

Job Advertisement / June 2021

Opportunity in the field Science Communication/Science Advisory at EASAC

EASAC, the European Academies' Science Advisory Council, is the association of the National Science Academies of the EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland and the UK – which is represented in EASAC by the Royal Society. It is an important voice of independent science advice, mobilising Europe's leading scientists to guide European policy for the benefit of society. EASAC is especially active in the fields of Energy, Environment and Biosciences.

EASAC is looking to fill one or two positions working closely with the Director of the Biosciences Programme. Ideally, the Programme Secretary/-ies would work in either or both of the two work areas within the programme: one roughly described as 'public health' (including the human–animal health interface) the other as 'biosciences' in a standard sense. However, our Biosciences portfolio draws on, and extends, previous EASAC expertise in a broad area, currently covering a range of interests:

1. Science and policy issues for emerging technologies and their socio-economic impact in the EU; for example, biotechnology, nanotechnology, synthetic biology, personalised medicine.
2. Other biomedical opportunities and challenges, including translational science and the relationship with innovation.
3. Animal health and the animal-human health interface.
4. Plant sciences and related genomics and genetics, with applications for food and agriculture.
5. Biosecurity, biosafety and other technical and societal concerns related to developments in the biosciences.

This is an exciting opportunity well suited to early career professionals and even recent graduates in the field of Science Communication or Science Advice. It provides scope for growth and suitable applicants will be given the opportunity to transition into more senior roles at EASAC.

Job Description

- Working closely with the Director of the EASAC Biosciences Programme to deliver EASAC reports and other kinds of science-for-policy products.
- Working closely with the Director and the EASAC Secretariat to follow-up on previous EASAC science policy publications, through different channels.
- Interacting, together with the Programme Director, with the Biosciences Steering Panel to accompany running projects or support the development of new ones.
- Horizon-scan within the science and policy communities for relevant science-for-policy projects.

- Scoping possible projects in view of latest scientific findings and ongoing and emerging policy needs.
- Augment the impact of EASAC outputs by engaging in wider science-policy forums.

Successful Applicants should

- be completing, or recently graduated from a University course in science communication or advisory, Master's or Doctoral level preferred;
- have an outstanding scientific understanding of the biosciences field, in the broad meaning that it is covered at EASAC;
- have substantial experience relevant to the work of the EASAC Biosciences Programme and the competency to manage a demanding mix of projects and priorities across a potentially wide range of biosciences-related fields;
- have an excellent command of written and spoken English, and the ability to interpret and convey scientific, technical and policy-related ideas effectively to a range of audiences;
- have a solid understanding of and ideally also direct experience with policy processes and policy audiences (possibly the European Commission and/or European Parliament);
- be versatile, flexible and creative in problem-solving and designing effective models of project delivery and engagement. S/he will need the personal skills to work with leading experts from different fields and nations to ensure their expertise is transformed into a policy-relevant report and outcome;
- be resilient and remain open to fresh approaches to the initiation and conduct of projects, and to the influencing (outreach) strategy that accompanies them;
- be committed to delivering projects on time, to budget and the agreed scope, with strong project management, resource management and writing skills;
- build and maintain contacts in academic, research and policy-making communities in Europe and, where required, elsewhere; and represent EASAC's interests in meetings and conferences/events, as required.

Work Location: The EASAC Secretariat is located at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina in Halle (Saale), Germany. However, it is expected that the work will be done remotely.

Work Contract: 12 months, contract work, daily rate dependent on experience but between €300 and €450.

Interested applicants should send their CV and a Cover Letter to the EASAC secretariat secretariat@easac.eu

EASAC Secretariat

June 2021