Senior Manager, Agri-food Data Strategy

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Professional and Managerial Group

Senior Manager, Agri-food Data Strategy

Office of the Associate Vice-President (Research Services)

Temporary full-time from September 14, 2020 to April 5, 2024

Hiring #: 2020-0225

Please read the Application Instructions [1] before applying

Reporting to the Project Director, Food from Thought, the Senior Manager, Agri-food Data Strategy will bring coordinating leadership to the strategic development and management of the University of Guelph’s vision for Agri-Food Data Canada (ADC), an online platform for research data and analytics that will enable transformative innovation in agriculture and food in Canada. Funded by the University of Guelph’s $76.6 million Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) grant, entitled Food from Thought, the position is critical in supporting the achievement of the initiative’s goal of increasing our ability to leverage big data for the benefit of sustainable food production and biodiversity.

Food from Thought (FfT) aims to catalyze a new digital agricultural revolution and will put the University of Guelph at the forefront of global agri-food research institutes. With over 80 faculty members involved, the FfT team aims to create an innovative agri-food research platform that will draw together stakeholders from the community, government, municipalities, industry, agriculture, and engineering consulting firms, to advance research knowledge, expertise and technology relating to agri-food and big data technologies.

The Senior Manager will be the coordinating lead, working with a variety of internal and external partners and stakeholders in developing an integrated, cross-university strategy and platform for big data management to underpin and accelerate Food from Thought-related research activities. This will include an integrated approach to governance, security, sharing, and curation of research data generated by University of Guelph and other organizations, and working with partners to establish a platform for leading-edge, advanced analytics and modelling. Ultimately, the aim is to enable large-scale research innovation through better coordination and access to internal and external data, computing capacity and expertise, and stronger and better-supported partnerships with government and industry.

The Senior Manager will work closely with University of Guelph data science faculty, principal investigators, as well as research and library staff to assess needs and identify opportunities to strengthen the data management and analysis capabilities across Food from Thought research teams and university facilities. In addition, the Senior Manager will support Food from Thought and the Vice-President (Research) in developing effective partnerships with external partners to establish ADC and extend its scope, usefulness and the University of Guelph’s influence on the application of big data for research and innovation in agri-food.

The incumbent will act as a liaison on behalf of University of Guelph and Food from Thought initiative on external committees and organizations focused on coordinating big data management needs and approaches, such as SOScip, Compute Ontario and Compute Canada, NDRIO, and related independent research institutes, such as the Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence. The incumbent will also represent Food from Thought in internal discussions and consultations on computing infrastructure proposals, investments, data integration strategies and data sharing across research teams, departments, and colleges.

The Senior Manager will have a graduate degree (Master of Business Administration preferred) ideally with expertise in data science, computer science, engineering, mathematics, statistics, or related field, and 8 to 10 years
of project management experience. The incumbent will be expected to have experience developing and negotiating partnerships and managing complex relationships. Ideally, the incumbent will have educational and research experience in agri-food and/or environmental science.

In addition, the incumbent will have:

- Experience in a research environment.
- Working knowledge of IT infrastructure, technologies, and platforms.
- Familiarity with data management, predictive analytics, data visualization, statistical analysis and modelling.
- Familiarity with contemporary big data solutions.

This appointment is regularly performed on-campus but will be initially fulfilled remotely (off-campus) until the University resumes its regular operations.

Classification P08

Professional/Managerial Salary Bands [2]

At the University of Guelph, fostering a culture of inclusion [3] is an institutional imperative. The University invites and encourages applications from all qualified individuals, including from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in employment, who may contribute to further diversification of our Institution.

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