Academic Director for FinTech

Applications are invited for the role of Director of the new University of Manchester FinTech Research Network, which is being established under the aegis of the University of Manchester Research Institute (UMRI). The successful candidate will develop and lead the University’s FinTech research initiative, championing inter-disciplinary research projects to build the University’s expertise and public profile in this area, specifically building partnerships with non-academic organisations to facilitate collaborative projects.

The Director will be accountable to UMRI and will work closely with UMRI’s Manchester Informatics network and the Data Science Institute. The Director will be supported by a steering group and will report to the Associate Dean for Business Engagement and External Relations of the Faculty of Humanities.

# Resources

This will be a 12 month appointment in the first instance, with the possibility of extension for a further 24 months, following discussion with the successful candidate and agreement on the detail of the work programme. The post carries a 20% workload adjustment.  Administrative support for the role will be provided through Manchester Informatics.

# Background

“FinTech” describes the digitisation of financial transactions to create new financial services products and processes, enhance the operational capabilities of organisations, improve user experience & security, and increase efficiency within the financial services industry and related sectors. The University recognises the academic opportunities in this field and the need to build capability and capacity if we are to benefit from those opportunities.

FinTech is multi-disciplinary by its very nature and draws on aspects of mathematics, computer science, financial modelling, cybersecurity, business strategy and organisational change, the design of new business models, consumer and market behaviour, the adoption and social acceptance of new technologies, regulation, as well as the study of its broader social and economic consequences.

Over the past 12 months, the Business Engagement team has supported the development of a multidisciplinary FinTech community, with current membership of nearly 100 researchers across six schools in two faculties. The aim now is to build on this foundation by appointing an academic lead for FinTech to support development of the field internally and raise the profile of this activity externally.

# Role Description

The post holder will be responsible for:

* Providing leadership for the University’s FinTech research activities.
* Building a coherent FinTech community across the University, fully involving all relevant existing activity and working closely with relevant Schools, Research Institutes and Faculties and the Business Engagement Strategy Team.
* Advising the senior leadership of the University and developing a business plan for investment to underpin the expansion of FinTech capacity and capability.
* Raising the external profile of the University’s FinTech activity, building on collaborations with the city-region and engaging with national initiatives.
* Leading large multidisciplinary funding bids in financial innovation.
* Engaging with industry and the public sector to develop partnerships and attract non-RCUK funding.
* Overseeing the planning of periodic meetings/workshops with the internal academic network
* Co-ordinating production of an annual report on The University’s FinTech research activity

# Person Specification

The ideal candidate is a senior academic (ideally Professor) who is already an active member of the University of Manchester’s FinTech community. They will have the following characteristics.

* An internationally excellent track-record in a relevant discipline
* Proven ability to work across disciplines
* Ability to provide leadership in a multidisciplinary setting
* Ability to think strategically
* Awareness of national and international initiatives in FinTech
* Willingness to invest effort in developing the Uniersity’s FinTech activity spanning all faculties

# Applications

Applications should be sent to Rachel Kenyon, Business Engagement Officer, Crawford House or by email [Rachel.Kenyon@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Rachel.Kenyon@manchester.ac.uk).

**The closing date for applications is Tuesday 6th February 2018.**

**Interviews for the post will take place on Wednesday 28th February.**

Applications should consist of a brief curriculum vitae and a supporting letter demonstrating how you would undertake the duties and responsibilities attached to this post, and your ideas for the development of the University’s strategy for FinTech.

Colleagues with an interest in this post are invited to discuss this informally with the Associate Dean for Business Engagement & External Relations, Humanities Dr Andrew James in the first instance. He can be contacted by email at [Andrew.James@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Andrew.James@manchester.ac.uk).