

Innovate UK

Appointment of
Executive Chair

April 2024

Closing date: Tuesday 7th May 2024

Ministerial Message to Candidates

Dear Candidate,

Just over a year ago, the Prime Minister created the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) to help unleash the power of UK research and development and ensure that the UK cements its position as a Science and Technology Superpower, helping to grow our economy, create better jobs, and make bold discoveries which will enable us to live longer, healthier, happier lives.

Innovate UK is a vital part of DSIT's ability to deliver on our Science Superpower ambition by taking forward the objectives we have set out in the UK Science and Technology Framework. Now a key part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Innovate UK is the UK's national innovation agency – working to support business-led innovation throughout the country and across all sectors.

As the Innovate UK Executive Chair, you will work with business and industry to support and bring forward pioneering new technologies and startups and maximise the unique talent in the UK research base. You will do this through managing and developing Innovate UK's extensive portfolio of grants and loans and by promoting and nurturing networks across the research and innovation landscape. You will also play a central role as a senior leader and voice of enterprise and sensible risk taking within UKRI to ensure innovation is central to UKRI's ways of working.

We encourage applications from outstanding leaders from a diverse range of sectors and backgrounds. I trust you will find the information enclosed in this job pack of interest, and we look forward to receiving your application.



Andrew Griffith MP

Minister for Science, Research, and Innovation

About Innovate UK

Innovate UK (IUK) is the UK's innovation agency. Managing a funding programme of approximately £2.3bn per annum, IUK delivers products, services and money to the UK's business community to help drive up innovation, accelerate productivity and seize global opportunities for UK Plc.

With a portfolio of investments up and down the country, and a keen eye for opportunities at the leading edge of technology, IUK helps key sectors such as manufacturing, biotech, agri-food and digital to seize the power of revolutionary research, and technologies such as AI, quantum and engineering biology.

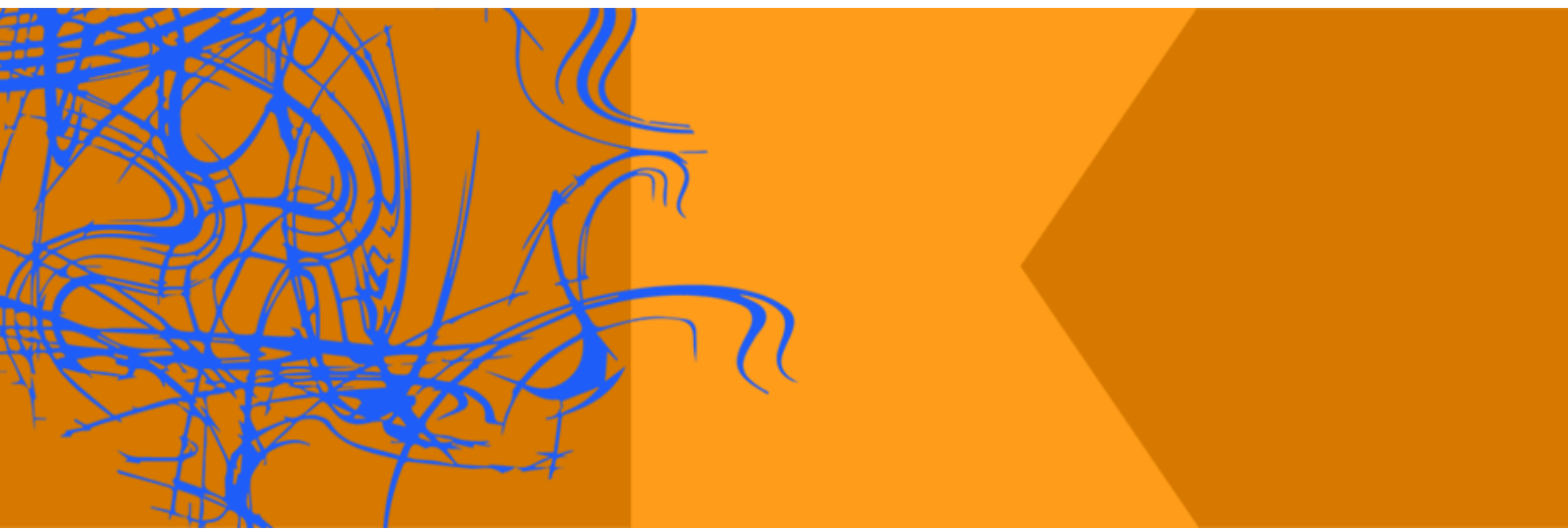
IUK has an active network of 335,000 innovators and plans to grow this to one million during 2024. IUK supported 19,500 businesses last year, of which 8,000 were supported for the first time. In addition, IUK partnered with over 22 government departments/agencies, and invests in a growing network of Catapult centres based across 50 locations up and down the UK, supporting over 5,000 SMEs. More information on IUK's portfolio of activity is available [here](#).

