



University of Reading

Appointment of
**Professorial Directors of
Agrifood Futures
(3 posts)**



Saxton Bampfylde

Contents

- 3 Foreword from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)
- 4 About the University of Reading
- 6 About Agrifood Futures
- 7 The roles and person specifications
- 22 Terms of appointment
- 23 How to apply



Foreword from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

We are delighted to be recruiting five new posts to the Agrifood Futures leadership team, who will play a pivotal role driving forward the delivery of our new ambitious strategy for agriculture and food research.

Agrifood Futures builds on the University of Reading's long-standing reputation for world-leading research in agriculture and food. It sets out the opportunities through which our research will make a major contribution to addressing the challenges facing the global food system of 2050.

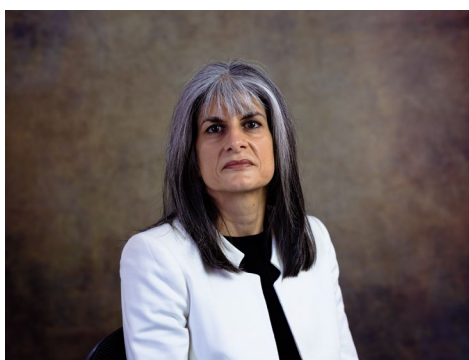
At a time when financial constraints are re-shaping the higher education landscape, the University of Reading stands apart. Thanks to anticipated growth in the ring-fenced assets of a Trust for food and agricultural research, we are in the exceptional position to make significant forward-looking investments in our people, infrastructure and capability. We are seizing this opportunity to reinforce our position as a global leader in food and agricultural research, while also addressing critical gaps in agrifood research capacity at both national and international levels.

Recruiting an outstanding leadership team to drive our Agrifood Futures strategy is the next critical step. We are seeking internationally recognised experts with exemplary leadership skills and the vision to shape the design of new facilities, foster a thriving interdisciplinary research culture across the University, and forge ambitious partnerships and co-investment opportunities across the global agrifood sector.

Named Sustainable University of the Year in 2025, Reading has a proud and enduring commitment to sustainability. We are globally recognised for our climate science, and we embed sustainable practices in everything we

do. Agrifood Futures will build on this record, ensuring that sustainability is at the heart of our research and innovation, contributing to a resilient global food system.

This is a defining moment to join the University of Reading. As we approach our centenary year in 2026, successful candidates will have the opportunity to shape the future of agrifood research, helping to create a world in which every person has access to a healthy, sustainable diet.



Professor Parveen Yaqoob OBE
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research
and Innovation)

The University of Reading

Granted our Royal Charter in 1926, over the decades the University of Reading has been led by innovators and pioneers, pushing academic boundaries and leading social change.

Today, the University is ranked in the top 200 universities worldwide by QS and Times Higher Education, and the top 50 within the UK. Home to over 23,000 students, the University of Reading is proud to welcome staff and students from all over the world.

We strive to create a stronger, better University, building on our past to create an exceptional future. The University

Strategy is focused around the principles of – Community, Excellence, Sustainability and Engagement. These principles support us to act as a community engaged with the world around us and to deliver our shared purpose of sustainable excellence in all of our activities.

With an outstanding reputation for high-quality education and research, we have campuses in the UK, Malaysia and South Africa (Henley Business School). The University of Reading is truly international and holds a global reputation for providing a diverse and stimulating academic environment.





£1bn
contributor to
the UK economy¹



15th
in the UK for supporting
UN global goals⁴



**Sustainable
university**
of the year
2025²



27,465
students from around
160 countries⁵



26th
in the UK³



TEF
**silver
award**
for teaching excellence⁶

1 The Economic Impact of the University of Reading, Hatch Urban Solutions, commissioned by the University of Reading

2 The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025

3 Ranked out of 107 participating UK institutions in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025

4 Ranked out of 57 participating UK institutions according to the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023, based on work towards United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

5 HESA 2021/22 Student Record and Aggregate Offshore Record, figures recorded to the nearest 5

6 Teaching Excellence Framework 2023



Agrifood Futures

Agrifood Futures is a new, ambitious research strategy. It will be a major driver of change in the way we produce, consume and think about food as we move towards 2050. It builds on the University of Reading's reputation for research excellence in agriculture and food and our work with global partners.

