

Meet a... Institute Director



**Dr Aled Jones, Director,
Global Sustainability
Institute at Anglia Ruskin
University**

How would you describe your job in a tweet i.e.140 characters?

Director of the Global Sustainability Institute – an interdisciplinary research institute focussing on

individual behaviour and global resource trends.

What does an average day look like?

There is no average day! A lot of time is spent on University administration and managing the institute and its activities which include research and education for sustainability. A significant amount of time is spent on writing and preparing research funding bids, delivering research projects and meeting with various external stakeholders wherever they may be. I am in London a lot for various meetings with government and business to ensure our work is relevant and has impact.

What are the key skills and qualifications required for your job?

Being an academic requires a variety of different skills. No specific qualifications are needed but continuing to be research active is vital.

What training and continuous professional development do you require?

This can be very varied from management and leadership training to research skills.

What are your top three responsibilities?

- Managing the institute (we have over 40 staff, doctoral students and visiting fellows)
- Developing bids and applying for research funding
- Administration and internal leadership within our University

Tell us something surprising about your job that people may not know about?

I'm an astrophysicist by training.

What are the positives and negatives of the job?

Positives – lots of opportunities and very open in terms of how we were able to set up and manage the institute – we really are interdisciplinary by training.

Negative – the constant pressure to bring in external funding (we have to be completely self-sufficient).

Do you manage a budget, and what are your key priorities for this?

Yes. Research delivery, consultancy delivery, MSc delivery, Doctoral student supervision. Budget is allocated against specific deliverables for the institute.



To help our Members understand more about the roles in further and higher education institutions, we've created a suite of career profiles. These share the main responsibilities and skills and knowledge required of many of the key roles that play a part in embedding sustainability in a tertiary education institution.

View the entire suite at www.eauc.org.uk/meet_a_member

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What does the path to career progression in this role look like?

Typical academic post. Doctoral studentship – research fellow – senior research fellow – reader - professor.

What is the minimum and maximum salary band for this role?

Depends on the grade (a director of an institute could technically be on any grade). The salary will be against a typical academic salary.

What advice do you have for graduates and other potential candidates who are considering joining?

It's a great place to be!

For institutions without an Institute Director – what 3 aspects of your role do you think are the most important for any institution's sustainability journey?

Most Universities will have sustainability related research – an institute can add to that base of excellence by increasing specific activity and raising the profile or offer a route to help coordinate and build on that base. However, sustainability research is likely to grow in interest as challenges are seen in the global economy and being ready to respond to those research opportunities is key.

What department do you and your line manager sit in? Which departmental interactions are vital for your role?

I sit in the Global Sustainability Institute (as the Director!). My line manager is the Pro-VC for Sustainability.

What opportunities and challenges does working in a higher education institution bring? *How is this role different in tertiary education compared to another sector?*

Opportunity to change the world. Challenges are many but not more so than any other sector or institution – they are just different.

How do you communicate the outputs of your role to the wider institution, and what does this include?

We produce an internal magazine (So What?) and regularly release news stories and contribute to the University's internal magazine (Bulletin). We also tweet and have a facebook page and keep our web pages up to date with outputs and projects.

What are the unique opportunities to embed sustainability in to this job?

We are an institute of and for sustainability.

How has EAUC Membership helped you in your job and within your institution?

We are keen to support the EAUC to broaden its appeal to the academic community and build a strong base across education (through education for sustainability), research and estates.

How can other Members contact you?

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