

Saxton Bampfylde



**Biotechnology and  
Biological Sciences  
Research Council**

# **Appointment of Deputy Executive Chair**

January 2022

# The organisation

**BBSRC invests to push back the frontiers of biology and deliver a healthy, prosperous, and sustainable future.**

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council is part of [UK Research and Innovation](#) (UKRI), a body which works in partnership with universities, research organisations, businesses, charities and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish.

UKRI aims to maximise the contribution of each of its component parts, working individually and collectively. It works with their many partners to benefit everyone through knowledge, talent and ideas.

BBSRC is the largest UK public funder of non-medical bioscience. It supports around 1,600 scientists and 2,000 research students in universities and institutes across the UK.

The Executive Chair of BBSRC is Professor Melanie Welham, who provides leadership to the Council. BBSRC is now looking for a Deputy Executive Chair, to provide highly respected, academic leadership and insight across all our bioscience research and innovation interests



# The role

As the Deputy Executive Chair for BBSRC you will play a pivotal role in setting BBSRC's overarching vision and long-term goals and bring intellectual leadership to the development and delivery of a coherent strategy for research and innovation. Working collaboratively and collectively with the Executive Chair and Executive Directors in BBSRC, you will advance bioscience research and innovation, working across UKRI and connecting to the wider bioscience research and innovation community in universities, research institutes and UK Government. This is envisaged as a part-time secondment opportunity.

**Reporting to:** Executive Chair, BBSRC

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead on the high-level strategic thinking for the long-term development of bioscience research and innovation strategy, including analysis of the long-term needs of the bioscience discipline, wider trends and approaches
- Contribute to the design and development of major strategic themes within the bioscience discipline, providing a close connection to and exchange of ideas with the research and innovation community
- Provide strategic leadership to cross-cutting areas that span the interests of UKRI and which are also central to BBSRC's mission
- Design and develop proposals to access cross-cutting UKRI funds, working with a diversity of research and innovation communities and with staff across BBSRC and wider UKRI to develop successful programmes and deliver resulting projects
- Act as an ambassador, representing and promoting BBSRC and bioscience within UKRI, with UK Government Departments and with the academic and business communities
- Engage with and influence stakeholders at the most senior levels outside and across the organisation to build support and confidence in the delivery plans and more broadly the potential and impact of bioscience
- In all areas, deliver high quality work which combines foresight and strategic planning with the ability to react to urgent requirements
- As a member of the Executive Team, contribute to the leadership of BBSRC
- Provide an advisory and mentoring role to BBSRC senior leaders.

## Other responsibilities:

- To subscribe to the ethos, vision and mission of BBSRC and UKRI, taking individual and collective professional responsibility for championing BBSRC and UKRI agendas and proactively implementing initiatives which secure the organisation's mission
- To work at all times with integrity and to the highest professional standards – aligned to the '7 principles of public life'
- To build co-operative team-based relationships with relevant colleagues across and outside UKRI as required
- **Embed equality, diversity and inclusion in all that you do**
- This is a part-time seconded position during which time you will be expected to remain research active.

# Person specification

Candidates for this role will have a clear record of academic achievement in any branch of the biological sciences, have actively contributed to supporting the wider research system, and have an understanding of the broader discipline and its applications. You will need proven strategic and analytical skills, with the ability to analyse potentially conflicting information.

You should have considerable experience of stakeholder management, as well as the ability to build relationships and communicate effectively in a range of channels and for a range of audiences.

## SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE

### Essential:

- Evidence of well-rounded contributions to the research system, including academic achievement, in any branch of the biosciences and an excellent understanding of the broader discipline
- Proven strategic and analytical skills, with the ability to analyse and make sense of complex and potentially conflicting information in order to devise effective strategies to deliver desired outcomes and set priorities
- Considerable experience of stakeholder management including the ability to work with partners to build effective relationships for mutual benefit, reconcile potentially conflicting interests and influence others to achieve desired outcomes
- Strong emotional intelligence, excellent listening skills; good relationship, diplomacy and influencing skills and the ability to reach out and build consensus and trust
- Transparent, objective and impartial decision-making
- The ability to understand and respond to the wider political environment in which BBSRC operates, and to work effectively within the governance framework for BBSRC

### Desirable:

- A broad understanding of the research funding system in the UK, including knowledge of the activities and priorities of component parts of UKRI
- An understanding of business, innovation and commercialisation processes and drivers
- Experience either of working in an academic or industrial setting, or of working closely with industrial partners

# Terms of appointment

The post holder is required to work 0.6 hours FTE.

Remuneration will be commensurate with the level of the role.

## How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at [www.saxbam.com/appointments](http://www.saxbam.com/appointments) using code **ADHB**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter, and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring\* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Tuesday 22nd February 2022**.

*\* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.*

# Saxton Bampfylde

**LONDON**

9 Savoy Street  
London WC2E 7EG

**EDINBURGH**

46 Melville Street  
Edinburgh EH3 7HF

**saxbam.com**

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