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Quadram Institute Science Health Food Innovation

Welcome from Professor Daniel Figeys
Director and Chief Executive

Thank you for your interest in joining the Quadram Institute.

This is a unique opportunity to work at the forefront of integrated food and health research within the state-of-the-art Quadram Institute, located at the heart of the Norwich Research Park. The Institute brings together research groups from Quadram Institute Bioscience (QIB), the University of East Anglia (UEA), and the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NNUH) to deliver world-leading expertise in food science, microbiology, bioinformatics, and clinical research.

With the appointment of a number of world-leading Group Leaders, we are strengthening our ambition to deliver societal benefit through fundamental and translational microbiology, food and health research.

Our new strategy is built around three strategic directions that will shape the next phase of our science and partnerships:

Healthier Lives: advancing precision nutrition and microbiome-based interventions to improve health across the life course;
Safer Food: tackling microbial and xenobiotic risks and ensuring the integrity and resilience of the food system; and;
Future Food: developing next-generation crops, ingredients, and dietary solutions that support sustainable and healthy diets.

We are now seeking an exceptional scientist with a proven record of high-impact research in Future Food, and the leadership and vision to drive this critical workstream within our evolving strategy.
This information pack provides further details about QIB, our research, and the Norwich Research Park. You can also explore more about our work and ambitions at www.quadram.ac.uk.

We look forward to your application and to the possibility of welcoming you to our community.

Professor Daniel Figeys
Director & Chief Executive,
Quadram Institute

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Norwich Research Park
norwich research park
UEA
University of East Anglia
TSL
John Innes Centre
NHS
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals
Norwich Research Park Biorepository
Earlham Institute
Quadram Institute
A unique cluster of world class institutions all located within 1 km²

Background

Quadram Institute is the £75 million state-of-the-art food and health research and endoscopy centre that was developed in partnership between Quadram Institute Bioscience (QIB), the University of East Anglia (UEA), the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NNUH) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

Quadram Institute combines excellent patient care and clinical research from the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital alongside the Quadram Institute's scientific expertise in food, nutrition and health on the Norwich Research Park.

The Quadram Institute is at the forefront of the new interface between food science, gut biology and health, developing solutions to worldwide challenges in food-related disease and human health. Based on the Norwich Research Park, the Institute leverages a world-class bioscience cluster and an extensive network of national and international collaborators to translate fundamental discoveries into tangible benefits for patients, consumers and society.

The mission of Quadram Institute is to improve human health by uncovering how food, gut physiology, microbes, and the microbiome influence diseases and healthy living. Scientists and clinicians use this knowledge to develop evidence-based strategies to maximise positive impacts of food on health, from early life to the extension of a healthy lifespan in old age and reduce the economic and societal costs of chronic diseases.

The future of food and gut health research at Quadram Institute Bioscience is exciting.

About Norwich Research Park

Norwich Research Park, located just outside the historic city of Norwich, England, is a community of independent research organisations with world-leading science credentials.

The Norwich Research Park community consists of;

- The Quadram Institute
- The John Innes Centre
- The University of East Anglia
- The Sainsbury Laboratory
- The Earlham Institute
- The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital

From the soil to our health, researchers across Norwich Research Park are trying to solve huge global challenges: ensuring there is food security and safety for a growing population, preventing and treating diseases, and mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The NRP also supports translational spin-out and start-up companies, and attracts investment from corporate organisations involved in science and technology from across the globe.

www.norwichresearchpark.com

Norwich is a vibrant city, often ranked as one of the very best places to live in the UK and is rich in arts, culture, music, nightlife, and tourism. It is within easy reach of the Norfolk Broads National Park, the UK's largest navigable man-made waterway.

The city boasts a Norman Cathedral, a 12th century Norman Castle and a medieval centre of cobbled streets. Norwich, the City of Stories, is the first city in England to be awarded UNESCO City of Literature status.

As a regional capital city, it is a significant cultural centre with stylish café bars, pubs, cinemas, theatres, restaurants, nightclubs, concerts, exhibitions and festivals.
It is well linked to London and Cambridge by road and rail, and internationally via Norwich International Airport.

Vision and Values

Quadram Institute Bioscience (QIB) creates new interfaces between food science, gut biology, human health and disease, capitalising on the world-class bioscience cluster based at the Norwich Research Park. QIB scientists work alongside clinicians and work closely with major national and international funding bodies and charities, collaborators and investors to ensure translation of our fundamental science to benefit patients, consumers and wider society.

