



Director – Eastern Academic Research
Consortium (Eastern ARC)

Candidate Pack

January 2019

Introduction

The Eastern Academic Research Consortium (ARC) is a strategic collaboration between the Universities of East Anglia, Essex, and Kent - all part of the group of universities established in the 1960s that have thrived and grown extraordinarily in a relatively short time period, with each celebrating their 50th anniversary between 2013 and 2015. With a combined turnover of £540 million, together the three universities teach and train more than 50,000 students, supported by around 2,000 academic staff. In the REF 2014, the most recent research assessment exercise, they submitted 1,250 academic researchers to 41 of the disciplinary sub-panels. The Eastern ARC takes a five/50-year view – a commitment to growing cooperation since its inception, with the aim of enhancing our success over the next 50.

Eastern ARC was founded on partnership bids for doctoral training awards in the natural and environmental sciences and the arts and humanities, and on a range of other bilateral research relationships. A key element of the initial agreement was the joint funding of nine Eastern ARC Fellows and 21 Eastern ARC PhD studentships for a five-year period.

Our initial focus has been on three broad interdisciplinary areas for research collaboration, with each consortium partner acting as research lead:

- **Digital Humanities**, led by the University of Kent - developing research collaborations that harness the significant expertise of consortia members in Big Data, and Digital Heritage (particularly in visualisation, geographical information systems and online curation).
- **Quantitative Social Science**, led by the University of Essex – focusing on the themes of (i) Inequality, Conflict, and Migration; (ii) Lifespan, Lifestyle, and Decision-making; and (iii) Environment, Energy, and Security
- **Synthetic Biology**, led by the University of East Anglia – (needs brief summary), led by the University of East Anglia – this collaboration across the consortia Biological Sciences researchers is developing new tools to address questions in the areas of environmental biology, signalling in plants and regulation of gene expression and engineering of metabolic pathways.

In the spring of 2018, the Consortium launched a major new initiative, led by the University of Essex to support enterprise in the east of England region. Funded by the Research England Connecting Capabilities Fund, the three-year project called “**EIRA - Enabling Innovation: Research to Application**” supports innovation by helping business to access research expertise from universities and colleges in the region. In delivering this project, the Eastern ARC consortium is collaborating with Harlow College, Norwich University of the Arts, University of Suffolk, and Writtle University College. The EIRA project is led and directed by a small team based at the University of Essex.

Further information about the Eastern ARC, including the EIRA project, is available here: <https://www.eira.ac.uk>

The Eastern ARC is governed by a Board which oversees strategic development and the implementation and delivery of the Consortium’s objectives, and meets on a termly basis. The Board includes Consortium members’ Pro Vice-Chancellors for Research, and Directors of Research and Enterprise.

The Role

Post Title:	Director – Eastern Academic Research Consortium (Eastern ARC)
Reports To:	Director – Research and Enterprise Office (or equivalent)
Location:	The location of the role is to be discussed with the successful candidate however it could be University of Essex (Colchester) University of Kent (Canterbury) University of East Anglia (Norwich)
Term:	Up to 5-year contract with the potential that the post would become permanent

Purpose of the job:

The Eastern Academic Research Consortium (Eastern ARC) is a strategic collaboration between the Universities of East Anglia, Essex, and Kent. This new post is intended to ensure that the Consortium is a partner of choice in the development of new collaborative research and innovation initiatives across the region and beyond; is agile and well positioned to capitalise on the opportunities presented by emerging government agendas and the priorities of funding bodies; is actively engaged with sectors beyond the academy to maximise the reach and depth of impact from our collaborative research and innovation activities; develops new research communities across the Consortium to capitalise on emerging opportunities; achieves success in securing funding for large collaborative research and innovation projects.

Duties of the Post:

The main duties of the post will include:

1. Planning and Delivery:

- To oversee the development and effective delivery of the Consortium’s strategies and priorities;
- To work with the Board to develop the Consortium’s Strategic Plan 2020-2025;
- To ensure the effective delivery of existing work streams (Quantitative Social Sciences, Digital Humanities, and Synthetic Biology) to maximise their achievements and impact;
- To develop creative and innovative approaches to harness the combined research and knowledge exchange power of Consortium members;
- To lead and co-ordinate the development of new collaborative multi-disciplinary research and innovation opportunities across the Consortium;
- To catalyse, lead and contribute to the production of bids for major funding opportunities;
- To be responsible for the management of internal and external communications regarding the Consortium.

