



European Union

European Regional Development Fund

Job Description

Title of the post: Technical Innovation Experts (Food or Engineering) for the agri-food and agri-tech sector

(2 FTE equivalents. Suitable for full-time or part-time , fixed-term appointment until February 2020)

Department: Agri-tech Growth and Resources for Innovation (AGRI)

This ERDF supported project is jointly delivered by Aston University and Harper Adams University. It seeks to address the barriers to innovation in the agri-food/agri-tech industry by providing an innovation support service focussed on companies involved with agri-tech, food manufacturing and logistics in the Marches LEP area. The support will involve a combination of workshops and one-to-one business advice, which may include assistance with technology development or application. It will also facilitate the development of a network for peer advice and SME collaboration with events facilitated at the Agricultural Engineering Precision Innovation Centre (Agri-EPI) funded through the national Strategy for Agricultural Technologies and based at Harper Adams University.

The role of the Technical Innovation Experts

The Project Technical Innovation Experts will provide support to SMEs in the Agri-food and Agri-tech sector. Key tasks will include:

- undertake innovation reviews* with SMEs
- assist SMEs in the development of new products and processes
- facilitating workshops for SMEs;
- initiating and supporting collaboration between SMEs

*Innovation Review with an SME will involve-

- understanding the strategic direction and goals of the company;
- understanding the financial position of the company;

- understanding existing markets;
- reviewing potential new markets in the agri-food and agri-tech industry;
- understanding innovation activity to date;
- assessing potential for new innovation activities;
- identifying barriers to innovation;
- identifying actions required to generate new innovation (finance, skills etc);
- exploring the potential to collaborate with other SMEs;
- exploring the extent to which the project team can assist with the innovation activity;
- establishing whether the company will seek a longer term collaboration with Aston University or Harper Adams University.

Person Specification

Candidates should ideally have;

- a process development engineering background

or

- a food (NPD, process development and food technologies) background
- a PhD or equivalent industrial experience
- a good first degree in a relevant subject area
- experience of working in the private sector or working with industry
- a demonstrable understanding of the agri-food/agri-tech sector
- an ability to analyse business capabilities ('Innovation reviews') and provide assistance with technology development or application
- an ability to develop networks amongst SMEs
- good communication and presentation skills

Conditions of Service

The national recommendations which have arisen from the negotiations between UCEA and the unions recognised at national level, the Joint Negotiating Committee for Higher Education Staff (JNCHES), directly affect the terms and conditions insofar as they have been adopted by the Board of Governors

Salary	The commencing salary will be within the range £38,833 - £49,149 per annum, pro-rata for part-time.. The point of entry will be dependent upon relevant qualifications and experience. Salaries are paid monthly, in arrears, by credit transfer.
Contract Term	This is a full-time, or part-time fixed-term appointment. All salaries and holiday will be pro-rata if part-time. The employment may be terminated during the course of the contract by either party giving three months' notice.
Hours of Work	The routine working week is 37 hours over Monday to Friday, inclusive. There may be an occasional requirement for overtime working and time off in lieu will be allowed for hours worked in excess of 37 per week.

Holidays	The annual holiday entitlement is 25 working days, 3 University closure days plus Bank Holidays. The holiday year runs from 1 April to 31 March and in the holiday year in which the employment commences or terminates the holiday entitlement will accrue on a pro-rata basis for each complete week of service. The timing of holidays is subject to the agreement of the Line Manager.
Sick Leave	During periods of certified sickness the post-holder will be eligible to receive sick pay in accordance with the University Sick Pay Policy. The payment of sick pay is subject to compliance with the University rules for the notification and verification of sickness absence, details of which will be provided to the successful applicant upon commencement of employment.
Pension	The post-holder will be entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), subject to its terms and conditions from time to time in force. Full details of the Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant upon commencement of employment.
Probationary Period	The first six months of employment will be a probationary period during which suitability to the post will be assessed. The probationary period may be extended at the discretion of the University.
Criminal Convictions	<p>The post may involve substantial opportunity for access to children and young persons under the age of 18. For this reason the University is entitled to take into account any criminal convictions, cautions or impending case(s) that it considers to be relevant to the post.</p> <p>The post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This means that applicants are not entitled to withhold information about convictions which for other purposes would be considered “spent” under the provisions of the Act.</p> <p>Applicants must therefore complete the part of the application form declaring any criminal convictions and cautions from any court or police authority. It will be necessary for you to obtain a Disclosure & Barring Service Check (formally known as Criminal Records Bureau CRB) to confirm that you do not have any criminal convictions relevant to the post and that you are not banned from working with children. Full details will be provided once an offer of employment is made.</p>
Exclusivity of Service	You are required to devote your full-time attention and abilities to your duties during working hours and to act in the best interests of the University at all times. Accordingly, you must not, without written consent of the University, undertake employment or engagement including external consultancy, which might interfere with the performance of your duties or

conflict with the interests of the University.

It follows that, regardless of whether you are employed on a full-time or part-time contract, you are required to notify your line manager of any employment or engagement which you intend to undertake whilst in the employment of the University (including any such employment or engagement which commenced before your employment under this contract). Your line manager will then notify you within 10 working days whether such employment or engagement is prohibited.

References

Candidates should ensure that they provide full details of the name and postal address of their referees. Please include e-mail addresses and telephone numbers wherever possible.

Referees should include your present, or most recent, employer. References will normally be taken up immediately in respect of candidates shortlisted for interview. **If you do not wish any reference to be taken up at this stage, please enter an 'X' in the relevant box provided on the application form.**

Application Procedure

All applications should be completed and submitted using the Harper Adams e-Recruitment programme at <http://jobs.harper-adams.ac.uk>

to arrive no later than **midnight on Friday 23rd March 2018**