The mission of Quadram Institute Bioscience is to improve human health by uncovering how food, gut physiology, microbes, and the microbiome influence diseases and healthy living. . We use this knowledge to develop evidence-based strategies to maximise positive impacts of food on health, from early life to the extension of a healthy lifespan in old age and reduce the economic and societal costs of chronic diseases.

We can only achieve our mission if we create an environment in which everyone is valued, supported and has the opportunity to grow and contribute. Our values are central to our success and everything we do at Quadram Institute Bioscience:

- People-Centred Impact
  We measure success by healthier lives and empowered communities, ensuring our research delivers tangible benefits.
- Inclusive Excellence
  Diversity fuels discovery. We cultivate an environment where every voice is heard, every talent is nurtured, and respect is non-negotiable.
- Trusted Integrity
  Rigour, transparency, and ethics underpin our work, earning the confidence of patients, partners, and the public.
- Collaborative Spirit
  Breakthroughs happen together. We partner openly across disciplines, sectors, and borders to turn knowledge into real-world solutions.
- Agile Innovation
  We stay curious and responsive, adapting rapidly to emerging challenges while stewarding resources responsibly for future generations.

Our interdisciplinary research maximises the unique cluster of academic excellence and clinical expertise at the Norwich Research Park, working alongside the food and pharmaceutical industries on our core science programmes.

Quadram Institute

Group Leader *(Food Microbiome and Health)*

We are looking for an exceptional scientist with a research focus on Food-Microbiome Modelling and Host–Microbe Interactions**.**

You will join other world class Principal Investigators and research scientists within the 'Food, Microbiome and Health' research programme at Quadram Institute, as well as contributing to the development of the Future Food research programme. The priorities for these programmes are to improve our understanding of how novel foods influence nutrient bioavailability and the gut microbiome to promote lifelong health and prevent disease. We conduct trials of novel foods as well as mechanistic studies to understand how diet-microbiome interactions shape the host's metabolic, physical, and mental health. Our team has established knowledge and expertise that brings together excellence in food science and structure, gut microbiome and host function. Our science is underpinned by expertise and capability in (bio)imaging, multi-omics and bioinformatics, microbiology, integrated digestion and fermentation models of the human gut, in vitro systems including organ-on-chip, preclinical models as well as human interventions. This role will focus on the development of cutting edge in vitro pre-clinical models to advance our mechanistic understanding of diet-microbiome-host interactions.

At the Quadram Institute, a state-of-the-art facility based in Norwich, we are pursuing a forward-looking strategy to advance healthy living through evidence-based precision nutrition and microbiome-targeted interventions aimed at preventing metabolic diseases, including malnutrition and obesity, and through the development of novel foods. We are seeking outstanding scientists who combine scientific excellence with a clear vision for advancing innovative research at Quadram Institute, leveraging our substantial capabilities and expertise to help consolidate the Institute as a global leader in food–microbiome research for life-long health.

We seek candidates who can bridge technological innovation with biological insight, whether through novel in vitro systems, advanced molecular techniques, computational methods, or integrated multi-omics approaches. Your research should align with our strategic priorities in nutrition science, sustainable food systems, and translational health research. Successful candidates will have an excellent publication record and evidence of establishing and supporting a productive research group supported by national research council (e.g., UKRI or equivalent) grants at a level commensurate for their career stage. Candidates should also have a clear vision for collaborative research.

In addition to delivering on Institute's core research objectives, the successful applicant is expected to develop a broad research grant portfolio that includes collaboratve projects with other scientists in the institute and beyond, and with stakeholders in industry and government.

The post will be based at the Quadram Institute, which provides outstanding and custom-built facilities that bring together medical and molecular microbiologists, epidemiologists, bioinformaticians and clinicians to deliver pioneering interdisciplinary research.

The Quadram Institute supports flexible, innovative working that brings together our scientists with partners co-located on the renowned Norwich Research Park including the University of East Anglia, the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, John Innes Centre, The Sainsbury Laboratory and the Earlham Institute. Our team are also members of the recently established Centre for Microbial Interactions, a virtual centre bringing together the more than 100 microbiology research groups working across the NRP. Norwich, the City of Stories, is a magnificent medieval city that is rich in arts and sciences, while being a short distance from London (two hours by train).

