

Role: Interim Executive Director, UKCDR

Duration: 3 - 6 months

Salary: Competitive

Reports to: SCOR Board Chair

Staff responsibility: Yes

Reporting to the Chair of the SCOR Board the Interim Executive Director is responsible for the successful delivery of the UKCDR's vision, which aims to maximise the coherence and impact of UK research investments on international development outcomes. As UKCDR recruits a new permanent Executive Director, the interim will lead a committed and high performing team to deliver agreed projects, support the SCOR Board and liaise with key stakeholders.

UKCDR and the SCOR Board

The UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) is a collective of government departments and research funders working in international development. The SCOR Board provides strategic direction and oversight to UKCDR. UKCDR carries out the strategic projects on behalf of the SCOR Board and acts as the board's secretariat.

UKCDR's vision

We believe in accelerating global development through the power of research and knowledge. For over a decade, we have brought UK research funders together to discuss priorities and coordinate efforts to garner maximum impact. We are a neutral and impartial entity governed by the Strategic Coherence of ODA-funded Research (SCOR) Board.

UKCDR's strategy

At the core of our 2018-2022 strategy is a principal commitment to data mapping, analysis and foresight, with our remaining activities built upon this strong foundation of knowledge and evidence. We have four integrated and overlapping aims:

- Mapping, analysis and foresight
- Convening for collaboration and joint action
- Sharing information, learning and best practice
- A collective voice to shape policy

UKCDR's current strategy ends in 2022. This year, with our new Chair, we will define a new strategy fit for the increasingly complex world we live in post-Brexit and hopefully post-pandemic. The Interim Executive Director will oversee the evaluation of the 2018-2022 strategy which will inform the future direction of UKCDR.

Our motivation

It is a vital role and a critical time for international development research. There has been unprecedented progress in global development over the past few decades. The world has managed to halve child mortality and people living in extreme poverty. People around the world are living longer and healthier lives than ever before because there has been a global will to move international development up the agenda. The UK has been at the forefront of this commitment to eradicating poverty and improving lives.

However, there is still a way to go, in a world that is rapidly changing and where major development, demographic and environmental transitions are bringing new complex challenges that require

different transdisciplinary and innovative approaches. Whilst children continue to die from preventable causes and too many people live in extreme poverty, we now grapple with new and more complex issues on the horizon that threaten our progress. Not only do these challenges pose a threat to development progress and risk pushing people back into poverty, but they may also lead to increased global insecurity, affecting citizens across the world.

We cannot afford to tackle any of these challenges in isolation. Solutions will only be found by bringing together research teams of scientists, engineers, clinicians, economists, historians, and anthropologists that can integrate different concepts, tools and perspectives. UK universities and research institutions have contributed significantly to these developments through a long tradition of outstanding work for and with developing countries, supported by UK research councils and government departments, alongside other donors.

With development research funding now distributed across several government departments, and in light of considerable uncertainty around the future of the economy and UK aid spending and research funding more specifically, it is more important than ever that research funding efforts are joined up and not duplicated.

More information

[UKCDR Website](#)

[SCOR Board Members](#)

[UKCDR Team](#)

JOB DESCRIPTION & REQUIREMENTS

Strategy and Operational Delivery

- Oversee the evaluation of UKCDR and SCOR with the relevant officials.
- Supporting SCOR Board Chair and the Board in effective governance of UKCDR, providing advice as required.
- Inform the SCOR Board of internal and external matters affecting the organisation and give strategic advice about the relevance and effectiveness of its decisions.
- Develop, implement and evaluate existing programmes, to ensure added value to international development research through, coherence, collaboration and joint action among UK funders.

Resources and management

- Ensure compliance with funder requirements to ensure accountability and transparency.
- Oversee and manage the organisations financial accounts, budgeting and risk management.
- Manage the secretariat staff effectively in a time of change.
- Support the SCOR Board in recruiting the new Executive Director.

Representation

- Promote the aims, standing and interests of UKCDR to external stakeholders and the public.
- Oversee UKCDR's media presence.
- Maintain positive relationships with key stakeholders including government departments, funders of research for development, the research community and external national and international stakeholders.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will bring all or most of the following:

Knowledge and experience

- Understanding of:
 - the UK research landscape and the science, humanities, technology, and innovation policy interfaces
 - the key UK and international organisations and players in international development
- Experience of managing teams and organisations.
- Experience of working with government departments.

Skills and personal qualities

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Motivational and supportive team management skills.
- Sensitivity to organisational and thematic differences.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

The Interim Executive Director will be based remotely at first, with the possibility of returning to the office according to Government guidelines. The office is based at the Wellcome Trust on Euston Road in Central London. The successful candidate will be employed through a contract, or secondment arrangement would also be considered. Full-time and part-time (minimum 2 days per week) appointments will be considered.

This position will be for a maximum of 6 months, and the position is open to applicants residing in the UK only.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please submit a CV and cover letter to info@ukcdr.org.uk by 23:59 on Tuesday 22nd June 2021. In your documents, please state whether you are a sole trader or limited company to inform our processes.

Deadline: Tuesday 22nd June 23:59

Interview: w/c 28th June 2021