



The National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) is a statutory body established to promote science, technology and higher education in Trinidad and Tobago consistent with national development goals. Its new mission is to contribute to the development of a more diversified, knowledge-driven economy based on the scientific knowledge and ingenuity of our people. NIHERST will achieve this by undertaking research to inform science policy; building capacity for scientific research and technological advancement in priority areas; supporting education and training in science and technology; fostering a national ethos of science, creativity and innovation; and establishing collaborative relationships with institutions of excellence worldwide.

NIHERST invites suitably qualified persons for the following career opportunity.

Vice President, Science & Technology

Position Summary

The Vice President of Science and Technology reports to the President and provides overall leadership and management of research and intelligence gathering to shape science, technology, and innovation (STI) policy, guides the funding of research and development (R&D) and advises on R&D priorities and research projects.

Key Accountabilities

1. Assists in the development, implementation and enhancement of strategic plans and the articulation of a vision for the Institute that fosters, cultivates and recognises innovation and creativity and culture for excellence in STI.
2. Provides support and advocacy in developing a national STI policy, undertaking local STI policy studies in support of economic diversification and international benchmarking and comparative studies on R&D/STI competitiveness and innovation in selected countries, regions, sectors and areas, to inform the crafting of the STI policy.
3. Manages, coordinates and monitors the areas of STI policy advice, research and development, and innovation including the preparation and oversight of programmes, work plans and budgets, and the supervision of staff.

4. Provides inputs into national and sectoral STI policies and strategies and ensures coherence and synergies of NIHERST initiatives with such policies and strategies.
5. Plans and oversees foresight projects of relevance to the NIHERST mandate.
6. Evaluates new and emerging technologies and their possible application to local challenges.
7. Identifies and prioritises niche areas in STI for the country and develops strategies and opportunities for their development.
8. Develops, manages, and monitors scientific research, development and innovation (R,D&I) initiatives and the provision of S&T services including supporting funding schemes.
9. Oversees the collection of data on STI development nationally and internationally as relevant.
10. Develops a strong capability for knowledge management to support the knowledge-based economy.
11. Promotes and develops working alliances with national and international agencies to assist T&T in developing a competitive, knowledge-based economy.

Required Competencies

- Master's Degree in Science Policy or Technology Management or R&D Management; Bachelor's Degree in Science or Engineering.
- A Doctoral Degree in a relevant field would be an asset.
- At least eight (8) years related post graduate experience in:
 - ✓ Management of STI and research programmes, and
 - ✓ Policy research, policy development and evaluation, and the use of STI statistics or equivalent and comparable experience.
- At least five (5) years management experience.
- Proven track record of experience operating at a senior level in the above areas.
- Demonstrated experience and knowledge of STI policy and R&D management in both the local and international arenas.
- Strong people management skills.
- Ability to manage resources strategically.
- Ability to build networks, partnerships and productive relationships with various agencies, nationally and internationally.
- Strong communication skills.

Deadline Date and Submission

The deadline date for submission of applications is Friday July 17, 2015. Applicants are asked to provide a copy of their resumé and a cover letter indicating interest for the chosen position.

Applications should be sent to:

Senior Human Resource Officer
NIHERST
77 Eastern Main Road
St Augustine

OR via email to

hr@niherst.gov.tt

(Please place the applied for position in the subject line)