



## 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:** Head of Innovation

**Department/Division:** LSE Research and Innovation

**Accountable to:** The Director of LSE Research and Innovation

### Job Summary

LSE is a leading social science institution with some of the greatest global impact. Our researchers are world-leading thinkers on critical issues, and our mission is the better of society. The Head of Innovation leads a team dedicated to maximising the School's impact through research commercialisation and is responsible for developing the commercialisation ecosystem, leading the commercialisation service and creating external networks of businesses and investors.

### Duties and Responsibilities

The principal responsibilities of the Head of Innovation are:

- Build and lead a sector-leading service supporting research commercialisation in the social sciences (including development through non-profit vehicles) to enhance the impact and sustainability of LSE research
- Work creatively and professionally with academics and researchers to develop innovative products and services, determine the most appropriate route for commercialisation of their research or development through non-profit vehicles as appropriate, and progress that development including through helping them secure appropriate funding, technical and legal support, advice or mentoring, and IP protections
- Create a strong and effective ecosystem for supporting research commercialisation including fostering strong relations with researchers and relevant professional services staff internally and with business and investor partners or advisors externally.
- Initiate and develop positive relationships with suitable/potential commercial partners and actively engage them in, for example, the mentoring, review, evaluation and successful commercialisation of research-based opportunities in coordination with Consulting, Generate and Business Partnerships
- Develop and implement a strategy for raising funding for commercialisation projects and for commercialisation / translational activities
- Manage accountability for LSE investment decisions in project development, e.g. seed funding projects
- Lead advanced IP protection including discussion and working with relevant legal advisors and/or patent agents to achieve appropriate protection within agreed timescales.
- Develop and implement a national and international collaboration strategy for research commercialisation which builds upon the foundations of existing relationships to best deliver commercialisation project support at LSE
- Liaise and collaborate with LSE support services and programmes including the research contracts teams, LSE Consulting, LSE Generate (student entrepreneurship) and Business.



- Partnership offices, the Finance Division and other stakeholders to ensure alignment of all translational and commercialisation activities and support available to LSE academics and researchers
- Provide leadership and line management for the LSE Innovation team by acting as a mentor and motivator for the team, identifying training and development needs and ensuring development programs are implemented, through 1-1 discussions and performance reviews.
- Continue to develop their own skills and awareness and that of their team of scientific, technical, commercial, legal and policy developments impacting on the function of research commercialisation and to share best practice with others internally and externally
- Lead on recruitment, goal-setting, planning and allocating resources, and delegating management of commercialisation projects within the team, liaising with the Director of LSE Research and Innovation.
- Prepare regular progress reports for the Director of LSE Research and Innovation and the Strategic Director for Innovation, the School Management Committee and other School bodies

Any other duties appropriate to the role required by the Director of LSE Research and Innovation

#### **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.