Director of York Environmental Sustainability Institute (YESI) & Chair

Closing date: 02/02/2020
Interview date: 06/06/2020
Vacancy reference: 8296
INTRODUCTION

The mission of the York Environmental Sustainability Institute (YESI) is to facilitate and deliver world-class interdisciplinary research on environmental sustainability for the research community, industry and policymakers. Our innovative approach is based on equal partnerships between social, physical and life sciences, addressing environmental challenges at local, regional and global scales.

Environmental Sustainability and Resilience is one of the University’s seven Research Themes. We have world-leading groups spanning a broad range of high quality activities in science, social science and humanities departments.

YESI brings together over 100 leading environmental researchers, across the departments of Biology, Environment and Geography, Chemistry, Archaeology, Sociology, Politics, Social Policy, Law and Management, backed by significant investment. Over the last 9 years, Professor Sue Hartley has led this highly successful initiative establishing the Institute as an international interdisciplinary centre of excellence in environmental sustainability research, policy/user engagement and impact.

We now seek to appoint an inspiring individual to continue to build the Institute. You will be an internationally recognised researcher in any area of environmental research, and a collaborative interdisciplinary leader who can harness the research strengths across the faculties.

We thank you for your interest in this opportunity.
JOB DESCRIPTION - DIRECTOR OF CENTRE

At a glance

Salary: Current Professorial minimum £64,986

Hours: 37 hours per week (Flexibility available)

Contract: Open (see further details)

Based at: Heslington Campus

Main purpose of the Director

Provide outstanding leadership in collaborative research across the sciences and social sciences. Develop, manage and maintain productive relationships across multiple departments, disciplines and external partners.

- Provide high-level strategic leadership for YESI, ensuring robust and responsive top-level management of the Institute in line with the University’s leadership principles.
- Guide YESI successfully through the next stage of its development and identify and drive forward interdisciplinary research collaborations.
- Continue to raise the profile of research in environmental sustainability at York and of the YESI brand, both internally and with external partners, through presentations, social media and web-based and other communications.
- Build and develop new partnerships with key external organisations (academic, NGO, government and business) to drive the YESI research agenda and support the University’s global engagement programme to help develop effective research collaborations.
- Provide strategic input on interdisciplinary research, research leadership and research quality to York and to other HEI organisations, in the UK and internationally.

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- To undertake world-leading research and scholarship within environmental sustainability and lead the research activities of YESI in line with the University’s research expectations.
- Lead innovative collaborative research in environmental sustainability at York. Further develop the strategic partnerships, with York’s other research centres including ICDG, CAHR, and NB AgriFood@York.
- To publish articles in world-leading academic journals, and other appropriate forms of dissemination, including national and international conference presentations.
- Ensure that the Institute’s profile is maintained as an international centre of excellence in research and policy in environmental sustainability.
- Ensure YESI capitalises on current and future funding opportunities to help deliver an increase in research income for collaborative environmental research at York.
- Contribute to University committees and initiatives as required in environmental sustainability such as the GCRF steering group.
- Chair YESI management board meetings, and produce reports for the YESI Steering Committee and the YESI External Advisory Board meetings.
- Hold overall accountability for the successful running of the Institute, including the direct line management of YESI research and support staff.

Further Details

The successful applicant will be appointed as a Professor in a relevant academic department on a 0.5 FTE open contract and will take the Directorship of YESI on a fixed term basis for 4 years, with an opportunity for renewal.

During the tenure of the Directorship, the successful candidate will have minimal departmental teaching and administrative responsibilities. At the end of the Directorship, the appointee will be expected to undertake the research and teaching duties of a Chair at the University of York as detailed below:
Main purpose of the role

Chairs at York are expected to advance their subject nationally and internationally and to contribute to maintaining the University as an international centre of excellence for the relevant subject area through research and publication, teaching, networking and consultancy.

