

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

UNIT M

INNOVATION TO COMMERCIALISATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

(ICURE) PROGRAMME MANAGER

VACANCY REF: PSX-030968

Salary:	Grade 8, £59,966 - £71,566 per annum depending on relevant experience
Hours:	Full time
Duration:	Fixed term available for 12 months
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Name: Aline Miller

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Key interactions: AVP (Enterprise) & CSO of Unit M (ICURE Programme Director), ICURE Head of Regional Hubs Operations Manager, Extended North by North West ICURE team, ICURE Programme Manager; Innovate UK wider team and core ICURE team including the Deputy Director for Start-Ups Ecosystem. Academics and university research innovators across HEIs; a range of stakeholders across UKRI, Innovate UK, and with external partners from both the public and private sectors.

Job Description

Job Title : Innovation to Commercialisation of University Research (ICURE) Programme Manager

Organisational Unit : Unit M

Reports to: **Aline Miller, Associate Vice President (Enterprise) and Chief Scientific Officer, Unit M whilst also working closely with the ICURe Strategic Hubs position**

Date: **1st April 2026**

Key interactions: AVP (Enterprise) & CSO of Unit M (ICURe Programme Director), ICURe Head of Strategic Hubs; ICURe Regional Head of Hubs Operations; Extended Innovate UK ICURe team; relevant colleagues in the Professional Support Research and Development and Finance Teams; academics and university research innovators across HEIs; a range of stakeholders across UKRI and with external partners from both the public and private sectors.

Background to ICURe

The Innovate UK ICURe programme was established in 2014 to address systemic failures inhibiting the commercialisation of academic research. The national programme provides training, funding, and commercial networks to teams of researchers from universities and research institutions to enable the market exploration of their research ideas. Today, ICURe is an important and effective intervention in Innovate UK's (IUK) commitment to achieving societal and economic impact through the development and commercialisation of the UK's academic research base. ICURe is utilised by around 80% of UK universities and has enabled the creation of over 370 new spin outs nationally leveraging in £650m of public and private funding and has become the base model of several commercialisation interventions offered by Innovate UK. With Innovate UK's support pivoting to have more focus on early-stage technology start-ups that have high growth potential, the ICURe programme will be one of the anchor programmes to build the pipeline of such ventures. In 2026/27 the ICURe programme budget has been doubled, with an increased focus on building pathways between UKRI Research Councils and IUK, as well as the opportunity to widen the remit of the programme to support ICURe teams which have just spun out through piloting a UKRI Venture Builder in 2026/27.

NxNW ICURe Programme Manager

The ICURe Programme Manager will have full responsibility for the day to day operational delivery and growth of the ICURe programmes across the North of England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, i.e. the North by North West Region (NxNW). They will work closely with a range of internal stakeholders across the NxNW ICURe programme team and network, the delivery partner (HELIX Research and Enterprise Ltd), regional Heads of Hub postholders, key stakeholders in UKRI, Innovate UK (IUK), Universities, and research-intensive institutions, and with external partners from both the public and private sectors.

This role would be ideal for someone who is passionate about helping researchers commercialise their research, building relationships and networks, and about contributing to the growth of an inclusive innovation ecosystem. The role holder will be a highly proficient and experienced programme manager and possess relevant experience in technology transfer or knowledge exchange, public and private sector and investor relationship management, strategy development and programme & project-level management.

The major tasks for this role will be:

- To lead the consortium and oversee the delivery of the award, shaping the programme's strategy and priorities to ensure participants receive high-quality research commercialisation and translational support.