The successful applicant will be offered an indefinite contract, or for applicants with less experience, a Career Track Group Leader position (5-year contract) with tenure subject to review. Positions come with a significant support

package with an equivalent value up to £500,000, including a Postdoctoral Research Assistant, start-up package, budget for consumables and other research expenses, and access to core services including next generation sequencing and bioinformatics, advanced bioimaging, and Human Studies. We offer an exciting, innovative and supportive research environment, competitive salaries (depending on qualifications and experience) and a great place to live – a relocation package is available.

Job and Person Profile for Group Leader
Food Microbiome and Health

Main purpose of the job:

Quadram Institute invites applications for an ambitious and collaborative Group Leader or Career Track Group Leader to pioneer the development of next-generation microbiome assays and model systems. This strategic appointment joining our Food, Microbiome and Health research theme will establish new capabilities for interrogating host-microbiome interactions, advancing our understanding of how diet shapes human health through the gut microbiome and beyond.

Key relationships:

Internal: All employees working at the Quadram Institute, including QIB, UEA and NHS colleagues. NBI Partnership.

External: UKRI, BBSRC, Norwich Research Park, other scientific institutions and educational bodies, industry, governmental organisations, general public.

Main activities and responsibilities

- Lead and manage high profile and innovative projects focused on a relevant science – as self-contained projects or as part of broader institutional strategic programmes.
- Secure significant funding in accordance with the expectations of the discipline and level of the role.
- Lead and manage research teams, taking responsibility for the delivery of the research. This will include supervising Post-Doctoral Research Assistants, supporting effective career development and maintaining high levels of performance representative of a world class institute.
- Write and publish high quality and significant research papers together with providing expert commentary in a variety of media.
- Promote a culture of world class science excellence, collaboration, and scientific integrity across the Institute
- Develop pertinent research strategies for QI to deliver high social and economic impact.
- Promote our research and develop business opportunities for the Institute by liaising with and influencing government, industry and other external partners.
- Disseminate research findings and consolidate the Institute's international reputation through participation in international conference and exhibitions.
- Other duties commensurate with the nature of the role.

Job and Person Profile for Group Leader
Food Microbiome and Health

Quadram Institute Science Health Food Innovation

Education & Qualifications

PhD in relevant scientific area	Essential

Specialist Knowledge & Skills

Experience with modern approaches to understand the form and function of the gut microbiome and its response to nutrients, xenobiotics, drugs etc.	Essential
A track record of research into subjects relevant to the key areas of interest and the Food Microbiome and Health strategic interests	Essential
Experience integrating microbiome research with nutrition, food science, or clinical contexts	Desirable
Proven expertise in developing, validating, or applying microbiome-relevant experimental models, assays, or analytical methods	Desirable
Expertise in organ-on-chip and/or digestion models and their integration with gut microbiome assays	Desirable

Relevant Experience

An excellent publication record in peer reviewed journals, commensurate with stage of career	Essential
Established record of post-doctoral research, including effective management of projects	Essential
Evidence of experience of – or potential for – attracting funding, commensurate with stage of career.	Essential
Experience of leading, managing and mentoring teams, including promoting excellence and developing and maintaining high levels of performance	Essential
Experience of promoting a positive research culture and well-being within a research environment.	Essential
Ability to lead and participate in interdisciplinary research	Desirable
Success in leading research and initiating interdisciplinary collaborations	Desirable

Interpersonal and communication skills

Strong collaboration skills	Essential
Ability to create, build, strengthen and sustain highly effective relationships with key stakeholders	Essential
Ability to communicate effectively and appropriately with all people at all levels both inside and outside the institute.	Essential

Additional requirements

Promotes equality and values diversity	Essential
Willingness to embrace the expected values and behaviours of all staff at the Institute, ensuring it is a great place to work	Essential
Presents a positive image of self and the Institute, enhancing international reputation and promoting public engagement	Essential
Ability to travel nationally and internationally related to collaborations and/or seminars	Essential

Our forward-looking strategy

Advancing Healthy Living by Design

Quadram Institute Bioscience (QIB) was established with a clear vision — to understand how food and microbes interact to promote health and prevent disease. Today, QIB is entering a new and exciting phase of growth. Our focus is now defined through our impact-driven framework, *Healthy Living by Design*, which aims to promote lifelong health by decoding the complex relationships between food, nutrition, microbes, microbiomes, and human biology — and translating this into practical, innovative solutions in partnership with clinicians, industry, and policy leaders.