Already ranked in the QS global top 20 for Agriculture and Forestry, and named Sustainable University of the Year in 2025, Reading is building from a position of established excellence. The Agrifood Futures (AFF) initiative takes this further, aligning with government and global priorities around food system resilience, sustainability, climate impact and human health. The Strategy comprises three interconnected Priority Research Areas, each shaped to deliver long-term, challenge-led programmes of research and innovation:

1. A resilient food system for everyone
2. Farming systems that work with nature and our climate
3. Food that nourishes people and the planet

This next phase of implementation represents a significant step-change. At the heart of the strategy is a commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, global partnership and systems transformation. New nationally significant infrastructure is planned, including a state-of-the-art innovation farm, advanced food processing facilities, and a participatory research platform focused on nutrition and consumer behaviour. These investments are designed not only to support world-class research but to act as magnets for further external partnership and co-funding.

Recruiting a world-class leadership team is the next vital milestone. Reading is looking for international experts with global reputations and the ability to bring networks, funding, and influence. These leaders will play a direct role in the academic and strategic design of new facilities, the shaping of an interdisciplinary research culture across the University, and in ensuring Reading's voice is heard within national and global agrifood spaces.

More information about AFF can be found [here](#).

The roles

As part of the Agrifood Future programme, we are appointing three Directors to lead each of our priority research areas:

Role 1: Director, Resilient Food Systems

Role 2: Director, Sustainable Farming Systems

Role 3: Director, Healthy Sustainable Foods

The appointments as Directors are for an initial term of 6 years, with underlying permanent positions as Professors in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development (roles 1 and 2) or the Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences (role 3). As such, exceptional academic credibility is crucial alongside the leadership ability to be successful as Directors.

Team Structure

These posts will be part of a wider Agrifood Futures team that also includes the AFF Director, the Systems and Futures Hub Director, the Agrifood Strategic Programme Manager, Head of Strategic Partnerships and Investments (to be appointed), a research facilitation post (to be appointed), a communications and engagement post (to be appointed), and an executive support post (to be appointed).

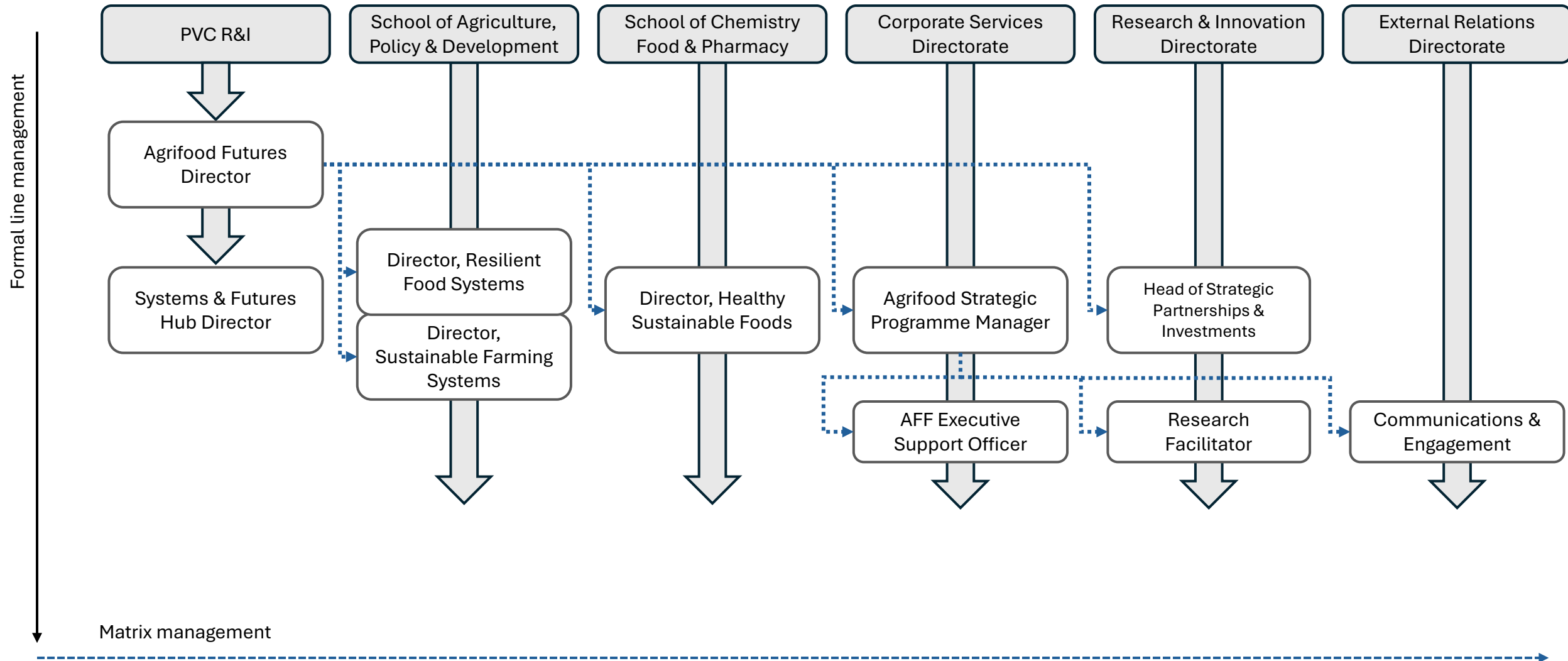
The Professorial Directors will be line managed by the Head of School of Agriculture, Policy and Development (roles 1 and 2) or the Head of Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences (role 3). They will be accountable to the AFF Director in a matrix management structure (see figure on next page).

