

Job Title: Professor of Human Environmental Toxicology/Environmental Health
Grade: 10
Salary: Competitive
Department: To be determined by the research area of the successful candidate
Hours/Contract: Full-time and permanent
Job Family: Teaching and Research
Reference: 8336

Role Purpose

The role will provide a lead on research into the impact of environmental pollutants on human health for the post of Professor of Human Environmental Toxicology/Environmental Health. This is a new post to expand the scope of multidisciplinary Centre for Environmental Health and Sustainability (CEHS), founded in 2018 (<https://le.ac.uk/cehs/>) to consider mechanisms and chemical exposures. The postholder will be expected to play an important role in the Environment Theme in the Leicester National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) (<https://www.leicesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/>), with excellent opportunities for clinical collaborations, and in the new NIHR Health Protection Research Unit (HPRU) in Chemical Threats and Hazards starting April 2025, with excellent opportunities for collaboration with HPRU partners, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Health & Safety Executive. The ideal candidate will come from a relevant speciality e.g. human toxicology, environmental epidemiology, or biological chemistry, with a commitment to working in a multidisciplinary environment.

The successful applicant will have an international research reputation in their field and be expected to provide leadership, attract grant funding, attend and organise conferences and seminars, enhance impact activity and the research profile of the department and mentor early career researchers commensurate with level of seniority. They will establish an active and productive research group conducting research at an internationally competitive level and will be based within a suitable department in the College of Life Sciences.

The postholder will support the strategic priorities in the Department, College of Life Sciences and CEHS, including innovative teaching, reporting to Head of Dept and Director of CEHS. As a senior member of CEHS, they will help set Centre research strategy and take on some managerial responsibilities to support the Centre team and the Director. They will contribute to the Department and the CEHS' impact and engagement agendas and interact with stakeholders to help maximise contribution to societal wellbeing.

Working within the excellent interdisciplinary environment of the University, the research portfolio will be expected to enrich interactions between CEHS and other bodies, including host department, the Leicester NIHR BRC, the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Environmental Exposures and Health at University of Leicester (<https://le.ac.uk/cehs/hpru>) and the University's Institute for Environmental Futures (<https://le.ac.uk/research/institutes/environmental-futures>). The Institute has a focus on ecological and health impacts of climate change and there are close links with CEHS.

Within the wider research environment, the postholder will be encouraged to draw on established collaborations within our strongly REF-performing health research teams. In REF 2021 the University was ranked in the top 30 for research and placed second overall for Clinical Medicine. The University hosts outstanding researchers across a range of diseases including diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular, respiratory and infectious disease, respiratory and cardiovascular genetics, -omics, and with leading exposure scientists and geographers in the College of Science and Engineering. CEHS members are co-investigators in a British Heart Foundation Centre of Excellence at Leicester, an NIHR Research Support



Service hub led by University of Leicester and a NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) with Leicestershire County Council, providing a lead on environmental projects. We also have research projects working with air quality, housing and public health teams at Leicester City Council.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- Establish an active and productive research group which will make an outstanding contribution to the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise, including through 3* and 4* quality outputs and provide research leadership in environmental health.
- Contribute to and lead the development of significant bids for external research funding through research grants or contracts, both on a disciplinary and interdisciplinary basis, in the Department and College, to support a well-defined research agenda, which will deliver outputs of international excellence.
- Engage and collaborate with international networks to publish research articles in peer-reviewed journals of international standing and to disseminate these results at appropriate conferences, thus contributing to the external visibility and reputation of the Centre, Department, College and University, consistent with the resources available and departmental and other obligations.
- Publish research which is assessed as internationally and world leading research as per the University Output Review policy as appropriate.
- Peer review grant applications for research funding.
- Contribute to the support and mentorship of research colleagues.
- Provide expert advice to colleagues and students.
- Collaborate significantly with external stakeholders.
- Contribute to impact case development/authorships and/or impact which can demonstrate an effect, change or benefit to the economy, society, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia.
- Lead project delivery to ensure success, including management of project budgets.
- Play an active part in development of research strategy for the Centre for Environmental Health and Sustainability.
- Participate actively in the development of the wider Departmental and Centre research strategies.
- Shape and influence the strategic direction of the research area.
- Develop plans for sustaining and enhancing the research programme.
- Ensure that all research activities undertaken are in compliance with the 'Research Code of Conduct' operated by the University.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange

- Clear dissemination and sharing of expertise through communication and public engagement activities.
- Lead specialist consultancy activities with clients, ensuring specifications are appropriate.
- Contributing to world leading impact.
- Provide a comprehensive support network for students, including personal tutor support, employability and open days, ensuring Department/School admissions processes are effective