QIB's research responds directly to the UK's most pressing challenges:

- Rising rates of obesity and diet-related disease
- Increasing pressures on food systems from climate change, antimicrobial resistance, and global supply-chain fragility

As a BBSRC-funded National Capability, QIB provides a unique, integrated environment where multidisciplinary teams can collaborate across scales of bioscience and health research. We combine exceptional facilities within a single institute, including:

- Clinical research facilities and biorepositories
- Microbiome and organoid model systems
- Sequencing, bioinformatics, and advanced imaging platforms
- Food and metabolite analysis capabilities
- A GMP-level faecal microbiota transplant facility
- High-containment and translational laboratories

This infrastructure enables QIB to move seamlessly from fundamental discovery to application, impact, and policy influence.

Healthy Living by Design and the NI²SPs

QIB's next phase of scientific development will be delivered through new National and International Institute Strategic Programmes (NI²SPs). These interdisciplinary initiatives focus on three areas:

- Healthier Lives: Precision nutrition and microbiome interventions to prevent metabolic and age-related disease and support healthy growth and ageing.
- Safer Food: Predictive microbiology and interventions that protect food systems from pathogens, xenobiotics, spoilage, and antimicrobial resistance.
- Future Food: Predictive models and preclinical pipelines that ensure climate-resilient crops are safe, nutritious, and health-promoting.

Four organisational pillars — Frontier & Translational Science, Promotion of Health, Health Innovation, and People & Talent — underpin these programmes and connect discovery research with innovation, training, and impact.

Building Capability and Leadership

QIB is investing strategically in its scientific capability and leadership. Current priorities include:

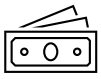
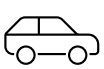
- Expanding national and international partnerships
- Developing platforms in AI, bioinformatics, and data-driven science
- Establishing advanced clinical capabilities such as cryopreserved microbiome and tissue biobanking
- Growing training and development programmes for future bioscience leaders

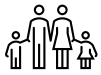
A Distinctive Model for Impact

QIB's mission-driven structure brings together people, platforms, and partnerships in a dynamic environment designed to deliver translation and impact. In doing so QIB plays a central role in strengthening the UK's research infrastructure — improving health, ensuring food safety, and building a sustainable bioeconomy.

Why Join us?

We offer:

	**Competitive salaries:** We aim to attract, recruit, retain, engage and motivate a diverse, high calibre workforce that will support the Institute in achieving its goals. We will value and reward all staff for what they contribute and achieve.
	Pensions: Employees can join our Aviva Group Personal Pension Plan from day one and benefit from a 10% employer contribution. We also operate a NEST pension scheme for auto-enrolment purposes and casual appointments.
	Life Assurance: As an active member of the Aviva Pension Scheme you would also benefit from life assurance. This provides a benefit of three times your basic salary in the event of death prior to retirement. This benefit is provided for you and the employer pays for it. In certain circumstances benefits are restricted and this would be advised accordingly in such circumstances.
	Annual Leave: 25 days on appointment, rising to 28 days, plus 10.5 Public and Privilege Days. Employees can also purchase up to 5 additional days' leave using our Annual Leave Purchase Scheme.
	A Voluntary Employee Benefits Scheme: My NBI Lifestyle offers discounts and cash back on travel bookings, high street vouchers, gift cards, cinema tickets, days out, leisure activities and other day to day spending. There are also discounts and special offers from local suppliers from time to time.
	Cycle to Work scheme: This enables employees to save on tax and national insurance contributions via a salary sacrifice scheme. You can also upgrade your existing bike.
	An Employee Assistance Programme: 24/7 access to a telephone counselling and information line, as well as online counselling, webinars and articles.
	Benenden Healthcare: Voluntary healthcare and wellbeing benefits.
	Learning and Development: A wide range of courses and learning resources are available for staff.
	Chestnut Nursery School: The Chestnut Nursery School is a facility for on-site childcare for babies, toddlers and young children (0-5 years old).
	Catering: We have a number of on-site catering facilities, offering hot and cold food and drinks.
	**Car Park:** There is car parking available for staff and visitors on site.

	Recreation: As well as providing access to an outdoor swimming pool and sports hall/squash courts, regular events to entertain people working at the Norwich Research Park and their families are held throughout the year.
	**Family/Dependent Support Fund:** The Family/Dependent Support Fund provides some financial support for staff who wish to attend conferences, networking events, workshops and professional development opportunities but who have childcare or dependent responsibilities which may make this difficult.
	A commitment to wellbeing.