2. Relationship Management

- To provide visible leadership for the Consortium, and be the key liaison internally and externally;
- To develop and maintain excellent working relationships with high level policy makers, major funding bodies and key stakeholders;
- To liaise effectively with the Board, Research and Innovation Directors, Academic Leads and Eastern ARC Fellows to ensure join-up across the consortium;
- To promote and facilitate a shared vision and culture of partnership.

3. Analysis and Reporting

- To provide regular reports on opportunities, activities and delivery to the Board;
- To benchmark the activities and performance of the consortium against other research alliances;
- To take the lead for the consortium in responding to consultations and requests for information, where a combined response would be beneficial;
- To understand the research and innovation portfolios of consortium members and horizon scan for appropriate opportunities to further the consortium's goals.

4. Decision Making

- To oversee the implementation of all decisions made by the Board;
- To be the delegated authority to take decisions on behalf of the Board where related to agreed Consortium business;
- To be responsible for effective communications and stakeholder management.

Any other duties as determined from time to time by the EARC Board or their line manager.

These duties are a guide to the work that the post holder will initially be required to undertake. They may be changed from time to time to meet changing circumstances.

Person Specification

Qualifications/Training

	Essential	Desirable
▪ Educated to degree level or equivalent in any discipline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Postgraduate qualification, or equivalent, in a relevant field, area or discipline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Experience/Knowledge

	Essential	Desirable
▪ Experience of a senior leadership role in a relevant sector (for example HE management, policy, funding, government, or industry).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Detailed knowledge of the research and enterprise policy landscapes, relevant funding bodies and their requirements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Extensive experience of working productively with strategic research and innovation partnerships across a wide range of disciplines and partners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Experience of developing and leading collaborative cross-sectoral partnerships and managing relationships across geographical, sectoral and organisational boundaries.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Demonstrable experience of management, leadership and consistent high achievement in a senior position within an appropriate context.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Extensive experience of proposal development and complex bid writing.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ A proven track record of securing large scale funding and successful lobbying of policymakers and funders.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ Experience of delivering effective communications, external relations, and marketing processes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Experience of a range of project management approaches.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Skills/Abilities

	Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to develop expert collaborative teams across the Consortium to develop new work streams and projects. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to establish and work effectively within governance structures across the Consortium. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to effectively manage budgets. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrable expertise in developing productive external relationships and influencing agendas 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent communication skills, adaptable to different audiences and sectors. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to establish effective relationships with senior academics, research and innovation leaders, and a wide range of staff and stakeholders, effectively manage cross-boundary sensitivities. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to prepare and effectively present strategic and operational plans, to think analytically and strategically and to utilize high level implementation skills. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness and capability to travel extensively between consortium member locations, across the region, and beyond. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible approach to the role, with an aptitude to respond quickly and with agility to opportunities and requests, galvanising support from colleagues and stakeholders. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other

	Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Ability to meet the requirements of UK 'right to work' legislation 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This role could be based at; The University of Essex (Colchester), The University of Kent (Canterbury) or The University of East Anglia (Norwich). The candidate should be able to travel to all locations (see general information) 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The University has a responsibility under the Asylum, Immigration and Nationality Act 2006 to ensure that all employees are eligible to work in the UK. Prior to commencing employment, the successful candidate will be asked to provide documentary evidence to this effect. Please note that the University may not be able to issue a Tier 2 Certificate of Sponsorship for this post. For further information about UK immigration requirements please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>

Additional Information

General Information

- The Director will be employed by one of the three universities on behalf of the other consortium members – to be decided post interview.
- The appointee will be located within the senior management team at one of the consortium member universities (to be agreed), reporting directly to the Director of Research and Enterprise (or equivalent).
- To be successful the post holder must spend considerable time at each of the three members. The job will require considerable travel between consortium members and other stakeholders (including overnight stays).

How to Apply

For more information, including how to apply, please visit www.minervasearch.com/essex. Applications, in the form of a CV and cover letter, should be submitted to essex@minervasearch.com by 28 February 2019.

Contact

The Minerva team comprises of:

Rebecca Jones

Anita Denton

Kellie Horner

Ben Tucker

Should you wish to have a confidential conversation to discuss this further, please email: essex@minervasearch.com