Research Impact Associate- Strategies to evidence the research impact of open-source resources	
Grade	6
Department	FSE Faculty Office, Faculty of Science and Engineering

Overall Purpose

The faculty of Science and Engineering is looking to appoint a Research Impact Associate to work closely with the Associate Dean for REF, supporting academic and Professional Services colleagues to develop and apply novel or emergent research techniques that would evaluate the impact of the faculty's research with external stakeholders.

Focus of the role would be on developing strategies and campaigns to collate qualitative and quantitative data to establish the value of non-standard research outputs (e.g. software, datasets, and regulatory or design standards) to end users that the University has not collaborated with directly. Successful appointees would be supported to integrate effective approaches into faculty workflows to improve the evaluation of research impact.

Activities will include liaison with academics to develop methodologies for stakeholder engagement, co-ordination of engagement strategies, evaluation of research impact and effectiveness of approaches, and provision of expert advice. Outcomes of these activities will inform development of high-quality impact case studies suitable for submission to Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2028.

The role holder would be supported to promote successful approaches to academics across the faculty to improve the evaluation of research impact to support engagement and evaluation approaches in line with the University's 2035 ambitions. Publication and presentation of the effectiveness of these strategies to wider academic audiences would be encouraged.

About the Team

The postholder will work as part of the Faculty of Science & Engineering Research Impact team. The Faculty's Research Impact team comprises Research Impact Officers and the Research Policy, Governance & REF Manager, and sits within the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) team. The role reports to the Associate Dean for REF, who will provide academic leadership and line management for the role.

Day-to-day operational leadership will be via the Research Policy, Governance & REF Manager, ensuring activities are aligned with Faculty REF and research impact priorities.

The postholder will also work closely with academic teams and colleagues across the faculty, developing collaborative approaches to the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of open access materials across a portfolio of prospective REF impact cases.

Key Accountabilities

Research

- Develop and apply standard, emergent or novel research techniques, and work with key stakeholders to develop research strategies that will deliver the required quantitative and/or qualitative evaluations of the impact of the Faculty's open access resources.

- Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, translating knowledge of advances in the subject area into strategy.
- Evaluate the efficacy of these approaches and use these to shape decisions in REF case development and longer-term faculty strategy
- Establish the framework for running and managing the different project deliverables.
- Work with colleagues to articulate research impact and support the writing and evidencing of high-quality reports, communications and impact cases aligned with the expectations of research assessment exercises.

Communication

- Prepare reports and presentations on research methods and findings concerning the evaluation of research impact for internal use in setting future strategy and for publication and presentation through both internal and external channels.
- Provide training to researchers to enable them to integrate effective impact evaluation into their research projects.

Collaboration

- Co-ordinate projects with the wider impact team to avoid duplication of effort and strengthen the likelihood of project delivery.
- Attend and contribute to relevant meetings with senior stakeholders to agree how research outcomes influence institutional projects and share findings.

General

- Maintain confidentiality of information in line with data protection requirements and University policy.
- Undertake such other duties as may from time to time be required, as determined by the line manager, including support to other colleagues.

Person Specification	
Knowledge	**Essential:** • Awareness of research impact assessment in the context of the Research Excellence Framework and its influence within research funding. **Desirable** • Awareness of University of Manchester's strategy, vision and values.
Experience	**Essential:** • Development and evaluation of remote or in person quantitative and qualitative data collection strategies.

	• Developing effective professional relationships with diverse stakeholders, such as industrial collaborators, public contributors or policy-makers. • Meeting multiple operational/strategic targets or deadlines at the same time, working flexibly to accommodate shifting priorities. **Desirable:** • Working within a Higher Education Institution or similar organisational environment. • Development and/or delivery of training materials. • Experience of evidencing and reporting impact assessment, such as the Research Excellence Framework.
Skills	**Essential:** • Preparation of written reports on methods and findings of analysis for a range of audiences. • Ability to work collaboratively as a member of a team, as well as the initiative and drive to work individually. • Excellent analytical skills, including the ability to evaluate and clearly present outcomes from complex quantitative datasets. **Desirable:** • Development of engagement activities for external audiences. • Ability to manage stakeholder engagement activities, including consideration of the GDPR and ethical requirements. • Experience of publishing research methods / findings.
Education	**Essential:** • Possess a PhD or equivalent relevant experience.
University Values	

One University: A 'One University' approach, whereby we break down silos and work collaboratively towards furthering the University's strategic goals, vision and values.

Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom: Support the University's commitment to securing and actively promoting the importance of free speech and academic freedom within our community.

Service Excellence: Committed to prioritising service excellence and high performance to deliver great people-centred experiences.

Agility: Demonstrate a commitment to agility and continuous improvement by embracing change, championing innovation, and being flexible and forward thinking to adapt.

Sustainability: A sustainable approach that safeguards the University of the future by championing environmental practices, advancing digital capability, and supporting financial stability and philanthropic initiatives.

Inclusion: Support the University's ambition to create an inclusive place to work where every person matters, demonstrating a commitment to non-discriminatory conduct and respect for others, and fostering a University where people feel deeply connected to each other, to Manchester, and to the wider world.

Social Responsibility: Promote and champion the University's social responsibility ambitions to advance social inclusion, prosperous communities, better health, and cultural engagement.