

Eastern Arc

The Role of Thematic Champions

Background

The [Eastern Arc Strategy 2020-25](#) was launched in February 2020. It focuses on four areas of strength and opportunity, creating interdisciplinary networks that will stimulate and galvanise research with social, environmental and economic impact.

The [four themes](#) are:

- Health systems, social care and wellbeing
- Human rights, equality and conflict
- Sustainability, natural resources and food
- Culture, connection and creativity.

To achieve this, Eastern Arc will have [three objectives](#):

- to develop a strong collaborative core within our themes
- to support experimental, risk-taking activity, and
- to engage with external policy-makers and end-users.

To develop this strong, collaborative core, we are seeking 12 thematic champions: one in each theme at each of [the Eastern Arc universities](#).

Duties and expectations

- To identify and encourage areas of strength within the themes across the three universities
- To identify colleagues working in these areas who have:
 - A strong research track record and profile
 - The skills, outlook and willingness to work proactively across the Arc.
- To work with these colleagues and help to build connections across departments, faculties and institutions
- To take the lead on facilitating external funding applications and events
- To publicise the work and disseminate opportunities of Eastern Arc
- To work closely with the other thematic champions. This will include regular correspondence, and termly meetings, either in person or virtually.

Support for the post

Eastern Arc will:

- Provide support for the post, including (but not limited to):
 - Facilitating connections between relevant colleagues at the three universities
 - Arranging virtual and face-to-face meetings

- Identifying relevant and appropriate funding opportunities
- Coordinating the development of external funding bids
- Organising events such as briefings, information days and roundtables
- Publicising the work within the theme, through social media channels, podcasts, publications and other avenues.
- Negotiate the necessary match-funding from the three partner universities if required for an external funding application.

Background experience

There is no set tariff of achievements, but it is expected that the Thematic Champion will:

- Have a strong profile within their discipline and across their university
- Have demonstrated an ability to collaborate successfully with colleagues, particularly in applying for and running externally-funded projects
- Have an understanding and commitment to Eastern Arc, including:
 - The unique strengths of the three universities
 - The aims and objectives of the consortium, as set out in its [Strategy](#)
 - The achievements of the consortium since 2013.

Further information

For more information or to discuss the post, go to [the Eastern Arc website](#), or contact [Phil Ward](#).