The Alan Turing Institute

Casual Research Assistant, Applied Research Group (ARG)

THE ALAN TURING INSTITUTE

There has never been a more significant time to work in data science and AI. There is recognition of the importance of these technologies to our economic and social future: the so-called fourth industrial revolution. The technical challenge of keeping our data secure and private has grown in its urgency and importance. At the same time, voices from academia, industry, and government are coming together to debate how these technologies should be governed and managed.

The Alan Turing Institute, as the UK's national institute for data science and artificial intelligence, plays an important part in driving forward advances in these technologies in order to change the world for the better.

The Institute is named in honour of Alan Turing, whose pioneering work in theoretical and applied mathematics, engineering and computing is considered to have laid the foundations for modern-day data science and artificial intelligence. The Institute's goals are to undertake world-class research, apply its research to real-world problems, driving economic impact and societal good, lead the training of a new generation of scientists, and shape the public conversation around data and algorithms.

After launching in 2015 with government funding from EPSRC and five founding universities, the Institute has grown an extensive network of university partners from across the UK and launched a number of major partnerships with industry, public and third sector. Today it is home to more than 500 researchers, a rapidly growing team of in house research software engineers and data scientists and a business team.

BACKGROUND

The Defence & Security (D&S) programme at the Turing is looking to expand its Applied Research Group (ARG), working on real-world cyber security and machine learning problems for defence and national security stakeholders.

As a team, ARG aims to apply innovative research to real-world problems. We use research papers and code repositories to implement the latest developments in machine learning to pressing real-world problem sets, outputting feasibility studies, code repositories and supporting documentation. Projects vary in scale, from literature reviews to early-stage research engineering and longer-term proofs-of-concepts. Day-to-day, ARG collaborate closely with partners' technical and subject matter experts as well as academics from across the Turing's research community.

The team practices an agile, experiment-driven approach and values a positive, supportive, and collaborative environment in which 'radical candour' and 'lifelong learning' are encouraged. We embrace failure as a learning opportunity and necessary precursor to success. We are empowered to take ownership of our work and operate with a high level of autonomy in our roles to deliver measurable impact to our partners.

We are looking to hire a Research Assistant to support ARG across Summer in the delivery of CyberFirst 2024.

Successful candidates will need to already hold SC clearance. Eligibility criteria and further information on the process can be found on the UK Government security vetting [website](#).

DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Assist as a technical mentor for CyberFirst 2024: this will include the management of a small team of undergraduates over the course of the summer on a specific research project, in addition to the provision of research support.
- Attend frequent partner engagements to assist with iterative project development.
- Ensure compliance with the secure handling of data and health and safety in all aspects of work.

Please note that job descriptions cannot be exhaustive, and the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties, which are broadly in line with the above key responsibilities. This job description is written at a specific time and is subject to changes as the demands of the Institute and the role develop.

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PERSON SPECIFICATION		
Skills and Requirements Post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:	**Essential (E)** **Desirable (D)**	**Tested at application (a)** **Tested at interview (i)**
Education/Qualification		
Undergraduate degree or equivalent experience in cyber security, machine learning or a related discipline.	E	A
Knowledge and Experience		
General cybersecurity or machine learning knowledge.	E	A/I
Experience in delivering applied research.	E	A/I
Experience with the CyberFirst scheme.	E	A/I
Experience of working in a team and interacting within a team of researchers.	E	A/I
Able to collaborate with experts across teams and domains.	E	A/I
Able to organise working time, take initiative, and instruct independently.	E	A/I
Experience in some of the following languages: Python, C, C++, C#, SQL, JavaScript, HTML, Java, Kotlin, Rust, Go.	E	A/I
Experience in development suites, systems and versioning products (e.g., Git, IDEs, Linux).	E	A/I
Other requirements		
Commitment to EDI principles and to the Organisation values.	E	I
A valid UK SC security clearance.	E	A

OUR VALUES

The Alan Turing Institute is committed to equality diversity and inclusion and to eliminating discrimination. All employees are expected to embrace, follow and promote our EDI Principles and Our Values.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

If you are interested in this opportunity, please click the apply button below. You will need to register on the applicant portal and complete the application form including your CV and covering letter. If you have questions about the role or would like to apply using a different format, please contact us on 020 3970 2148 or 0203 862 3340, or email recruitment@turing.ac.uk.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: WEDNESDAY 1 MAY 2024 AT 23:59 (LONDON, UK BST)
We reserve the right to close this vacancy early or to interview suitable candidates before the closing date if enough applications are received.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Alan Turing Institute

This role is offered on a casual-hours contract from 1 July 2024 until 13 September 2024. The hourly rate for this casual position is £21.45. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will be expected to work up to 30 hours per week and be entirely on-site.

This contract is subject to there being no restriction by the Home Office or by the UK Border Entry to your entry and/or continued stay in the UK.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Alan Turing Institute is committed to creating an environment where diversity is valued and everyone is treated fairly. In accordance with the Equality Act, we welcome applications from anyone who meets the specific criteria of the post regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

We are committed to building a diverse community and would like our leadership team to reflect this.

We therefore welcome applications from the broadest spectrum of backgrounds.

We are committed to making sure our recruitment process is accessible and inclusive.
This includes making reasonable adjustments for candidates who have a disability or long-term condition. Please contact us at adjustments@turing.ac.uk to find out how we can assist you.

Please note all offers are subject to obtaining and retaining the right to work in the UK and satisfactory security screening which includes a DBS Check.

Full details on the screening process can be requested from HR@turing.ac.uk*.*