Contact

The three Professorial Directors will work closely together with the AFF Director and the wider team to drive the delivery of the AFF Programme.

They will also work closely with academic and professional services colleagues in relevant Schools/ Departments and Professional Services functions.

They will be expected to have extensive senior level external engagement via a network of external professional contacts for the purposes of understanding and sharing best practice and external intelligence gathering. It is expected that this network will be extended over the course of this appointment. This should include senior representatives of funding agencies, industry, government bodies, NGOs and charitable organisations.



The roles

All three Director roles come with an underlying permanent position as a Professor.

Professorial duties and responsibilities for all three roles:

- Lead a world-class programme of agrifood-related research, maintaining an internationally outstanding profile through high impact research outputs, significant research income and meaningful contribution to global challenges, while shaping the strategic direction of the field.
- Provide intellectual leadership and mentorship to research staff and PhD students, fostering a thriving, inclusive and innovative research culture.
- Drive research impact through active engagement with external stakeholders, including industry, government and international partners, ensuring influence and visibility.
- Forge and lead strategic collaborations across disciplines, Schools, and global networks to enhance the University's research capability and reputation.
- Play a key role in academic leadership, contributing to institutional strategy, governance and the delivery of the School's ambitions.





Role 1 – Director, Resilient Food Systems

Purpose

This role will provide the strong transdisciplinary research leadership needed to drive forward the development of Priority Research Area 1: A resilient food system for everyone.

The postholder will empower stakeholders (whose work relates to this Priority Research Area) to understand, mitigate and adapt to current and future risks and shocks that threaten global agrifood systems. They will enable researchers to better work in partnership with farmers, producers, businesses in the supply chain, agrifood organisations and policy makers to model the impacts of complex risks on global agrifood systems, to understand

how these risks will increase and interact in possible scenarios of the futures, and to empower actions that build resilience.

The appointment as Director, Resilient Food Systems will be for an initial term of 6 years with the opportunity to potentially renew, with an underlying permanent position as a Professor in the School of Agriculture, Policy & Development. It is expected that the postholder will spend 80% of their time in the role of Director and 20% of their time on their own research.

As a research focused academic post, the post holder is also expected to continue delivering an internationally outstanding programme of agrifood-related research.





