	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PhD in a relevant area or about to submit</li> <li>• Experience or well developed plans in the commercialisation of research or in the production of signature impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience and demonstrated success in research, supported by a track record of publication and/or design, development and delivery of innovation programmes</li> </ul>
Knowledge of the wider discipline and funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good understanding of the relevant discipline(s)</li> </ul>	
External Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good understanding of the potential non-academic impacts of the research programme and ways of engaging in order to achieve these</li> <li>• Willingness to develop and conduct translational activities including, for example, working with industry and/or public engagement activities such as public talks and discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of effective contribution to the wider academic community and wider work of the University, including work involving the public, private and/or voluntary sectors and the general population</li> <li>• Experience of working collaboratively with business, policy makers and other end users, and with other disciplines</li> </ul>
Management and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to carry out elementary financial planning, management of resources</li> <li>• Ability to work with colleagues in a respectful manner including collegiate support of colleagues</li> <li>• An understanding of working with a diverse body of students and staff</li> <li>• Commitment to creating an inclusive culture and supporting and promoting equality and diversity goals within the research/innovation programme and the wider University</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proven ability to plan and lead the delivery of one or more innovation projects and to ensure the delivery of the required outcomes</li> </ul>



## KEY CONTACTS / RELATIONSHIPS

- PI and Head of Institute/Research Centre
- Head of School/Deanery
- Academic staff within the Unit (and subject area, where relevant)
- Academic staff across relevant institutes and research centres
- Professional staff within the School
- Edinburgh Innovations staff
- Research students, postdoctoral colleagues, etc.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The positions will be on the Academic Staff scale. Appointments will be made on the grade 7 academic scale (currently £40,521). These appointments are for 3 years with the third year almost exclusively focused on the commercialisation and/or impact route for the research. There will be an extensive assessment of progress at the end of year 2.



# APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 11.59pm.

You will be notified by email whether you have been shortlisted for interview by the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Interviews will take place between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the University of Edinburgh.

All applicants should apply online at [www.vacancies.ed.ac.uk](http://www.vacancies.ed.ac.uk).

When applying, you must include:

1. A short covering letter.
2. A curriculum vitae, including: career/employment history and details of any career breaks, specifying the duration of any breaks in months; a summary of formal training and qualifications; relevant experience and evidence of esteem such as prizes and memberships of professional bodies and a list of publications/ outputs. Total length of the CV and outputs list must not exceed 5 pages of A4.
3. A two-page outline of your proposed research programme, including: a research plan which particularly concentrates on the first 2-3 years and highlights novelty and uniqueness; details of any planned activities to maximise collaboration, partnership and knowledge exchange; identification of alignment to School, Research Institute, College and/or University research strategies; fit to applicant track record (skills, experience and outputs).
4. An indication of your proposed innovation pathway or route to impact e.g. how you propose to commercialise your research or deliver impact from the work.
5. Your choice of host School(s)/PIs/Research Institute and an indication of space and equipment requirements. Applications will be assessed in collaboration with the host School. Please indicate if your research spans across colleges.
6. Please secure an academic mentor at the University of Edinburgh prior to application.

We recognise that the Covid-19 pandemic may have disrupted candidates' research and encourage applicants to note any major disruption to their research in their application materials (for example, due to caring responsibilities or health issues).

Unfortunately, due to the expected number of applicants feedback will only be provided to candidates who progress to interview.



## ABOUT US

The University of Edinburgh (UoE) is a world-leading research institution, ranked #15 in the QS World University Rankings 2023, #30 in THES World University Rankings 2022, #32 in US News Best Global Universities, and #4 across all disciplines in the UK based on the quality and breadth of its research (known as research power) in the Research Excellence Framework (REF2021).

You can read more about the University here - [Find out more](#)

Edinburgh Innovations is one of the leading knowledge exchange groups in the UK university system with over 150 employees and a strong and growing track record in research commercialisation.

You can read more about Edinburgh Innovations here - [Find out more](#)

The Innovation Fellow will be located in a School, Research Centre, or Institute, and will be expected to contribute to research and knowledge exchange activities within their School, Research Centre, or Institute and its wider College.

College of Science and Engineering - [Find out more](#)

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences - [Find out more](#)

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine - [Find out more](#)

The Fellowships are an important part of the new Edinburgh Career Development Scheme. For more information please [follow this link](#).

The University of Edinburgh holds a Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of our commitment to advance gender equality in higher education. We are members of the Race Equality Charter and we are also Stonewall Scotland Diversity Champions, actively promoting LGBT equality.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What's the difference between a Chancellor's Fellowship and an Innovation Fellowship?**

Innovation Fellows are post-doctoral whereas Chancellor's Fellows are first academic posts. Candidates for a Chancellor's Fellow are expected to be more experienced than those for an Innovation Fellow who may just be completing a PhD.

## **How long will the Fellowships last?**

The Fellowship will last three years. There will be an assessment at the end of the second year to ensure commercialisation success.

## **What happens if I can't find an academic mentor for my research proposal?**

This Fellowship is contingent on securing an academic mentor in the host School to which you will be aligned. This relationship is extremely important and the Fellowship will not be awarded without it.

## **Can I be appointed at Grade 8 or higher ?**

No- these are Grade 7 posts and are targeted at graduating or recent PhDs.

## **Does the School or Institute need to contribute funding ?**

This is not necessary but may of course help an application. Schools need to be confident that they can supply study space and/or lab space appropriate to the work proposed.

## **Will I own the IP developed?**

All IP developed is subject to the University policy <https://www.ed.ac.uk/edinburgh-innovations/for-staff/commercialisation-routes/inventions-intellectual-property/university-ip-policies>

## **How will my application be assessed?**

Your application will initially be assessed by Edinburgh Innovations then by senior academics at your proposed partnering School and finally by interview.

## **Can I receive feedback?**

Unfortunately the volume of applications means only those reaching the interview stage will receive feedback.

## **When will I be expected to start?**

You will be expected to start on the 1st August 2024.



# TO APPLY

Please click here

If you would like any further information there will be two online drop in Q&A sessions on Microsoft Teams at:

- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February: 15.00-16.00
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March: 10.00-11.00

To participate in these sessions please email [Edinburgh.Innovations@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Edinburgh.Innovations@ed.ac.uk) for joining details.

If you require this document in an alternative format please contact HR by email at [Kirsteen.Bellamy@ei.ed.ac.uk](mailto:Kirsteen.Bellamy@ei.ed.ac.uk)

## ABOUT EDINBURGH INNOVATIONS (EI)

Edinburgh Innovations is the University of Edinburgh's commercialisation service. We benefit society and the economy by helping researchers, students and industry drive innovation. We seek opportunities, we build partnerships for mutual benefit, we make the journey easy, and we add value at every stage.

**WE MAKE IDEAS WORK FOR A BETTER WORLD**

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