

# FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF **INNOVATION FELLOWS**



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH



EDINBURGH INNOVATIONS

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# INTRODUCTION

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



Over the past five 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 in the Times Higher 2022 rankings.


We want to continue to build on this positive foundation with 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 new 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.

The University is appointing up to 10 Innovation Fellows, who 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). 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):

- health and well-being
- digital and data
- sustainability and climate change

We encourage applications from underrepresented groups and 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

A close-up, slightly low-angle shot of a woman with dark, curly hair. She is looking down and to the right, holding a green pen in her right hand. She is wearing a white shirt with black horizontal stripes. The background is blurred, showing a whiteboard with some diagrams and a pink object.



## **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 normally be made on the grade 7 academic scale (£tba), dependent on experience and the normal practice within the discipline. These appointments are for 3 years with the third year almost exclusively focused on the commercialisation and/or impact route for the research.



# APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The closing date for applications is 9th June 2023 11.59pm.

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

When applying, it is essential that you attach:

- 1.** 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. Please restrict the total length of the CV and outputs list to a maximum of 5 pages of A4.
- 2.** A short covering letter.
- 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; where relevant, identification of any 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 or if you will be working independently. Please also indicate if your research spans across colleges.

This is important for your application to be fully considered.

We also 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).

You will be notified by email whether you have been shortlisted for interview or not and the dates of these interviews.



## 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.

# TO APPLY

Please click here

Informal enquiries should be directed to  
Dr George Baxter at [George.Baxter@ei.ed.ac.uk](mailto:George.Baxter@ei.ed.ac.uk)

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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