Teaching

- Deliver lectures, seminars, tutorials and other classes of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at University of Leicester within your area of research expertise.
- Provide academic leadership within the Department, Centre and potentially the wider University, including at programme level and across your own specialist area.
- Develop and deliver teaching (lectures, seminars, tutorials, assessments) with time commitment commensurate with contract. This may include setting exam papers/assignment questions and carry out marking and invigilation duties.
- Deliver effective supervision and support to students e.g. for projects, dissertations etc.
- Lead and/or cooperate with colleagues across the School in the review and development of the curriculum, leadership of modules and, where required, the design and launch of new degrees/awards.
- If not already obtained, seek external recognition of teaching excellence at a senior level (e.g. Senior Fellowship of the HEA for Teaching and Research post).
- Contribute to quality assurance and enhancement at Department or College level.
- Provide pastoral care for students and carry out other related academic duties.
- Engage in CPD to support innovation at module and programme level in teaching delivery and/or assessment practice as relevant to teaching duties.

Leadership and Citizenship

- Play an active part in management and in development of research and teaching strategy for the Centre for Environmental Health and Sustainability
- Mentor and support junior staff within the School and Department across research, teaching and administration.
- Attend departmental meetings and participate in other committees and working groups within the Department, the Faculty and the University to which appointed or elected Undertake Centre, Departmental and College-wide leadership and management functions as may be reasonably required by the Head of Department and the Director of CEHS
- Bring prestige to the University through representing the University at National/International events.

Internal and External Relationships

Key internal and external relationships will include:

- Establish and lead programmes of work with other high-caliber research scientists
- Dissemination of results/findings to international conferences
- Collaborations within the Department and the University of Leicester as a whole but also with internationally established researchers within the research field.
- Collaborations with high caliber, internationally acclaimed researchers/experts.
- Participate in departmental/school, research centres and university wide seminar programmes to stimulate dissemination of information and collaboration
- External representation on national/international scientific bodies, committees and networks.





Planning and Organising

- Plan, organise and lead own research and wider research programmes across the department in line with internal requirements and with external funders' requirements.
- Shape the strategic direction and leading the planning of work in delivery of aspects of the job specification.
- Help develop school, college- and university-level strategies and contribute to operational planning and implementation of such strategies.
- Seek guidance from academic mentors, administrative support staff and other academic colleagues as required.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Track record of publication of high quality journal papers rated at 3 or 4* (or equivalent)*
- A high international standing with a substantial and sustained reputation based on an extensive track record of innovative research*
- Track record of securing research funding as principle investigator and co-applicant*
- PhD in a relevant field, e.g. Mechanistic Toxicology, Environmental Epidemiology or Biological Chemistry*
- Exceptional track record of leadership and collaboration in externally funded research *
- Experience of successfully managing, building and supporting research teams to deliver results*
- Experience of successfully fulfilling senior academic leadership roles*
- A track record of engagement and impact *
- Evidence of leading the design of modules, course and curriculums and experience of delivering innovative research informed teaching.
- Experience of delivery of teaching to undergraduate or postgraduate campus based students *
- An understanding and demonstrable commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Desirable

- Research approach involving collaborative multi-and inter-disciplinary working, including with environmental epidemiologists and exposure scientists
- Experience of refereeing grant applications by research councils or other major funding councils.
- Member of local organisations, charitable board, learned societies, governing bodies and trusts and/or industrial Scientific Advisory Boards and Committees
- Evidence of working internationally with overseas Universities and organizations.
- Evidence of ability to engage in collaborative research, knowledge-transfer activities or consultancy with industry
- Experience in generating, maintaining and maximising the benefits of industry partnerships
- Skills in mentoring/advising and motivating students.





Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Evidence of internationally-leading research in terms of originality, significance and rigor*
- Evidence of successful collaboration and liaison with industry partners where appropriate*
- Proven ability to plan and lead the delivery of research programmes, to develop techniques and sources of funding*
- Proven problem-solving capability*
- Ability to manage and deliver collaborative based research projects.
- Commitment to Personal Professional Development in subject expertise.
- Ability to contribute to successfully to securing research funding.
- Evidence of working with, and building relationships, with internal and external stakeholders
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal
- Evidence of substantial impact among peers in the UK and internationally.
- Evidence of significant impact and engagement beyond the academic community*.
- Ability to network and collaborate at an international level.
- Willingness to attempt to generate external funding to support research programmes
- Evidence of ability to provide effective leadership for diverse groups and activities across the University
- Ability and willingness to mentor and support junior colleagues.
- Ability to express a clear and ambitious vision for your subject area.

****Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview***

Criminal Declaration

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.

Supporting University Activities

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are expected to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We expect all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required.

University Values

Inclusive - We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

Inspiring - We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

Impactful - As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community





Equity and Diversity

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equity support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equity, diversity and inclusion.