Role 1 – Director, Resilient Food Systems

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Work with the AFF Director and other members of the Agrifood Futures team, via the matrix structure to successfully implement the AFF Strategy. This will involve being accountable for the successful delivery of specific success indicators and targets as assigned by the AFF Director.
- Provide the strong transdisciplinary research leadership needed to drive forward the development of Priority Research Area 1: A resilient food system for everyone.
- Work effectively with a range of internal and external stakeholders and partners, to position Reading at the forefront of national and international agrifood research and impact, establishing it as an organisation of major influence and impact in the sector.
- Take responsibility for proactively facilitating new links across disciplines, and with partners nationally and internationally, to grow the University's portfolio of research, innovation and impact related to this Priority Research Area.
- Engage at high levels with influential research, government and industry organisations across the agrifood sector to build reputation, extend influence and develop key partnerships.
- Build large consortia of partners around each enabling infrastructure investment to play a key role in shaping their design brief, ensuring that they meet the future needs of the sector and are positioned as unique and in-demand components of national and international agrifood research capability.
- Lead action to leverage a portfolio of major co-funding for large scale infrastructure investments, amplifying the global positioning and visibility of these developments beyond what Reading could achieve alone whilst also ensuring best value for money for the NIRD Trust and University.
- Support the delivery of the aims of the Institutional Research and Innovation Strategy through Priority Research Area 1 and demonstrate AFF's contribution to institutional Research and Innovation KPIs.
- Contribute to enabling a substantial enhancement to the University's REF performance across relevant Units of Assessment (particularly UoA6) by contributing to high-quality outputs, impact and development of a vibrant interdisciplinary research environment. This includes leading on and contributing to capacity building and mentorship, supporting researcher development at all stages.
- Drive the integration of research excellence and innovation into the experience of our students as the agrifood system professionals of the future. Work with other key stakeholders to enable students to benefit from accessing the enhanced research facilities which will also be used for enrichment in our research-informed teaching, opportunities to contribute to research and work with external partners, and opportunities to gain professional experience through placements or Campus Job roles working in the facilities.



Person specification – Director, Resilient Food Systems

Skills and personal qualities:

- Strategic and intellectually agile leader, with the ability to rapidly assimilate complex information, distil key insights and identify strategic, high-impact opportunities.
- Ability to shape and deliver strategic solutions to complex challenges through innovation, foresight and collaborative influence.
- Exceptional relationship builder, skilled at engaging diverse stakeholders across sectors and disciplines. Proven ability to quickly assess strategic priorities and mobilise partnerships that deliver tangible outcomes at institutional, national or international levels.
- Able to convey complex ideas with clarity and authority across a range of audiences. Confident and effective in influencing with senior stakeholders through written, oral and interpersonal communication at the highest level.
- Proven senior leadership presence, with the ability to lead through influence.
- Skilled in negotiating and navigating complex environments, demonstrating sound judgement, political acumen, and emotional intelligence to drive high-level decisions and institutional change.
- Confident change leader with a strong track record of driving transformation in complex academic and research environments. Able to challenge the status quo constructively and inspire others around a shared vision.
- Ability to travel nationally and internationally as required which may require flexibility in relation to days and times of work to facilitate this.





Person specification – Director, Resilient Food Systems

Knowledge and experience:

- Post-doctoral degree or equivalent.
- Internationally distinguished research profile in global food systems, with a proven track record of world-leading contributions, academic impact and/or policy influence in the agrifood sector.
- Sustained record of securing significant external research funding, including leadership of major grants from national or international sources.
- Expert knowledge of global food systems and the complex real-world challenges that influence and shape them.
- Strong understanding of the external research, innovation and policy landscapes relevant to agrifood, including their intersections with environmental sustainability, economic development and social equity.
- In-depth knowledge of the strategic priorities of UKRI, government departments, international funders and philanthropic organisations, with demonstrated ability to align research vision with emerging funding opportunities and to lead successful external income generation.
- Proven track record of strategic research leadership, demonstrated through successful development of interdisciplinary research cultures and cultivation of high-impact external partnerships across academia, industry, government and third sectors.
- Extensive experience in leading and delivering large, complex trans/interdisciplinary research programmes involving multiple institutions and stakeholder groups.
- Demonstrated ability to set and execute strategic direction in a senior leadership role, making high-level decisions, managing risk and being accountable for delivering transformative research outcomes.
- Established track record of impactful engagement with policy makers, industry leaders and other end-users of research, resulting in demonstrable influence on policy, practice or innovation.
- Significant experience of securing and managing large-scale external research funding, including leadership of multi-partner bids aligned with funder priorities.
- A strong track record of building and sustaining diverse, high-performing research teams and collaborative partnerships, working effectively across disciplines, sectors and cultural contexts.
- Experience of national and international horizon scanning, identifying emerging trends, funding opportunities, and strategic risks to inform long-term planning and competitive positioning.
- A leadership and/or management qualification is desirable.
- Proven track record of shaping the strategic design of research infrastructure through engagement with external stakeholders is desirable.



Role 2 – Director, Sustainable Farming Systems

Purpose

This role will provide the strong transdisciplinary research leadership needed to drive forward the development of Priority Research Area 2: Farming Systems that work with nature and our climate.

