

Location: Cambridge

Hours: Full-time (37.5 hours per week), with additional hours as required

Salary: available on request

Reports to: Executive Director

Contract Type: 3-years

Company Overview

Innovate Cambridge is at the heart of the innovation community in Cambridge. Our ambition is to create a thriving innovation ecosystem that benefits all. We achieve this by working with partners to deliver an inclusive, forward-looking, and ambitious innovation roadmap for Cambridge.

The Innovate Cambridge strategy is underpinned by a powerful coalition of over 200 Charter Signatories and more than 500 engaged stakeholders across academia, business, investment, and government. Our mission is to ensure Cambridge's science, innovation, and business communities have what they need to succeed — maximising economic and social return, and sharing that growth with the wider community and the UK.

This includes nurturing the people who will deliver pioneering discoveries, helping translate ideas into successful businesses, facilitating meaningful collaborations both regionally and globally, and leading on sustainable, inclusive, green growth.

There are three key pillars to our strategy – i) ensuring the innovation ecosystem fires on all cylinders, ii) creating value and impact for local community and iii) working in partnership to deliver innovation-driven growth for the UK at pace. We deliver a number of initiatives under these pillars, including, a unique, central innovation community space – The Glasshouse, telling the Cambridge innovation story to the world and amplifying growth through Cambridge x Manchester partnership. In collaboration with other organisations and with the strategic leadership of our Innovation Advisory Council, we have the bold ambition to supercharge the impact of the Greater Cambridge area by doubling the rate at which it builds unicorns, doubling the venture capital investment the city's startups receive, and creating twice as many science and innovation companies – all within a 10-year timetable.

Cambridge is the UK's most innovation intensive city and globally we rank fourth behind San Francisco, Boston and New York. With the spotlight on Cambridge to deliver economic growth for the UK, there could never be a better time to join us!

Role Overview: Deputy Director

The **Deputy Director** is a pivotal execution and delivery role, responsible for turning our strategy into action and ensuring Innovate Cambridge's day-to-day delivery drives real-world impact.

This is a rare opportunity to help deliver the future of one of the world's most exciting and influential innovation communities. You will be a key player within a high-performing team, coordinate with partners across sectors, and support the Executive Director in elevating Cambridge's position on the global stage.

Key Responsibilities

- **Funding & Partnership Development**
 - Identify and secure new funding and business opportunities and strategic partnerships.
 - Create and deliver compelling foreign direct investment (FDI) propositions for Cambridge and joint FDI propositions for Cambridge and Manchester.
 - Act as the Cambridge lead responsible for delivery of Cambridge x Manchester initiatives.
 - **Inclusive innovation**
 - Oversee the inclusive innovation agenda and strategy, including liaising with the Cambridge Pledge team and developing additional strands in collaboration with partners e.g. City Council, Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority.
 - **Cambridge innovation story**
 - Deployment of Cambridge innovation story to the world, attracting new investment and talent to the region and the UK.
 - **Leadership & Delivery**
 - Deputise for the Executive Director when required.
 - Manage day-to-day delivery of initiatives, ensuring effective prioritisation, progress, and delivery across workstreams.
 - Support organisational alignment with KPIs, impact goals, and stakeholder expectations.
 - Represent Innovate Cambridge at conferences, meetings, and events.
 - Budget management of specific initiatives.
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Candidate Profile

We are looking for an ambitious, high-performing individual with a track record of organisation and delivery in innovation-focused environments.

Essential:

- Deep understanding of the research and/or innovation sector, including startup, scale-up, academic, or investor ecosystems.
- Strategic mindset with the ability to operationalise and translate vision into action.
- Demonstrated experience of delivering complex, cross-sector programmes.
- Excellent stakeholder management and communication skills — able to engage confidently with senior leaders across business, academia, and government.
- A collaborative, inclusive delivery style with the ability to thrive in a fast-paced, dynamic environment.

Desirable:

- Prior experience in research commercialisation, innovation policy, or public-private partnerships.
- Familiarity with the Cambridge innovation landscape or comparable global hubs.
- Experience raising funding or delivering investment propositions (public and/or private).
- Startup, founder, or investor experience a strong plus.

Why Join Us?

This role offers a unique opportunity to help shape one of the world's leading innovation clusters — working with brilliant minds and impactful ideas across science, technology, and entrepreneurship. You'll be part of a mission-led, forward-thinking organisation with a strong network and a new, purpose-built home in The Glasshouse.

It's also a fantastic stepping stone to a broader executive leadership position in the innovation or public-good tech sectors.



What we offer:

- Three year contract
- Opportunities for professional growth and development
- Friendly and collaborative work environment
- 28 days annual leave, excluding bank holidays
- Employee bonus scheme

How to Apply:

If you are interested in joining us and have the skills and experience required to excel in this role please email admin@innovatecambridge.com with your CV in the first instance.