Chairs are required to undertake the duties outlined below:

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

To support the research activities of the Department

• To carry out internationally outstanding research and scholarship
• To disseminate this research through monographs, articles in journals of international standing, and other appropriate forms of dissemination, including national and international conference presentations
• To play a leading role in the Department in identifying and securing external funding through research grants and contracts, and in developing collaborative research income-generating activities
• To attract and supervise research students, and, as appropriate, post-doctoral researchers and other support staff
• To support, comply with, and contribute fully to research plans and policies of the Department and the University
• To support and mentor junior academic colleagues in order to promote quality of teaching and research and their career development

To support the teaching objectives of the Department

• To design and be responsible for delivery of modules and teaching programmes for undergraduate and graduate students
• To play a leading role in departmental and interdepartmental curriculum development and quality enhancement
• To coordinate team teaching, as required, including liaison with other staff and with postgraduates who teach
• To design and mark assessments, and give feedback
• To supervise undergraduate and graduate projects and dissertations
• To carry out teaching in Continuing Professional Development
• To undertake pastoral support of students, as a personal supervisor or in another designated role
• To support and promote fully the University and Department teaching quality assurance standards and procedures

To contribute to the efficient management and administration of the Department

• To make an important contribution to the leadership and management of the Department, including supporting early career staff and developing new collaborative initiatives
• To attend Departmental meetings, meetings of the Board of Studies, and other committees and working groups within the Department and University
• To carry out relevant professional duties, commensurate with the Professorial grade
• To undertake specific departmental roles and management functions as may be reasonably required by the Head of Department

JOB DESCRIPTION - CHAIR

At a glance

Salary

Current Professorial minimum £64,986

Hours:

37 hours per week (Flexibility available)

Contract:

Open

Based at:

Heslington Campus
# PERSON SPECIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>PhD in relevant subject area related to environmental sustainability</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Membership of professional societies</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Outstanding and internationally recognised knowledge of environmental sustainability</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Understanding of the most successful ways to foster interdisciplinary research and collaboration</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Developing a network of industrial and academic collaborators, fostering partnership and relationships</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to define, lead, manage and attract funds for internationally excellent research, operating across disciplinary boundaries</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Proven leadership and managerial skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to manage and interact with staff and students at all levels and to contribute to broadening the strategic development of the Institute</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Evidence of international collaboration</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Evidence of peer review activities, strategic input to committees and involvement in activities external to the University.</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Ability and potential to manage a complex and challenging role with responsibility for driving a large and dynamic programme of research and business engagement activities</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Able to communicate and persuade with clarity and enthusiasm to a wide range of audiences</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Evidence of the ability to translate research into impact</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Proven International leader in a major research field, leadership of research group/theme</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Substantial publication record in leading peer-reviewed journals</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### Experience (continued)

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<th>Experience</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attraction and effective supervision of postgraduate students</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Significant and sustained success in accessing research grants and other external funding</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Proven experience of leading interdisciplinary research and collaboration programmes</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Invited presentations at major international conferences</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Effective and sustained involvement in major administrative tasks or positions of responsibility within a department or research unit</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Authorship of books</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Editorial duties with journals</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Activity as an invited examiner at other institutions</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Participation in national teaching initiatives or international equivalents</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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### Personal attributes

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<td>Demonstrable capacity for strategic thinking and planning</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to take a lead in key administration functions within the department</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Self-motivated, pro-active and innovative</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>A thorough understanding of and commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and demonstrable ability to lead on this</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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Our mission is to facilitate and deliver world-class interdisciplinary research on environmental sustainability for the research community, industry and policymakers.

Our innovative approach is based on equal partnerships between social, physical and life sciences, addressing environmental challenges at local, regional and global scales.

For more detailed about the breadth and impact of our work, please refer to: https://www.york.ac.uk/yesi/

The Institute and University are committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive community - a place where we can all be ourselves and succeed on merit. We offer a range of family friendly, inclusive employment policies, flexible working arrangements, staff engagement forums, campus facilities and services to support staff from different backgrounds. https://www.york.ac.uk/about/equality/
Apply online
- Go to https://jobs.york.ac.uk
- Find this job using reference 8296
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 6 March 2020.

What will I need?
You will need to upload:
- your CV
- A letter outlining your leadership vision for YESI
- A statement of your research intentions

You will also need details of three academic referees (one International) and one Employment referee.

Help and assistance
If you are interested in applying, you are encouraged to make informal enquiries to the Interim Director of YESI, Professor Jane Hill (jane.hill@york.ac.uk)

If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:
recruitment@york.ac.uk
+44 (0)1904 324835