How to apply:

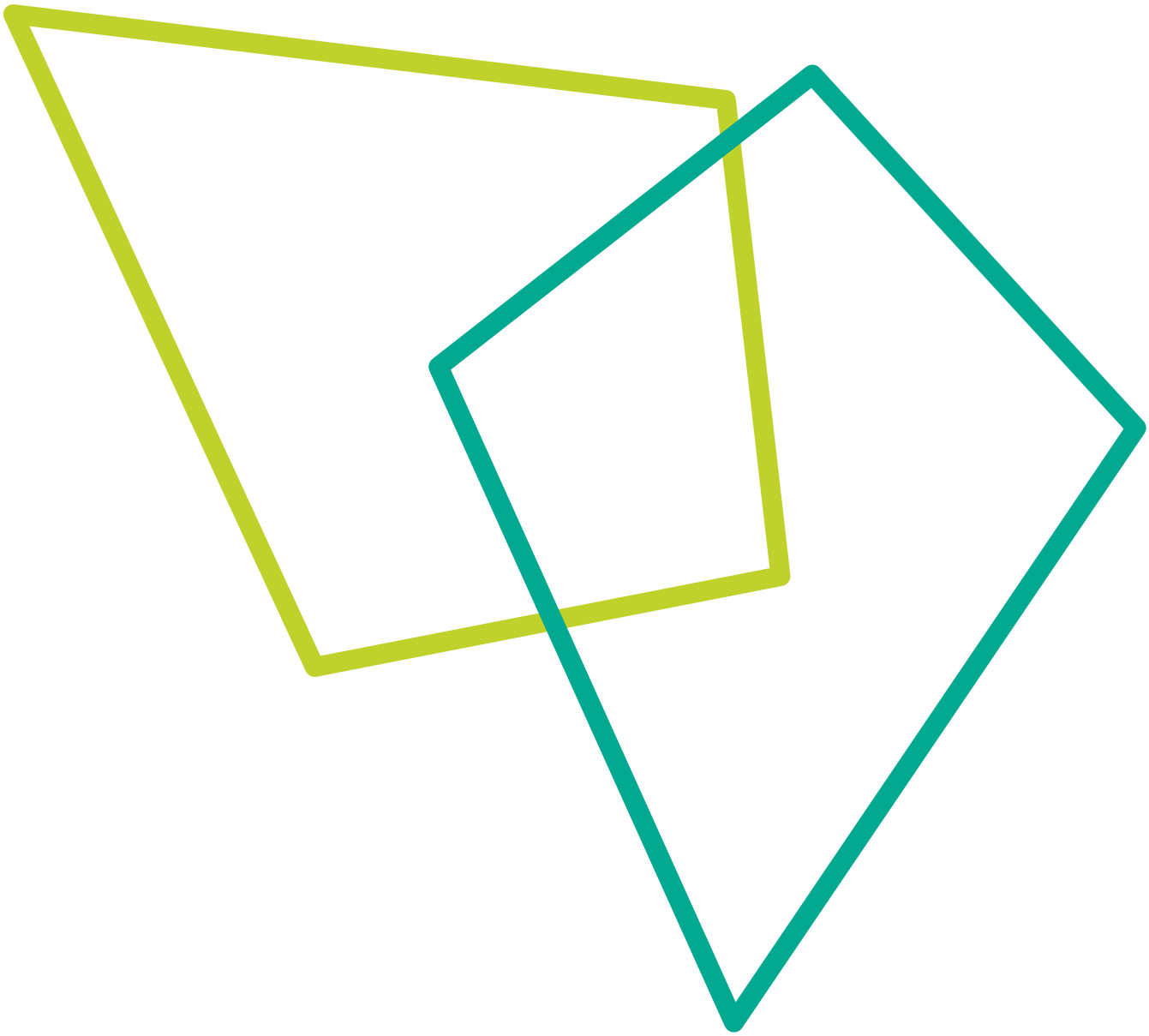
Interested applicants are invited to submit a description of:

(i) current research activities and

(ii) short and longer-term research aims and potential strategic goals (~2-3 pages).

Please combine this with your CV and a cover letter stating what motivates you to apply for a Group Leader position at QIB and submit this by 6 December 2026.

Closing Date for applications is 6 December 2026.



If you are interested in working at the Quadram Institute please register your interest by emailing nbi.recruitment@nbi.ac.uk

All commercial enquiries should be sent to business.development@quadram.ac.uk

For all other information or queries please email info@quadram.ac.uk

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