

Meet a... Senior Lecturer and Entrepreneur



Haleh Moravej, Senior Lecturer in Nutritional Sciences at Manchester Metropolitan University

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

Nutrition social entrepreneur, creative biomedical scientist, Senior Lecturer in Nutritional Sciences, MetMUnch (student social enterprise) founder and sustainability learner and educator.

What does an average day look like?

There is no such thing as an average day in my job as nutritional scientist/lecturer and the founder of MetMUnch (student sustainable food network). As the founder of MetMUnch days are exciting and innovative as there could be meetings about community projects, augmented reality, sustainable student recipes or pop up events around MMU campus and Manchester city. My lectures are 9-6pm but as MetMUnch entrepreneur the days are never 9-5 and I sometimes work up to 20 hours a day.

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

Background in biomedical science and nutrition. Understanding of enterprise systems and social models and recently as sustainability champion of MMU I am learning from practitioners, experts and community champions.

I have a BSc in Biomedical Science and a Master in Medical Science in Nutrition.

What training and continuous professional development do you require?

Annual membership of Nutrition Society, regular CPD training in sustainability, carbon literacy and clinical nutritional.

What are your top three responsibilities?

- Leading on innovative projects.
- Inspiring students.
- Generating creative and original ideas.

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

As an entrepreneur failure means nothing as it is only a process for learning. The regret of not doing is more soul-destroying than the failure from doing.

What are the positives and negatives of the job?

Being an entrepreneur is a lonely, solo journey but being based at university where I can link myself to the massive support systems across university, experts and world class mentors is such an amazing positive point of my job. I do not see anything negative in my job as I am in charge of what I do but maybe speed of action at university is slightly



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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slower than the commercial world. In a massive organisation such as MMU rules and regulations are a necessity and therefore one has to learn the art of being patient and respectful of all those individuals delivering services across university and doing their job.

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

- To utilise the money to the best of my ability.
- To make sure all invoices are paid on time to build reputation and trust.
- To find the best services for best costs.
- To make sure financial transparency is adhered to at all times.

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

There are not a vast number of jobs for nutritionists in the community so graduates need to carve out a niche market for themselves. Volunteering is extremely important in all areas of nutrition. All my full time jobs started out as voluntary roles or part time positions. Taking a chance and looking at everything as a learning opportunity is the key to building a bespoke and extraordinary CV.

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

£25-£55K.

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

To find their passion, find a cause and to find some likeminded change makers to help them reach their goals.

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

- Being personally engaged = More engaged students.
- Being creative and fearless to take risks around sustainability engagement has allowed others to do more with their students to raise the bar.
- Using an entrepreneurial model of delivery for MetMUUnch social enterprise students become more employable, more skilful, more aware of how to build their own future as global citizen.

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

As a lecturer I sit in the department of nutrition & health and am based at Hollings Faculty which has courses in apparel, tourism, events management, nutritional science and hospitality for half of my contract. For the second half of my contract I sit in MMU Commercial Services and work with MMU Environment team. I have interacted with every faculty and every team at university and I believe all the interactions have pushed me towards winning national and international EAUC Green Gown awards.

What opportunities and challenges does working in a higher education institution bring?

All the opportunities of working with an amazing group of experts and supportive colleagues definitely outweighs any challenges and all challenges are truly opportunities. I love challenges...what is life without a challenge!

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

University digital newspaper has been amazing at spreading our celebratory messages of national and international EAUC Green Gown awards in Dec 2014 as well as winning the first ever MMU Outstanding Teaching for Sustainability in June 2015. I also use Twitter and Facebook to share output and stories. I am also collaborating and working with various research teams across MMU enabling me share good practice and communicate and link what I do to the rest of the institution.

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

Public engagement is a big part of my role as founder of MetMUnch social enterprise, which is a multipurpose platform to create links with community, enhancing student employability and providing exciting and creative research opportunities. Sustainability is the glue that makes everything else make sense.

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

It has given me the credibility to do a better job with my teaching, research and knowledge exchange as demonstrated in my recent MMUnion teaching award of Outstanding Teaching for Sustainability in June 2015. With 5000 members of staff and 37000 students there is a readymade lab to test ideas and creative sustainability concepts every single day.

How can other Members contact you?

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