

1. Job Details

Job title: Director of SICSA

Applications are invited from any member of academic staff within a SICSA Institution

2. Job Purpose

SICSA is the Scottish Funding Council Research Pool in Informatics and Computer Science. The goal of SICSA is to cohere the Scottish Informatics and Computer Science research communities to help increase critical mass and to enable cooperation in research, teaching and Knowledge Exchange. The SICSA director provides academic leadership for SICSA working with the SICSA Directorate and the SICSA Executive Team

Research pooling across Scotland is entering an exciting phase. Having recently released the review of pooling, the SFC are considering a number of recommendations which present opportunities for someone interested in this role. You can lead and shape the foundations for the future of SICSA as we develop into a new programme for Scottish research. Anyone interested in taking on this role should be willing to lead and work with other members of the directorate on developing a new direction for SICSA in light of a changing funding landscape.

3. Main Responsibilities

The SICSA Director role is part-time, taking approximately 20% of the working week as follows:

- Working with Directors and SICSA Executive Team to deliver activities such as research themes, challenges, researcher mobility, SICSA graduate academy, knowledge exchange and other events (10%)
- Directing and Chairing the SICSA Committee and SICSA Advisory Board, interacting with SICSA constituent Schools. (2%)
- Liaison with Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and other bodies relative to the strategic direction of SICSA. (2%)
- Developing SICSA strategy with the Directors in the area of research, teaching and knowledge exchange. (3%)
- Representing and presenting SICSA at events such as DemoFest SICSA PhD Conference, and other external events. (2%)
- Participate in the annual Performance & Development process for the SICSA Executive Officer. (1%)

4. Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- 4.1 Extensive and high level Computer Science research and teaching experience successfully sustained, and productive over the long-term;
- 4.2 Proven leadership and motivational skills to manage resources, support strategic initiatives and to contribute to the running of a large organisation;
- 4.3 Extensive experience in leading the design of Computer Science programmes and projects;
- 4.4 Established and widely recognised reputation for excellence in the field among peers internationally;
- 4.5 Recognised reputation for excellence in engaging external stakeholders and the general public in research and knowledge exchange;
- 4.6 Proven ability to plan and lead the delivery of high quality research and/or teaching programmes;

- 4.7 Proven skills in leading, motivating and developing the performance of colleagues and contributing to effective performance;
- 4.8 Demonstrably excellent communication (oral and written) and interpersonal skills;
- 4.9 Influencing, negotiating, facilitating and relationship building skills.

5. Features of the role

5.1 Planning and Organising

Take responsibility for SICSA strategy, developing and promoting a clear vision of SICSA's strategic direction;

Lead the SICSA Directorate and SICSA Executive team, who have delegated responsibility for Knowledge Exchange & Impact, Education and the Graduate Academy and the executive functions of SICSA.

Agenda setting for the SICSA Committee and Advisory Board meetings assisted by the SICSA Executive and Directors.

5.2. Problem Solving

Lead the Directorate and Executive team in planning, budgeting and fundraising to ensure the sustainability of SICSA.

Lead the Directorate in interactions with the SFC, Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland and other bodies on the development of policy relating to Informatics and Computer Science in Scotland.

Lead the Directorate in devising calls and considering applications for funding across the range of SICSA funding streams.

Lead the Directorate in interactions with the research councils on issues on research funding as it relates to collective SICSA interests.

5.3. Decision Making

Responsible for leading on high-level budgetary decision-making.

Lead on decisions relative to the future structure of SICSA themes and activities. These will be reviewed periodically throughout the life of SICSA.

Lead on decisions around SICSA policy advice and interaction with a range of government bodies.

5.4. Key Contacts/Relationships

To work closely with the SICSA Directorate and Executive team to ensure continual close working relationship with these individuals.

Establish and maintain trusted relationships with the representatives of the SICSA Schools and Departments represented on the SICSA committee.

Establish and maintain a good working relationship with members of the SICSA Advisory Board.

Establish and maintain a good working relationship with representatives of SFC and other Scottish governmental and non-governmental bodies.

5.5. Dimensions and Context

The SICSA Director will be responsible for the overall direction of the SICSA Executive team comprising two full-time posts.



The SICSA Director will be funded by SICSA at 0.2FTE, capped at £20K.

All members of the SICSA Directorate devote 20% of their time to SICSA duties.

SICSA has an annual baseline budget of approximately £250K. A priority for this role is to lead on future fundraising activity to increase the scope and sustainability of the SICSA activity.