



**APPOINTMENT OF SCIENCE CONTENT DIRECTOR
APPOINTMENT BRIEF
JULY 2019**



AN INTRODUCTION

The International Centre for Life is a pioneering science village based in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne. It brings together over 500 researchers, clinicians, business people and education and science engagement professionals, who are all united in their passion for science. Life is home to Newcastle University's Institute of Genetic Medicine and two NHS clinics, including a Fertility Centre. Life has achieved several world firsts and is renowned internationally for its work in regenerative medicine.

The Life Science Centre, which opened in May 2000, is the only purpose-built science centre in the North, attracting up to 300,000 visitors per year. Its mission is to inspire people to make sense of the world through science. The centre's innovative engagement programme attracts a broad audience made up of families, school children, adults, pre-schoolers and teenagers. It also has one of the biggest programme of science workshops for schoolchildren in Europe. The International Centre for Life is a charity, built on an entrepreneurial business model which ensures that all of the income needed to cover operating costs is self-generated.

Only 25% of operating revenue comes from mission-related activities, such as admission tickets to Life Science Centre. The remainder comes from a range of income generators, including the rental of property: laboratories; clinics; offices; an outdoor space that is let for popular events, such as concerts and product launches; and, adding some extra piquancy to the mix, commercial property that is now home to the area's most popular nightclub and three bars.

Newcastle University and Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust play an integral role in the mission of the International Centre for Life. As such, they are not charged a commercial property rental rate for the spaces that they occupy on-site.

Additional income is generated from a venue-hire business (Life Meetings and Events), a multi-storey car park, two cafés, a gift shop and an outdoor ice rink that operates during the winter months.

MISSION

Ignite and nurture an enthusiasm in everyone for science, technology, engineering and maths.

At Life Science Centre, visitors of all ages are encouraged to explore the changing programme of exhibitions, to create – whether that's an experiment using counter-rotating spinning discs or getting crafty in the Making Space – and to have fun! Other highlights that are sure to spark an interest in STEM subjects are the planetarium, where visitors can be immersed in astronomy and the Science Theatre, where the Science Explainers never fail to wow people with their dramatic demonstrations.

Encourage future generations of STEM professionals.

Life Science Centre's exhibitions have been designed with the national curriculum in mind and there are also more than 100 curriculum-linked STEM workshops available for visiting schools. The Meet the Scientist programme gives visitors a chance to quiz scientists on how they got into their chosen field and what it is that they do on a day-to-day basis. For

children already bitten by the STEM bug, there's a monthly Science Club (for ages 7-12 years) and regular Science Sessions (for ages 13-18 years).

Support world-class science in the North East.

Collaborations between internationally renowned researchers from Newcastle University and clinicians from the Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust who are based on-site has led to advances in regenerative medicine and improved diagnoses of rare conditions. At Life, a patient can undergo diagnosis at the fertility or genetics clinic, have further genetic investigation (for complex cases that are not easy to diagnose) and have treatment – all on the one site.

Contribute to the successful economic, social and cultural growth of the region.

The International Centre for Life transformed a once derelict part of Newcastle into a vibrant science village that contributes around £40 million to the local economy each year and offers full-time employment for hundreds of people. It is now an iconic landmark in Newcastle with strong links to the local community, including partnerships with local universities and cultural venues. Life Science Centre has brought many famous exhibitions to the city, including the UK premiere of BODY WORLDS Vital, bringing tourists from across the country to the city.

RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TREATMENT

Newcastle University chose the International Centre for Life for the location of its Institute of Genetic Medicine. Recognising the benefits of running clinics outside of a hospital environment, the NHS Newcastle Fertility Centre followed shortly after. A second NHS clinic is also situated on-site, the NHS Northern Genetics Service, which is part of the Institute of Genetic Medicine.

Research and clinical highlights:

- Researchers at Newcastle University were at the forefront of developing groundbreaking research to prevent mothers from passing on mitochondrial diseases to their children. In early 2017, the NHS Newcastle Fertility Centre became the first clinic in the world to be granted a licence to treat patients using mitochondrial replacement therapy.
- The NHS Northern Genetics Service hosts The John Walton Muscular Dystrophy Research Centre, which is recognised as a leading site for international patient studies and clinical trials.
- A stem cell therapy developed at the Institute of Genetic Medicine has restored the eyesight of people with Limbal stem cell deficiency – a condition that has various causes, including burns to the eye, contact lens-related eye disease and hereditary diseases.



THE ROLE

Life's comprehensive and eclectic Science engagement programme attracts a broad audience including families, adults, pre-schoolers and teenagers. Life also has one of the biggest schools' science workshop programmes of any European museum or Science Centre.

PURPOSE OF POST

The Science Content Director will contribute actively to the overall mission and strategic direction of the Trust as a director within the senior management team.

They will manage a comprehensive science engagement programme and develop further Life's international reputation for science engagement.

They will provide creative input into a new master planning exercise for the centre.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Strategic

- To contribute actively to the overall mission and strategic direction of the Trust, as a director in the senior management team.
- To support the Chief Executive in establishing Life's international reputation for science engagement.
- To create, deliver and manage a comprehensive science engagement programme, achieving a high standard of exhibitions and public programmes, education activities and capital renewal projects.
- To communicate cutting edge science in a form that is easily accessible to Life's audiences.
- To lead innovation in science engagement.
- To ensure all programmes are of highest quality and maintain scientific integrity.
- Develop strategic alliances and partnerships with cultural and commercial organisations and build long term plans for exhibitions, programmes and education.
- To maintain liaison with key science and technology groups such as the region's schools and universities and industrial parties.
- To deliver effective STEM education products in line with National Curriculum requirements.
- To provide support to executive colleagues in developing new income generating and capital funding projects.



Leadership

- Be a strong leader who is capable of developing an effective team, that is both creative and effective.
- Maintain currency of knowledge in science and technology education as they relate to the Life mission.
- Represent Life at key national and regional events.
- Ensure appropriate and satisfactory systems are in place for monitoring team performance against budgets and plans.
- Organise any necessary staff training or other actions to ensure staff are capable of meeting objectives.

Other Responsibilities

- Review the major risks to which the Trust is exposed and maintain systems to manage or mitigate those risks in conjunction with other members of the senior management team;
- Contribute to the Business Continuity Plan and ensure periodic review in conjunction with other members of the senior management team;
- Prepare board papers and attend meetings of the Trust and/or its subsidiary as required by the Chief Executive;
- Undertake any other reasonable task as required by the Chief Executive.





PERSON SPECIFICATION

Personal characteristics

- Forward looking and passionate about science and public engagement
- Strong leadership skills and capable of developing an effective team
- Excellent communicator with ability to network/ liaise with collaborative partners, academics, funders, commercial clients and the general public.
- Ability to forge strategic partnerships with cultural and other organisations
- Team player
- Excellent organisational skills

Knowledge and experience

- Experienced science communications professional
- Proven track record at senior level in a science centre
- A good general understanding of STEM subjects.
- Experience of managing large teams and budgets.

Qualifications

- First degree (or equivalent qualification)
- Ideally, a post graduate qualification in Science Communications

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Competitive salary and attractive package on offer.

The Science Content Director will report into the Chief Executive.

Please note that the successful applicant will be subject to a DBS check. Details of our DBS policy are available on request.

The International Centre for Life is an equal opportunities employer and is accredited with the Equality Standard Gold Award.

HOW TO APPLY

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to **Centre for Life** on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments, using code **EAF AJA**.

Click on the '**apply**' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Monday 29 July 2019**.

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please **do not** include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.