The postholder will empower stakeholders (whose work relates to this Priority Research Area) to carry out research that drives transformative change in agrifood systems, which enables sustainable production of high-quality food, whilst also delivering positive outcomes for the environment, climate and biodiversity. The postholder will work collaboratively with others to achieve this through evidence-based solutions to the challenges facing primary production, developed in

partnership with farmers, businesses in the supply chain, agrifood organisations and policy makers using a whole system approach.

The appointment as Director, Sustainable Farming Systems will be for an initial term of 6 years with the opportunity to potentially renew, with an underlying permanent position as a Professor in the School of Agriculture, Policy & Development. It is expected that the postholder will spend 80% of their time in the role of Director and 20% of their time on their own research.

As a research focused academic post, the post holder is also expected to continue delivering an internationally outstanding programme of agrifood-related research.





Role 2 – Director, Sustainable Farming Systems

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Work with the AFF Director and the Agrifood Futures team, via the matrix structure to successfully implement the Agrifood Futures (AFF) Strategy. This will include successful delivery of specific success indicators and targets as assigned by the AFF Director.
- Provide the strong transdisciplinary research leadership needed to drive forward the development of Priority Research Area 2. In particular to work in partnership with the AFF Director to provide the visionary leadership required to drive the research-led design brief for one of the enabling investments: the development of new integrated research and innovation farm research facilities to combine livestock, crop and associated environmental research facilities and expertise embedded in a University farm that is commercially-relevant in its scale and farm management systems.
- Work effectively with a range of internal and external stakeholders and partners, to help position Reading at the forefront of national and international agrifood research and impact, establishing it as an organisation of major influence and impact in the sector.
- Take responsibility for proactively facilitating new links across disciplines, and with partners nationally and internationally, to grow the University's portfolio of research, innovation and impact related to this Priority Research Area.
- Engage at high levels with influential research, government and industry organisations across the agrifood sector to build reputation, extend influence and develop key partnerships.
- Build large consortia of partners around each enabling infrastructure investment to play a key role in shaping their design brief, ensuring that they meet the future needs of the sector and are positioned as unique and in-demand components of national and international agrifood research capability.
- Lead action to leverage a portfolio of major co-funding for large scale infrastructure investments, amplifying the global positioning and visibility of these developments beyond what Reading could achieve alone whilst also ensuring best value for money for the NIRD Trust and University.
- Support the delivery of the aims of the Institutional Research and Innovation Strategy through Priority Research Area 2 and demonstrate AFF's contribution to institutional Research and Innovation KPIs.
- Contribute to enabling a substantial enhancement to the University's REF performance across relevant Units of Assessment (particularly UoA6) by contributing to high-quality outputs, impact and development of a vibrant interdisciplinary research environment. This includes leading on and contributing to capacity building and mentorship, supporting researcher development at all stages.
- Drive the integration of research excellence and innovation into the experience of our students as the agrifood system professionals of the future. Work with other key stakeholders to enable students to benefit from accessing the enhanced research facilities which will also be used for enrichment in our research-informed teaching, opportunities to contribute to research and work with external partners, and opportunities to gain professional experience through placements or Campus Job roles working in the facilities.



Person specification – Director, Sustainable Farming Systems

Skills and personal qualities:

- Strategic and intellectually agile leader, with the ability to rapidly assimilate complex information, distil key insights and identify strategic, high-impact opportunities.
- Ability to shape and deliver strategic solutions to complex challenges through innovation, foresight and collaborative influence.
- Exceptional relationship builder, skilled at engaging diverse stakeholders across sectors and disciplines. Proven ability to quickly assess strategic priorities and mobilise partnerships that deliver tangible outcomes at institutional, national or international levels.
- Able to convey complex ideas with clarity and authority across a range of audiences. Confident and effective in influencing with senior stakeholders through written, oral and interpersonal communication at the highest level.
- Proven senior leadership presence, with the ability to lead through influence.
- Skilled in negotiating and navigating complex environments, demonstrating sound judgement, political acumen, and emotional intelligence to drive high-level decisions and institutional change.
- Ability to travel nationally and internationally as required which may require flexibility in relation to days and times of work to facilitate this.





