

Job Description

Head of Research & Evaluation

Main purpose

To lead the development, delivery and management of the Research function within the Research and Analysis team at the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) and capitalise on our status of UKRI recognised Independent Research Organisation.

Specific responsibilities

- Develop CSE's research unit: Manage a team of researchers and data analysts and support their professional development, win new work aligned with CSE's strategy and work programme priorities, collaborate effectively with other colleagues and external partners, including clients, funders and subcontractors involved in research projects.
- Ensure quality: Provide expertise in research methods. Hold overall responsibility for quality of outputs produced in research projects and evaluations.
- Research management: Manage research projects and evaluations through the full project cycle from design to data collection and analysis, through to developing conclusions and recommendations. Draft engaging and persuasive outputs. Present the findings from research and evaluation projects to clients, key stakeholders and other audiences.
- Financial management: Hold responsibility for the financial management of research and evaluation projects. Ensure effective financial control, oversee and direct project budgets, input to income and budget forecasts, secure good value in direct expenditure, use CSE financial systems appropriately and in a timely manner, and address financial underperformance where necessary.
- Team management: Hold responsibility for staff in the research unit, manage workloads, and contribute to the effective leadership and management of the whole Research and Analysis team, working closely with the Head of Modelling & Software, the Head of Technical Consultancy and the Director of Research and Analysis.
- Support senior staff in the team to manage the well-being and job satisfaction of junior team members.

General responsibilities

- Providing oversight, direction and mentoring for researchers and analysts within the R&A team and enhancing research and evaluation skills (qualitative and quantitative).
- Supporting CSE's overall research strategy, overseeing research and evaluation projects at CSE, providing quality assurance, ethics guidance, and financial control.
- Leading on research design across the organisation, championing the use of mixed-method approaches, developing research proposals that combine academic rigour with real world impact.
- Providing support to CSE's Work Programmes, inputting to internal evaluation of programme effectiveness and helping the organisation deliver on its strategic objectives.

Person specification

| Requirements | Essential | Desirable |
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| Educational or professional qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-doctoral degree or equivalent qualification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in a relevant discipline • Project/programme management qualification (e.g. PRINCE2 or equivalent) |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research leadership in a relevant field with a significant track record of developing successful proposals, working across disciplines, delivering mixed methods projects, and publishing research outputs and evaluations. • Successful project management of relevant research or evaluations, including responsibility for budgets and deadlines. • Line management and supporting researcher development. • Leading a financially sustainable team of 3 or more researchers and coordinating workloads to deliver multiple projects concurrently. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building and managing research consortia • Managing diverse and complex project data • Engaging with policy-makers to improve their understanding and influence their work. • Experience as a PI on an AHRC/ ESRC/ EPSRC funded project |
| Knowledge and understanding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad understanding of sustainability and the UK's low carbon transition. • Demonstrable commitment to CSE's primary objectives to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes. • Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. | |
| Skills and abilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research design, including quantitative and qualitative research methods and statistical analysis. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collaboratively across social science, data science, software |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong analytical and reporting skills. • Ability to summarise and present complex information in an accessible way. • Effective project management. • Excellent self-motivation and initiative. • Ability to initiate, develop and maintain effective • team relationships and research partnerships. • The ability to manage own workload and support others to prioritise strategically | <p>and engineering to develop impactful research outputs and decision support tools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to build strong relationships with government, delivery organisations, partners and funders. • Training and mentoring research staff. • Knowledge of energy-related consumer issues and energy regulation in Great Britain. • Knowledge of UK sustainable energy policy and practice at national and local levels and relationship with social an environmental issues. |
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