

Research portfolio manager

As a research portfolio manager, you will be based at a research council, part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), and will play a crucial role in shaping the direction of research within the field.



What does the role involve?

- Understanding the research landscape in detail
- Building relationships with stakeholders including academics, members of industry and government
- Overseeing the allocation of funding to appropriate research projects
- Answering questions related to funding of research in the field
- Assessing the progress of projects which have received funding
- Contributing to work on the strategic direction of the field, including new strategies and business cases for new investments
- Attending events, networking



Where would I work?

Research council offices, sometimes remote working, some travel to visit funding recipients and attend events/meetings.



What subjects should I do well in at school?

No particular requirements, however, achieving good grades in core subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science would be advantageous.



What qualifications do I need?

Many research portfolio managers have PhDs in a related field; however, this is not vital. A Bachelor's degree and an excellent understanding of the field can be sufficient.



What skills and attributes are required?

Good communication skills (oral and written), presentation skills, data analysis, evaluation skills, IT skills, attention to detail, time management, teamwork, tact and diplomacy.



What work experience would be helpful?

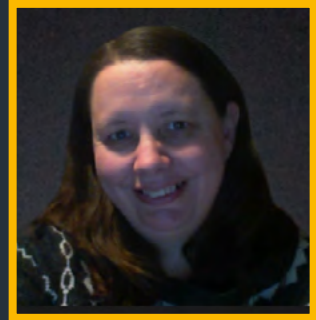
There is no set work experience or placement that is crucial for this role, however, developing an understanding of how research takes place within academia and industry and how research is funded would be beneficial. Likewise, obtaining a good understanding of the current state of the art within the field would be useful.



What about career progression?

Progression in this role could be moving to a more senior position within the research council, it may initially be overseeing a team of portfolio managers who are each responsible for a different aspect of a field, however, you could progress further to hold more strategic roles within the organisation.

CASE STUDY



Amanda Howes

Having originally studied law at university and qualified as a tax advisor, Amanda Howes decided that wasn't for her and took a career break. She travelled the world and when she returned, she took the opportunity to work in an admin position at the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and has not looked back since. Amanda has held several roles at EPSRC and has worked as a research portfolio manager in quantum for a number of years. Find out more about Amanda's journey at tinyurl.com/careersinquantum



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