

The UKRI logo consists of the letters 'UK' stacked above 'RI' in a white, bold, sans-serif font, positioned to the left of a purple square graphic.

Innovate
UK

The background of the top two-thirds of the page is an abstract digital visualization. It features a series of concentric, glowing purple and blue rings that create a sense of depth and movement. The rings are composed of many thin, parallel lines. In the foreground, there are patterns of binary code (0s and 1s) and small, glowing squares, suggesting a data-driven or quantum computing environment.

Innovate UK (IUK) Director of Quantum

Applicant Pack
February 2026

Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| About UKRI | 3 |
| About IUK | 4 |
| About the role. | 5 |
| Key Accountabilities | 6 |
| Your skills and experience | 7 |
| Terms of Appointment. | 8 |
| Summary of benefits | 8 |
| Timescales and selection | 9 |
| How to apply | 10 |
| General information | 11 |

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About UKRI



UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. UKRI is the largest public funder of research and innovation in the UK, spanning all disciplines and all sectors, investing £9 billion each year on behalf of the UK government.

UKRI inspires and enables talented people to push the boundaries of discovery, support innovative businesses to grow and scale, and target solutions to national and global priorities.

UKRI connects the seven research councils, Innovate UK and Research England, and works with the funding agencies in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland to deliver an ambitious agenda. It does so by drawing on its great depth and breadth of expertise and the enormous diversity of its portfolio.

UKRI maintains and champions the creativity and vibrancy of disciplines and sector-specific priorities and communities. Its councils shape and deliver sectoral and domain-specific support and work together to ensure a fully joined-up research and innovation investment portfolio.

Whether through research grants, quality-related block grants from Research England, or grants and wider support for innovative businesses from Innovate UK, UKRI works with its stakeholders and partners to understand the opportunities and requirements of all the different parts of the research and innovation landscape, maintaining the health, breadth and depth of the system.

We fund people and teams in over 140 universities, 60 institutes and 3,600 companies across the UK, supporting a diverse range of research and innovation environments. Our investments in research and development (R&D) deliver benefits across the whole of the UK.

About IUK



Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency. We help UK businesses to grow through innovation.

The government's vision is for the UK to be a global hub for innovation by 2035.

Our mission in achieving that is to help companies to grow through their development and commercialisation of new products, processes and services, supported by an outstanding innovation ecosystem that is agile, inclusive and easy to navigate.

Find out more in our action plan 'building the future economy: plan for action for UK business innovation'.

We help companies, through three strands of activity:

- inspire: to make the opportunity visible and compelling
- involve: to bring relevant organisations and people together
- invest: to convene the resources needed, including our own.

We do this in our five strategic theme areas and through the six strong foundations that underpin all our activities.

We help companies access the expertise and equipment they need, build the partnerships that will help them go faster, and fund the innovation work through grants or loans.

We support the best ideas from business, as determined through free and fair competition.

About the role

Quantum Technology is recognised a key growth opportunity by the UK government and one in which the UK has the opportunity to be world-leading. After a number of years of technology development, we are now transitioning into the commercialisation period. This will be the crucial phase – it's where the UK realises the industrial potential for Quantum Technology and we help to create globally leading companies. This is not business as usual. We are seeking an exceptional leader who can define and create the new approaches required to ensure that the UK's rapidly-developing Quantum Technology companies grow, scale and remain in the UK. This will require vision, influence, the ability to manage a complex stakeholder network and the programme leadership competence to deliver a £600m+ portfolio of activities.

The role holder will operate within the Innovate UK Digital & Technologies directorate.

This role is the strategic lead for Innovate UK's theme on Quantum Technologies as part of the government's prime mission of growth – under the D&T growth sector within the Industrial Strategy.

The role holder is responsible for managing 2-3 direct reports, with a total team size of up to 10.

Key Accountabilities

- Develop Innovate UK's strategy for Quantum Technologies in conjunction with, and informed by, D&T Senior Leadership and IUK SLT, ensuring connectivity and alignment across UKRI.
- Act as the prime Innovate UK focal to DSIT's Quantum Critical Technology themes and support delivery of government growth objectives for the D&T sector in the Industrial Strategy. Act as a key member of the wider quantum technology leadership communities - influencing strategic technical direction at national level across industry and within government.
- Work collaboratively to support the creation and execution of a D&T-level vision and strategy seeking to better align individual technology themes within UKRI and government, where strategically helpful.
- Lead on building and fostering relationships/interaction with Place, Global, Products & Services, IUK Business Connect and Catapults in the pursuit of delivery and programmes and competitions.
- Provide strategic guidance and leadership in the delivery of a portfolio of strategic investment programmes within the D&T Programme, and industry/company support in developing next generation technologies, products, and services in the area of quantum technologies.
- Build effective working relationships with the various senior teams and key stakeholders within and outside IUK, ensuring and safeguarding the connectivity to Innovate UK's strategy. This specifically includes other IUK internal functions/ IUK Business Connect, EPSRC, ESRC and external to UKRI, industry, government bodies and relevant strategic and industry partners.
- Deliver IUK programmes in Quantum to cost, quality and schedule requirements.
- Will be an industry leader within the context of quantum directing the advancement of business-led innovation in this field.
- Build, lead and develop a team of technical and innovation specialists in an environment where change will be common.
- Deputise for Executive Director when required.

