THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

ALLIANCE MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

MANCHESTER INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION RESEARCH

Research Associate : Responsible Research and Innovation in Synthetic Biology

Vacancy ref: HUM-08184

Salary:	£30,738 per annum
Hours:	Full time
Duration:	Fixed term for 36 months
Location:	Oxford Road
Responsible to:	Professor Jakob Edler

CONTEXT

The Research Associate (Responsible Research and Innovation in Synthetic Biology) will be institutionally located in the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIoIR), which is a research centre in the Alliance Manchester Business School in the Faculty of Humanities. Staff at the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research are engaged in a continually evolving, dynamic and stimulating portfolio of policy-relevant research activities associated with science policy, innovation studies, research and technology management, security and defence policy, sustainability and technology management, technology foresight and evaluation.

Overall Purpose Of The Job

You will work predominantly on research and related activities on responsible research and innovation associated with the Manchester Synthetic Biology Research Centre (SYNBIOCHEM) which is sponsored by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). You will be associated with the Emerging Technologies and Governance theme at MIoIR and with the interdisciplinary Manchester Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) group, under the direction and supervision of Professor Philip Shapira (principal investigator). You will undertake research in three interrelated areas: (1) Practices for responsible research and innovation in synthetic biology, including understanding the effects and implications of embedding responsible research and innovation in the SYNBIOCHEM research centre and innovation network which is dedicated to leading-edge emerging technology development in

synthetic biology; (2) Real-time research and innovation assessment of emerging domains of innovation related to the centre's technologies. Initially, this work will focus on analyses related to the end-to-end assessment of SYNBIOCHEM industrial targets in flavours and fragrances, including analyses of relevant research and innovation landscapes, competition and markets, sustainability, responsibility, and regulatory, policy and consumer aspects. Methods developed in this end-to-end assessment will subsequently be applied to other SYNBIOCHEM industrial targets; and (3) A research theme proposed by the Research Associate broadly within the domain of responsible research and innovation in the context of synthetic biology. Potential themes could include synthetic biology commercial applications and innovation pathways, life-cycle and sustainability, ethics, equity, risk, legal, and regulatory issues, or engagement and deliberation. You will also support the RRI Group in other activities, including related to RRI engagement, training, and workshops.

The Research Associate project will have a duration of 3 years

Key responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties

- Contribute to and support the work of the principal investigator.
- Carry out relevant required research duties in relation to the project.
- Perform data-collection and analysis for the project on the basis of secondary literature (reports, articles, trade press, books), databases (including bibliometric and patent data), and primary investigation (web-based, interview, survey, or focus group) as appropriate.
- Lead or participate in the writing of journal articles and other publications.
- Participate in meetings at MIoIR and SYNBIOCHEM and in project coordination/dissemination meetings.
- Have regular meetings with the principal investigator/project manager to report on the progress of the project and discuss the ongoing research

Person Specification

Essential requirements:

1. Be educated to PhD level within a relevant field including public policy and politics, science and innovation studies, social science, management and economics, science and engineering, information technology, health and life sciences, and environmental studies.
2. Excellent English language abilities (spoken/written).
3. Knowledge and experience of qualitative or quantitative (or a mix of) methodological research skills.
4. Analytical skills.
5. Experience in writing/publishing book chapters and/or journal articles and presenting at conferences.
6. Experience in writing technical reports.
7. Self-motivated and able to work flexibly either independently or as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

8. Ability to plan work and meet deadlines.
9. Ability and flexibility to travel to attend meetings, conferences and workshops in the UK and overseas.
10. Ability to work in an interdisciplinary research environment, build contacts and participate in networks for the exchange of information, and form relationships for collaboration.
11. Ability to develop and implement a research theme with the domain of RRI in the context of synthetic biology

Desirable requirements:

1. Broad familiarity with the governance of emerging technologies and responsible research and innovation.
2. Familiarity, or ability to develop familiarity, with synthetic biology and related science, innovation, commercialization, and policy issues.
3. Familiarity with on-line data and information access.
4. Familiarity with data mining and/or statistical analysis software packages.