Person specification – Director, Sustainable Farming Systems

Knowledge and experience:

- Post-doctoral degree or equivalent.
- Internationally distinguished research profile in agriculture or related sciences, with a proven track record of world-leading contributions, academic impact and/or policy influence in the agrifood sector.
- Sustained record of securing significant external research funding, including leadership of major grants from national or international sources.
- Expert knowledge of sustainable agriculture and/or global food systems and the complex real-world challenges that influence and shape them.
- Strong understanding of the external research, innovation and policy landscapes relevant to agrifood, including their intersections with environmental sustainability, economic development and social equity.
- In-depth knowledge of the strategic priorities of UKRI, government departments, international funders and philanthropic organisations, with demonstrated ability to align research vision with emerging funding opportunities and to lead successful external income generation.
- Proven track record of strategic research leadership, demonstrated through successful development of interdisciplinary research cultures and cultivation of high-impact external partnerships across academia, industry, government and third sectors.
- Extensive experience in leading and delivering large, complex trans/interdisciplinary research programmes involving multiple institutions and stakeholder groups.
- Demonstrated ability to set and execute strategic direction in a senior leadership role, making high-level decisions, managing risk and being accountable for delivering transformative research outcomes.
- Established track record of impactful engagement with policy makers, industry leaders and other end-users of research, resulting in demonstrable influence on policy, practice or innovation.
- Proven track record of shaping the strategic design of research infrastructure through engagement with external stakeholders.
- Significant experience of securing and managing large-scale external research funding, including leadership of multi-partner bids aligned with funder priorities.
- A strong track record of building and sustaining diverse, high-performing research teams and collaborative partnerships, working effectively across disciplines, sectors and cultural contexts.
- Experience of national and international horizon scanning, identifying emerging trends, funding opportunities, and strategic risks to inform long-term planning and competitive positioning.
- A leadership and/or management qualification is desirable.



Role 3 – Director, Healthy Sustainable Foods

Purpose

This role will provide the strong transdisciplinary research leadership needed to drive forward the development of Priority Research Area 3: Food that nourishes people and the planet.

The postholder will empower stakeholders (whose work relates to this Priority Research Area) to support and drive the transformation towards an agrifood system that delivers diets that are both healthy and sustainable, whilst also being desirable and accessible to global consumers.

The appointment as Director, Healthy Sustainable Foods will be for an initial term of 6 years with the opportunity to potentially renew, with an underlying permanent position as a Professor in the Department of Food & Nutritional Sciences. It is expected that the postholder will spend 80% of their time in the role of Director.

As a research focused academic post, the post holder is expected to continue delivering an internationally outstanding programme of food science-related research.





Role 3 – Director, Healthy Sustainable Foods

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Work with the AFF Director and the Agrifood Futures team, via the matrix structure to successfully implement the Agrifood Futures (AFF) Strategy. This will include successful delivery of specific success indicators and targets as assigned by the AFF Director.
- Provide the strong transdisciplinary research leadership needed to drive forward the objectives of Priority Research Area 3. In partnership with the AFF Director, provide the visionary leadership required to inform strategic decision-making to enable two infrastructure investments which are pivotal to research in this area: Advanced Food Processing Facilities and the Food-Centred Participatory Research Platform.
- Work effectively with a range of internal and external stakeholders and partners, to position Reading at the forefront of national and international agrifood research and impact, establishing it as an organisation of major influence and impact in the sector.
- Take responsibility for proactively facilitating new links across disciplines, and with partners nationally and internationally, to grow the University's portfolio of research, innovation and impact related to Priority Research Area.
- Engage at high levels with influential research, government and industry organisations across the agrifood sector to build reputation, extend influence and develop key partnerships.
- Build large consortia of partners around each enabling infrastructure investment to play a key role in shaping their design brief, ensuring that they meet the future needs of the sector and are positioned as unique and in-demand components of national and international agrifood research capability.
- Lead action to leverage a portfolio of major co-funding for large scale infrastructure investments, amplifying the global positioning and visibility of these developments beyond what Reading could achieve alone whilst also ensuring best value for money for the NIRD Trust and University.
- Support the delivery of the aims of the Institutional Research and Innovation Strategy through Priority Research Area 3 and demonstrate AFF's contribution to institutional Research and Innovation KPIs.
- Contribute to enabling a substantial enhancement to the University's REF performance across relevant Units of Assessment (particularly UoA6) by contributing to high-quality outputs, impact and development of a vibrant interdisciplinary research environment. This includes leading on and contributing to capacity building and mentorship, supporting researcher development at all stages.
- Drive the integration of research excellence and innovation into the experience of our students as the agrifood system professionals of the future. Work with other key stakeholders to enable students to benefit from accessing the enhanced research facilities which will also be used for enrichment in our research-informed teaching, opportunities to contribute to research and work with external partners, and opportunities to gain professional experience through placements or Campus Job roles working in the facilities.