Your skills and experience

(S) – Assessed at shortlisting

(I) – Assessed at interview

(S&I) – Assessed at shortlisting & interview

- You will be a recognised leader in quantum technologies and will have demonstrated influence as a thought leader across industry and within government and will be recognised as influencing strategic technical direction at national level. **(S&I)**
- You will have the technical credibility blended with collaboration skills to create and deliver integrated programmes across multiple agencies/bodies including stakeholders of a business and political nature. **(S&I)**
- You must have a proven track record of managing high-performance teams and complex programmes through periods of change. **(S&I)**
- Educated to degree-level or post graduate level in a relevant scientific or technical subject. **(S)**
- You will have the proven ability to work at Board and Executive Level. **(S)**
- You will have previously led the development and implementation of strategic plans and change initiatives. **(I)**

Terms of Appointment

Salary: £94,931- £117,800 per annum

Hours: Full Time

Contract type: Open Ended

Location: Field Based

Grade: UKRI Band X

Positions available: X1

Summary of benefits

UKRI can offer the successful candidate:

- flexible working
- 30 days annual leave + public holidays
- access to Civil Service Pension Scheme
- various everyday discounts through our dedicated provider

Visit our dedicated benefits webpage for more info: [Benefits of working at UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\)](#)

Watch our video "Why Join Innovate UK?" [here](#)

Timescales and selection

The selection process will include a panel interview with questions assessing your skills and experience against the advertised criteria of the role.

Closing date: 08 March 2026

Shortlisting: W/C 16 March 2026

Interviews: W/C 30 March 2026

Please note, dates and details are subject to change.

How to apply

Please submit your application via the Careers Portal by **23:55 on 08 March 2026**

How to evidence the criteria:

We encourage you to use the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result) in your cover letter to clearly demonstrate how your experience meets each of the 'person specification' criteria outlined in the job description. For examples of the STAR method, please visit: [The STAR method | National Careers Service](#).

Please ensure your CV and cover letter are no longer than two A4 pages each, using a minimum font size of 11. Once submitted, your application cannot be edited via our careers website; however, if you encounter any issues or need to update your documents, please contact us at SeniorRecruitment@ukri.org

General information

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

UKRI believes that everyone has a right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be provided with equal opportunities to flourish and succeed within an ethical and trusted working environment that is attractive and accessible to everyone interested in developing their career with us.

We are committed to increasing the diversity of our board and executive positions and bringing in talent, regardless of its origins. We encourage applications from all candidates regardless of:

- ethnicity
- religion or belief
- gender
- sexual orientation
- age
- disability
- gender identity

We also value diversity of thought and experience and are committed to creating systems that value difference so that everyone can feel welcomed, included and nurtured throughout their time with us.

As a Disability Confident leader, UKRI will offer interviews to disabled candidates who meet the published minimum requirements for a job or role. Whether you choose to apply under the Disability Confident scheme or not, you can still ask us to make particular adjustments for you when attending an interview.

We know actions speak louder than words. For further information, please visit the UKRI web page: [How we support EDI in the workforce](#).

Pre-employment screening

To enable us to hire the very best people and to safeguard our people, our assets and our important role, we will conduct a comprehensive pre-employment check on successful applicants as part of the recruitment process.

UKRI supports research in areas that include animal health, agriculture and food security, and bioscience for health, which includes research on animals, genetic modification and stem cell research. Whilst you may not have direct involvement in this type of research, you should consider how this aligns with your personal values or beliefs. Our pre-employment requirements include a security check and an extreme organisation's affiliation check.

General information (cont.)

Standards

In 1995, the Committee on Standards in Public Life defined seven principles, which should underpin the actions of all who serve the public in any way.

Consistent with the Commissioner's Code of Practice, applicants will be assessed on merit, and all candidates will need to uphold the standards of the UKRI Code of Conduct and conduct set out in the Seven Principles of Public Life, which are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or other friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

Carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

General information (cont.)

Complaints procedure

If you feel you have reason to complain, you should direct your concerns in the first instance to the Senior Appointments team (SeniorRecruitment@ukri.org) who will make every effort to deal with this and respond to you within 48 hours.

If your complaint is not dealt with satisfactorily, you can find information about the steps you can take under [UKRI Complaints Procedure](#).