

South East Technological University

Job Description

Job Title:	Director of Engineering Research & Innovation (Senior Lecturer III)	Vacancy:	1194
Department:	Faculty of Engineering (Carlow)	Special Conditions:	
Funding:	Senior Academic Leadership initiative	Duration:	Minimum 5 Years (Funding for 9 years)
Reporting to:	Head of Faculty of Engineering (Carlow)	Date of Issue:	November 2022

Overall role and context:

SETU is seeking applications for Director of Engineering Research & Innovation (Senior Lecturer III). The successful applicant will be a renowned expert in their field with an international reputation evidenced by, for example, authorship on an acclaimed body of work, membership of editorial boards and invitations to present keynote/plenary lectures at international conferences, or leading industry focused research.

They will have experience in securing national and international funding, leading research teams, leading partnerships between Education Institutions and industry on collaborative programmes and publishing at a high impact level. Commercialisation knowledge and transitioning research outcomes to maximise innovation impacts is also desirable. They are thought leaders in their field, contributing to debates and informing the development of policy.

Reporting to the Head of Faculty of Engineering (Carlow), the Director of Engineering Research & Innovation will have a key role in the development of South East Technological University in building research capacity to secure the transformation of research performance and function as an engine of economic growth. They will also support the new Technological University to strengthen and deepen its research capacity that is focused on the needs of the economy and society, underpinned by a robust theoretical base.

This post is funded under the following initiative:

The Irish government is committed to delivering the resources and supports to keep Ireland at the forefront of research, innovation, and development in an era of rapid technological and social change. From Project Ireland 2040 to Future Jobs Ireland 2019, government-led initiatives recognise the importance of research in maintaining Ireland's prosperity and competitiveness in Europe and globally. Leveraging the skills, knowledge and talent of outstanding researchers in higher education institutions (HEIs), Ireland aims to push the frontiers of knowledge for social, technological, and environmental progress.

A national strategic approach to achieving gender equality in Irish higher education has been adopted, involving all the key stakeholders (e.g. government departments/agencies, research funding agencies and HEIs). All HEIs are required to have an institutional Gender Action Plan and report annually to the Higher Education Authority on their progress in bringing about sustainable organisational change and empowering a culture of gender equality. Irish research funding agencies have linked eligibility to apply for their research grants to attainment of institutional Athena SWAN certification and Irish HEIs have actively embraced this with the majority holding a Bronze level certification. Ireland is leading the drive to accelerate gender balance at the highest point of the academic career path through a government-backed scheme, focused on attracting outstanding female academics. The Senior Academic Leadership Initiative aims to help achieve equality of outcome in the higher education sector. New and additional senior academic leadership posts will be funded in areas:

- *Where there is clear evidence of significant gender underrepresentation.*
- *Where this appointment will have significant impact within the HEI and the relevant faculty/department/functional unit.*

- *Where they would be a proportionate and effective means to achieve accelerated and sustainable change within an institution.*

There will be 45 senior academic leadership initiative posts provided across sectors (e.g. university and institute of technology) over three cycles of awards. These posts will be new and additional to the sector, i.e. they are in addition to the existing Employment Control Framework (ECF), and they will be funded through new and additional funding provided specifically to help address the significant gender imbalance among academic staff at senior levels.

While this Initiative gives priority to highly qualified female candidates within the boundaries of what is legally permissible, in order to address their under-representation; preferential consideration of female candidates is excluded if other reasons worthy of legal protection prevail. In exceptional circumstances, candidates who are in a minority or protected under Irish social legislation, or who also belong to an under-represented minority in academic posts may be considered if the institution can clearly articulate reasons worthy of legal protection as to why they should be considered.

Principal duties and responsibilities:

It is envisaged that this senior role will review and set-out a new research strategy and lead engineering research with actions for the Faculty of Engineering (Carlow) as follows:

Funding:

- Guide and mentor research staff in securing and writing research funding proposals.
- Develop national funding research capability such as Science Foundation Ireland, Environmental Protection Agency, Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and Irish Research Council.
- Lead the research team to diversify and internationalise engineering research funding through proposals to Marie (Skłodowska) Curie Actions, Horizon Europe and European Research Council (ERC) to support and attract new and established researchers.
- Engage with Horizon Europe National Contact Points (NCP) particularly those with responsibility for engineering work programmes and represent the technological university at brokerage events and information days.
- Build on existing European networks such as COST actions, European universities and Erasmus+ to grow its international reputation as a centre of excellence in engineering research.

Research & Strategic Development:

- Implement and operationalise South East Technological University research and innovation strategies for the faculty.
- Develop and lead an overall strategy for research led growth including resources, spatial planning and career pathways for research.
- Optimise and improve publication impact of engineering researchers increasing intellectual credit and international standing.
- Identify and secure suitable mobility grants to enable researchers to conduct short research missions in SETU and allow researchers to travel to national and international research centres of significant renown.
- Guide and support the Faculty of Engineering Athena Swan team on research specific actions to advance equality, diversity and inclusivity within the research community.
- Support the Faculty of Engineering in meeting and maintaining Technological University research metrics.

Collaboration & Engagement:

- Lead industry research collaborations for the faculty and specifically with the Enterprise Ireland Industry led cluster, *Engineering the South East*.
- Engage and liaise with Government, professional bodies and international societies.
- Initiate and establish partnerships with EU and non-EU Higher Education Institutes to develop PhD and postdoctoral engineering research opportunities for learners.
- Engage with the Technology Transfer offices, Technology Gateways and the research & development

community within South East Technological University to lead initiatives that embeds industry and other stakeholders into the fabric of the University's Research, Development & Innovation culture.

- Build relationships and cultivate research collaborations with national research centres and clusters.

Person specification – Qualifications, Knowledge, Experience & Skills:		Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Level 8 Honours degree in an Engineering/Technical discipline • A Level 10 PhD in an Engineering/Technical discipline • Significant research experience in an Engineering/Technical discipline • Internationally recognized expertise in engineering and technology • A substantial and relevant publication track record • Evidence of successfully leading significant research programmes and/or winning significant research funding. • Evidence of a leadership position within an academic or industrial research environment. • Evidence of invited keynote and plenary lectures • Evidence of internationally recognized awards for research achievements • Successful track record in mentoring or supervising PhD and postdoctoral researchers. • Experience of managing and leading research teams including staff motivation and management • Evidence of positive innovation and impact (e.g. funding, income and national agendas) • Commercialisation, IP and Knowledge Transfer 	<p>Yes</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p></p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	
Hours of Work:	The appointee will be required to work 35 hours per week together with such additional hours as may be required for the proper discharge of their duties. Due to the nature of the role, a flexible approach to work is required.		
Salary:	Senior Lecturer III Salary Scale: €91,909 - €118,212		
Annual Leave:	30 days. Annual Leave will be in accordance with arrangements authorised by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science from time to time.		