Person specification – Director, Healthy Sustainable Foods

Skills and personal qualities:

- Strategic and intellectually agile leader, with the ability to rapidly assimilate complex information, distil key insights and identify strategic, high-impact opportunities.
- Ability to shape and deliver strategic solutions to complex challenges through innovation, foresight and collaborative influence.
- Exceptional relationship builder, skilled at engaging diverse stakeholders across sectors and disciplines. Proven ability to quickly assess strategic priorities and mobilise partnerships that deliver tangible outcomes at institutional, national or international levels.
- Able to convey complex ideas with clarity and authority across a range of audiences. Confident and effective in influencing with senior stakeholders through written, oral and interpersonal communication at the highest level.
- Proven senior leadership presence, with the ability to lead through influence.
- Skilled in negotiating and navigating complex environments, demonstrating sound judgement, political acumen, and emotional intelligence to drive high-level decisions and institutional change.
- Confident change leader with a strong track record of driving transformation in complex academic and research environments. Able to challenge the status quo constructively and inspire others around a shared vision.
- Ability to travel nationally and internationally as required which may require flexibility in relation to days and times of work to facilitate this.





Person specification – Director, Healthy Sustainable Foods

Knowledge and experience:

- PhD in an specialist area related to food and nutritional sciences.
- Internationally distinguished research profile in food science, with a proven track record of world-leading contributions, academic impact and/or policy influence in the agrifood sector.
- Sustained record of securing significant external research funding, including leadership of major grants from national or international sources.
- Expert knowledge of Food Science, Food Engineering or Human Nutrition and its application to address global challenges within the food system.
- Strong understanding of the external research, innovation and policy landscapes relevant to agrifood, including their intersections with environmental sustainability, economic development and social equity.
- In-depth knowledge of the strategic priorities of UKRI, government departments, international funders and philanthropic organisations, with demonstrated ability to align research vision with emerging funding opportunities and to lead successful external income generation.
- Proven track record of strategic research leadership, demonstrated through successful development of interdisciplinary research cultures and cultivation of high-impact external partnerships across academia, industry, government and third sectors.
- Extensive experience in leading and delivering large, complex trans/interdisciplinary research programmes involving multiple institutions and stakeholder groups.
- Demonstrated ability to set and execute strategic direction in a senior leadership role, making high-level decisions, managing risk and being accountable for delivering transformative research outcomes.
- Established track record of impactful engagement with policy makers, industry leaders and other end-users of research, resulting in demonstrable influence on policy, practice or innovation.
- Proven track record of shaping the strategic design of research infrastructure through engagement with external stakeholders.
- Significant experience of securing and managing large-scale external research funding, including leadership of multi-partner bids aligned with funder priorities.
- A strong track record of building and sustaining diverse, high-performing research teams and collaborative partnerships, working effectively across disciplines, sectors and cultural contexts.
- Experience of national and international horizon scanning, identifying emerging trends, funding opportunities, and strategic risks to inform long-term planning and competitive positioning.
- A leadership and/or management qualification is desirable.



Terms of appointment

All three Director appointments will be for an initial term of 6 years with the opportunity to potentially renew, with an underlying permanent position as a Professor. It is expected that the postholder will spend 80% of their time in the role of Director.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

- **Location:** Reading
- **Salary:** Competitive
- **Pension:** USS (the Universities Superannuation Scheme) with employer contribution of 14.5%
- **Annual leave:** 26 days per year plus public holidays and additional days (normally 6 in total) when the University is closed around Easter and Christmas.

For further benefits details, please visit: <https://www.reading.ac.uk/human-resources/working-life/employee-benefits/benefits-grades-6-and-above>

Information on relocation assistance can be found here:

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/human-resources/recruitment/relocation-assistance>

Due diligence

Due diligence will be carried out as part of the application process, which may include searches carried out via internet search engines and any public social media accounts.



How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to the University of Reading on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using the following codes:

Director, Resilient Food Systems: **IBVXB**

Director, Sustainable Farming Systems: **IBVXC**

Director, Healthy Sustainable Foods: **IBVXD**

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 **Friday 17 October 2025.**

* 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.

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.



University of Reading

Saxton Bampfylde