Innovate UK in UKRI

Innovate UK is an integral part of UKRI, the UK's national funding body for scientific and technological research and development.

Capturing the full benefits of IUK's leadership position on innovation within UKRI, you will be responsible for IUK's strategy and operations and will have a critical role in leading commercialisation and business engagement across the wider scope of UKRI. In addition, you will have a platform to work in partnership with the UK's world class research sector. This partnership is critical to ensuring that the UK's considerable strength in generating early-stage research and innovation is captured, commercialised and anchored as economic and societal value for British businesses, investors and citizens. Making the most of HMG work on skills, scaleup and regulation, you will help deliver the UK's goal to become a science and tech superpower by 2030.

The Government is committed to UKRI continuing to evolve, finding synergies and cross-cutting opportunities across the whole organisation.



The Opportunity

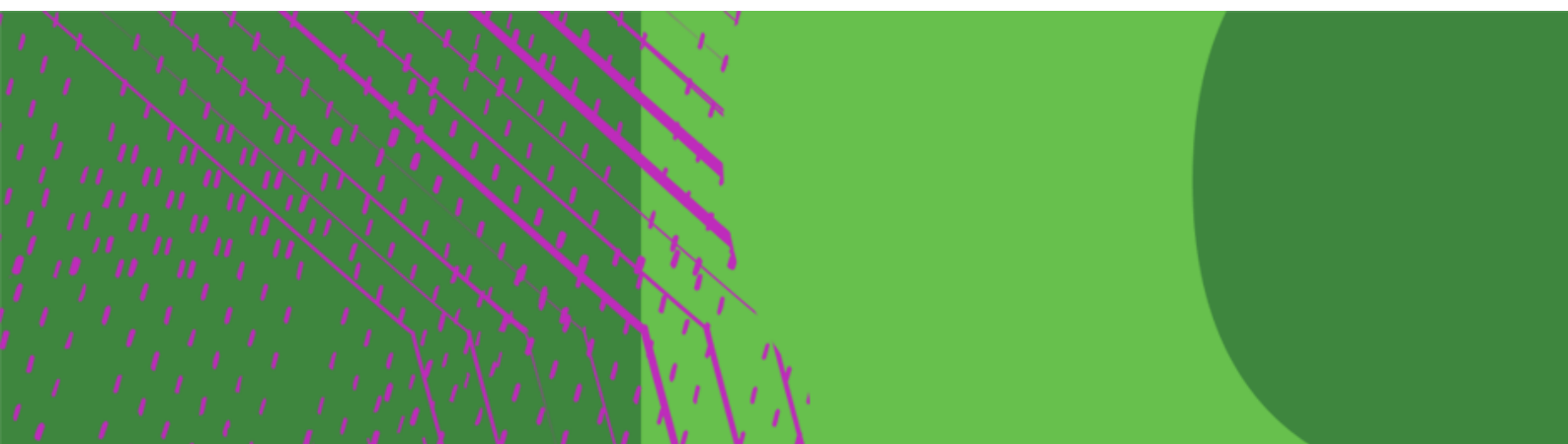
This is an exciting moment for an inspirational leader to join Innovate UK and help drive productivity and sustainable growth throughout the UK.

As the UK's national innovation agency, Innovate UK plays a central role in delivering growth through business-led innovation. If anyone is thinking of starting, growing or investing in an innovation or technology-centred business, we want them to do it in the UK because the UK offers the best possible place to make their vision happen.

As the Executive Chair – effectively the CEO - of Innovate UK you will draw on the UK's globally recognised strengths in early-stage research; you will work with UKRI's research councils, other public sector bodies, investors, and businesses up and down the UK to unleash innovation and productivity across our economy and society. You will develop and deliver strategies for accelerating corporate R&D investment while scaling the UK's most exciting and investable research and tech startups.

Key responsibilities

- Lead and manage Innovate UK and its staff in the successful delivery of its objectives, providing the inspirational and inclusive leadership and vision to maintain and develop the quality, outputs and impacts of its grants, loans and wider innovation support programmes;
- Be a core member of the UKRI Executive Team with a responsibility to deliver best value from the overall research and innovation funding and policy system and actively contribute to the development and implementation of UKRI's strategy;
- Work collaboratively across UKRI's Councils to foster interdisciplinary work, maximise innovation and build on collective capabilities, particularly in driving forward cross-UKRI commercialisation opportunities;
- Work in partnership across UKRI and with DSIT to develop Innovate UK's strategic approach to innovation funding and delivery, joining up the innovation lifecycle and ensuring that the UK further enhances its position in championing business innovation;
- Set out a strategy and objectives for Innovate UK, focusing on transforming UK innovation and making the most of Government's investment in business-led innovation across the UK.
- Deliver a high-quality service to the innovative businesses who access Innovate UK support, simplifying and streamlining that service offering to make it easier and faster for more businesses to access the help they need to innovate.
- Maintain close links with the business community, government, academia and international partners to develop and catalyse new ideas and communicate the strategic outputs;
- Ensure that UKRI provides a strong, unified voice for science, research and innovation in the UK and globally, both in facilitating the dialogue with government and partners on the world stage.