- To work closely with IUK and other delivery partners to align planned activity with the strategic research, innovation, and skills priorities of IUK and UKRI. Support design, development and implementation of the ICURe programme strategy. Oversight of programme delivery and implantation and commercial outcomes across the national ecosystem.
- To ensure financial control, resource management, and effective communication, both internally and externally, to achieve project objectives within the set timeframe and budget.
- To manage and coordinate finance resources with responsibility for programme finances, liaison with IUK monitoring officer and claims. Support secondary funding recipients' claims ensuring they are efficiently processed including supporting evidence, vouching and payment.
- To manage risks, identifying corrective actions for deviations, and updating the work plan based on resource allocation. Ensure the appropriate use of the grant award in compliance with UKRI. Quality assurance (QA) procedures, review of deliverables, and ethical oversight will be implemented to ensure all activities are legally compliant and governance is sound.
- To support timely delivery of monthly progress, risks and financial reports submitted to the UK ICURe Operations group.
- In collaboration with IUK, lead and coordinate the application assessment, evaluation and awarding of secondary funding. Support development of scope and eligibility criteria, admissibility & eligibility checks alongside institutional commitment. Agree evaluation criteria, coordinate independent assessment resources, selection, conflicts of interest, interviews and remote assessment. Coordinate ranked lists and final panel consensus meetings and assessors.
- Take responsibility for secondary funding awarding process including due diligence, alignment with University's key policies to ensure best practice and adherence to IUK and government requirements.
- To identify, assess, and establish strategic partnerships that align with the programme's objectives, enhance its impact, and ensure long-term sustainability with additional commercialisation support pathways.
- To work alongside delivery partners, regional hub infrastructure and externally to build collaborative relationships, supporting the evolution of sustainable programme. Explore new partnership opportunities across sectors and formalizing agreements to leverage complementary expertise, resources, and networks.
- To support development of partnership proposals and supporting documentation and collaborative framework, including governance and operational guidelines.
- To design and develop interventions to support positive relationships with alumni teams post programme to ensure they are connected into support interventions and regional/national based activity to maximise potential economic impact.
- To establish and refine delivery consortium governance arrangements, ensuring that key decisions are anticipated, identified, and transparently resolved/ escalated as appropriate.
- To act as point of contact for the delivery partners (Helix Research and Enterprise Ltd and Brilliant Red Digital Ltd) advising support functions and work package leads on all aspects of operational activity.

- To identify and expand opportunities across delivery partners and externally, seeking to identify areas of collaboration and mutual benefit.

Person Specification

The Manager will be a proactive, highly skilled, organised and motivated individual, with significant experience of large programme delivery and is passionate and knowledgeable about commercialising university research.

Essential Knowledge, Skills, and Experience:

To be successful, we expect evidence of most (not necessarily all) of the criteria below:

- Have an Undergraduate level qualification or equivalent professional work experience in any discipline.
- Extensive experience of working within a technology transfer, research funder or investor environment and be cognisant of the priorities and culture of relevant innovation activities ideally within academic institutions.
- A working understanding of how academic stakeholders deliver commercial outcomes, including an awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing the sector.
- Clear, demonstrable evidence of leading the development of large-scale programmes (£1m+) and the creation of impact from these.
- Evidence of sustained partnership building activities (min 3 years+) with stakeholders, including government, business, and/or investors.
- Display the capacity to manage budgets, funding compliance, and reporting for externally funded, large scale programmes (£1m+).
- Be skilled in event planning and delivery, including workshops, mentoring programmes, and investor showcases.
- The ability to manage multiple workstreams, balancing competing priorities in dynamic and complex environments.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and evidence of successful partnership working with senior leaders across a range of stakeholders.
- Evidence of delivering comprehensive briefings and plans to senior leaders within a complex organisation.
- A team player and effective networker with excellent interpersonal and influencing skills to liaise confidently and effectively with a range of individuals at all levels internally and within partner organisations.

Desirable Knowledge, Skills, and Experience

- Evidence of working with major R&D centres across GB, Ireland, Europe.
- Experience of research process within a university, e.g., PhD, DTC, or post-doctoral research experience.
- Knowledge and understanding of UK innovation policy and spin-out and/or start-up pathway.