Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the postholder.

Job title: Social Venture Hub Manager

Department/Division: Research and Innovation   **Accountable to:** Research Innovation Manager

Job Summary

The LSE Innovation team aims to maximise the benefits of LSE's research by helping academics turn their research ideas into new businesses, products or services to tackle today's biggest challenges. LSE Innovation have recently been awarded CCF-RED funding to support social venture formation with a consortium of universities called ImpactU, including University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, University of Northampton and University of Coventry. The group has recently welcomed new collaborators University of Exeter, University of Reading, Kingston University, University of York and Anglia Ruskin University. The funding enables ImpactU to set up a comprehensive offering for social ventures formed by university researchers and students, including a tailored training programme and a new venture fund. University staff and students are increasingly choosing social ventures, with impact embedded in their governing documents, over traditional ventures. LSE is leading the training part of the ImpactU project, setting up an online Social Venture Hub to build on the outputs of the ASPECT Social Venture Pathway.

We are hiring a Social Venture Hub Manager for an 18-month fixed-term position to set up the Social Venture Hub, an online training hub and networking platform for university-based social ventures.

The Social Venture Hub will demystify the complex landscape to set up a social venture by providing clear training resources, dynamic workshops, and an active social innovation network. We want to grow the university social venture ecosystem, ensuring university support teams and aspiring social entrepreneurs are well equipped to effectively address global social problems.

The Hub Manager will work closely with an LSE Innovation Manager to plan and create the Social Venture Hub, with tasks including engagement with partners to understand needs and existing offerings, setting up an advisory board and defining a comprehensive training offering. Once the training programme is defined and a curriculum agreed, the role will involve commissioning content and training courses, advertising the programme, as well as setting up an active online network for early-stage university ventures to engage with. This will involve building a large and active membership of impact investors, social entrepreneurs, potential customers, and venture team members.

Relevant experience of social entrepreneurship and social venture formation is vital as the training will focus on topic areas that the candidate will need to be familiar with, including the definition of a social venture, how to plan your social venture, Theory of Change, funding options, legal structures and how to measure impact. There are some existing resources for these areas, but it's likely that the topics will be expanded to make the pathway even more comprehensive. For example, key skills for social entrepreneurs, how to understand the social problem, social business models, scaling social impact and university case studies.

Duties and Responsibilities

Work with ImpactU to create a training offering for university social entrepreneurs:
- With support from your manager and the ImpactU governance team, create a training offering for academic and student entrepreneurs to lead them through how to set up a social venture. Carry out interviews with the partners to identify existing materials, carry out a gap analysis and develop an understanding of user needs. Topics are likely to include an introduction to social ventures, funding options, legal structures, impact measurement, social business models and scaling social ventures. From this work, define a suitable curriculum of online and interactive training.
- Deliver and manage the training programme for social entrepreneurs, create and procure online content (videos, guides etc) and interactive in-person/hybrid courses.
- Explore the potential to use online tools to support creation of training materials e.g. AI tools.
- Assess the potential to work with existing courses (SSE, Spring Impact, Cambridge Social Venture weekend) and secure places for entrepreneurs as a trial.
- Consider different training needs for academics compared to students. Adapt the curriculum as needed.
- Work with partners to determine social venture training needs for university support staff (e.g. staff working in TTOs or student entrepreneurship hubs). Adapt the training offering for these users.

Work with ImpactU to create a social venture networking platform:
- Use a suitable platform to set up an active network for university social entrepreneurs, allowing them to connect with customers, beneficiaries, mentors, co-founders, team members and investors.
- Build a large and active user base for the networking platform, through engagement with partners, personal networks and online.
- Set up in-person networking events to complement the online networking platform.

Project management:
- Produce an initial project plan for the Hub in collaboration with your manager and ImpactU, including the training offering and the networking platform. Include timelines and budget plan.
- Support the project's implementation and reporting, risk management and budget.
- Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of the training offerings.
- Report progress to line manager and ImpactU governance group.
- Deliver project outputs on time and on budget.

Stakeholder engagement:
- Develop and maintain relationships with project partners, including universities and external organisations, to pursue opportunities in line with the project objectives.
- Set up an advisory board to provide advice on the Hub.
- Further develop the role of the external partners, including SSE, Spring Impact, Social Tech Trust and others.
- Identify new university or external partners who could offer support or benefit from the project.
- Liaise with the Fund Manager for the project, who will be hired at the University of Oxford. They will develop pitch training. Work with them to integrate this with the wider training offering.

Marketing:
- Support the creation of a coherent brand identity for the Hub, streamlining it with ImpactU branding. The Hub will be hosted on the ImpactU website.
- Develop suitable marketing material to advertise the training offering to universities across the UK.

Future planning:
- Provide input for planning the future sustainability of the Social Venture Hub, including budgeting

and options to secure further funding. Support chosen route to funding e.g. support writing grant application.

Flexibility

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility may be required in the duties performed in order to meet the exigencies of service. Job roles may also naturally develop over time and ongoing substantial changes to a role will be discussed between line managers and their staff, with job descriptions updated as and when appropriate.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

LSE is committed to building a diverse, equitable and truly inclusive university. All posts (and post holders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or social and economic background.

Ethics Code

Posts (and post holders) are assumed to have a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's Ethics Code and to promote the principles and values that the Code enshrines. The Ethics Code clearly states that the whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to act in accordance with the principles which are set out in the Code. As such you are required to read and familiarise yourself with it. The School's Effective Behaviours Framework is designed to support this Code. It sets out examples for the six behaviours that all staff are expected to demonstrate, these can be found on the following link: click here

Environmental Sustainability

The post holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.