Person Specification

Essential criteria

- You are a respected senior executive of international standing with relevant experience of business innovation and growth within R&D-intensive industries.
- You have a thorough understanding of the business innovation landscape, and experience of shaping and influencing the key debates in that arena.
- You bring proven commercial acumen and financial management experience, with an in-depth understanding of investments, financial products and how to remove barriers to growth in young businesses.
- You have a proven ability to develop, lead and manage the delivery of strategies that achieve clear outcomes and impact.
- You have experience of managing a large and complex organisation, driving exceptional performance and inspiring and motivating people at all levels.
- You are politically astute with excellent interpersonal and influencing skills, able to build working relationships with a wide range of partners. You are able to adapt and deploy your private sector experience to give you impact within government.
- You are capable of leading in complex environments with experience of working across multiple organisations/ organisational divisions to foster collaboration for collective benefit.

Desirable criteria

- You have operational experience in service delivery, or equivalent evidence to show you are capable of running IUK as an efficient and effective organisation.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

Only by recognising and nurturing everyone and introducing diversity into the way we interact can we enrich our lives as creators of knowledge. We can then better understand the world around us and be empowered to tackle the many challenges we face as individuals and as communities, nationally and globally.

A dynamic, diverse and inclusive research and innovation system must be an integral part of UK society, giving everyone the opportunity to participate and to benefit.

Everyone has an important contribution to make – the researchers and innovators, and the wider support system including the technical and administrative support, and those who maintain our infrastructure.

UKRI is a diverse workforce of people. We believe that encouraging these differences and drawing the best from them will create a productive environment in which everyone feels valued, where talents are fully utilised and in which organisational goals are met. Underpinning this is a belief that it is a fundamental right for everyone to be treated equally, with fairness, respect and dignity. UKRI will act directly and use its influence to ensure that this right is promoted and upheld; we welcome applications from all those who meet the criteria set-out in our role profiles.

The Seven Principles Underpinning Public Life

The Seven Principles of Public Life outline the ethical standards those working in the public sector are expected to adhere to. They were first set out by Lord Nolan in 1995 in [the first report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life](#) and they are included in a range of codes of conduct across public life.

All candidates are expected to demonstrate a commitment to, and an understanding of, the value and importance of the principles of public service which are:

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

Further information on the principles of public life can be found [here](#).

Conflicts of interest

Public Appointments require the highest standards of propriety, involving impartiality, integrity and objectivity, in relation to stewardship of public funds and the oversight and management of all related activities. This means that any private, voluntary, charitable or political interest that might be material and relevant to the work of the body concerned should be declared.

It is important that those appointed as members of public bodies maintain the confidence of Parliament and the public. If there are any issues in your personal or professional history that could, if you were appointed, be misconstrued, cause embarrassment, or cause public confidence in the appointment to be jeopardised, it is important that you bring them to the attention of the Assessment Panel and provide details of the issue(s) in your application. In considering whether you wish to declare any issues, you should also reflect on any public statements you have made, including through social media. The Panel may explore issues with you before they make a recommendation on the appointment.

As part of UKRI's due diligence checks they will consider anything in the public domain related to your conduct or professional capacity. This will include undertaking searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information. This information may be made available to the Panel, and they may wish to explore issues with you, should you be invited to interview.

Terms of appointment

Appointment Term:	Up to four years – to be discussed at interview – with the possibility of reappointment.
Remuneration:	Competitive + an opportunity for performance related pay.
Time Commitment:	Full Time.
Location:	It is anticipated that the Executive Chair will be predominantly based in UKRI's London and Swindon offices. However, the role will require regular travel around the UK and internationally.

This is a Public Appointment by the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology. The post holder would be an officeholder and an employee of UKRI.

Panel members

Eleanor Taylor (Director, Science Research and Innovation Directorate, DSIT) – Panel Chair

Nigel Toon (Board Member, UKRI) – UKRI Representative

Charlotte Crosswell (Chair, Centre for Finance, Innovation and Technology) - Senior Independent Panel Member

How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to UKRI on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/jobs using code **AAYIP**.

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

The closing date for applications is **noon on Tuesday 7th May 2024**.

** 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