

# The Alan Turing Institute

## HEAD OF AI FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

### 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 PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAMME

The public policy research programme works alongside policy makers to explore how data-driven public service provision and policy innovation might help to solve long running societal problems. We also work hand-in-hand with public sector organisations and citizens to develop practice-based ethical standards for the responsible development and use of data science and AI.

In addition to our work with government and regulators, we carry out interdisciplinary academic research on a wide variety of topics, from identifying policy priorities using agent computing to tackling modern slavery and quantifying online hate speech. Our research projects rely entirely on public funds and their primary aim is to contribute to the Institute's mission of making great leaps in data science and artificial intelligence research in order to change the world for the better.

### ROLE PURPOSE

There is growing demand from the UK's government for AI approaches that improve the provision of public services. The public policy programme is setting up a substantial programme of work in AI for public services and is looking to recruit someone to lead these efforts. The role is suited to someone educated to PhD level with a proven track-record in tackling public sector challenges with data science and AI. The postholder will provide crucial stewardship of the Turing's AI for public services research and lead the Turing's engagement with external partners in this area. The successful candidate will join the Institute's public policy programme and have line management responsibilities for several PDRAs. The postholder will report to the Director of the Turing's public policy programme.

### DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The core functions of the Head of AI for Public Services are as follows:

- Set up and lead a programme of research centred on building AI applications to improve the provision of public services. This will entail:
  - Ensuring that the programme is leading the national agenda on the use of AI in the public sector by developing and delivering an innovative research strategy centred on using data science and AI to build applications that improve the provision of public services.

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- Being the principal investigator or co-investigator on the programme's most important research projects in this area. This will involve setting the research direction for each project, being actively involved in the drafting of any publication, as well as line-managing and supervising the research work of post-doctoral research associates and research assistants.
- Applying to external grants and government tenders, as well as managing the research funding that is already allocated to this area of work.
- Lead the public policy programme's engagement with external stakeholders in the area of AI for public services. The successful candidate will play a central role in setting the strategic direction for collaboration with government partners and international organisations in relation to AI initiatives. We expect the post-holder to meet with 10+ new organisations each year and establish partnerships with key stakeholders in the area of AI for public services, such as DWP and MHCLG.
- Act as the link between the Turing's external partners and the programme's researchers. Externally, the postholder will meet with the Turing's partners and define the scope and the timelines for the projects. Internally, they will set the intellectual direction for this work and develop and implement work-plans to ensure timely delivery of objectives.
- Liaise with the other themes and researchers within the public policy programme and the wider Turing community, exploring synergies and developing joint initiatives. There will be opportunities, for example, for the postholder to collaborate closely with the programme's online safety team as well as the ethics theme.
- Act as an official ambassador for the programme's work. This will entail:
  - Representing the programme and giving keynote lectures at national and international conferences.
  - Participating in panels and roundtables as a programme representative.
  - Organising events which bring policy-makers and academics together to discuss ground-breaking ideas in the area of AI for public services.
  - Ensuring that the Turing's research in AI for public services is effectively promoted in the mainstream media, by giving TV and radio interviews as well as writing blog post and journal articles.
- The Head of AI for Public Services will also serve as the line manager to other programme team members, including several PDRAs.

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)	Tested at application(a)
	Desirable (D)	Tested at interview (i)
<b>Education/Qualification</b>		
A PhD in a discipline that provides suitable theoretical and empirical foundations for the use of AI in public services.	E	A
<b>Knowledge and Experience</b>		
Extensive experience in an academic or policy-related environment.	E	A I
A deep knowledge and understanding of AI and data science solutions for the provision of public services.	E	A I
Prior experience working on online harms.	E	A I
Experience line managing or mentoring academic researchers.	E	A I
A solid understanding and an excellent ability to communicate complex and technical aspects of digital innovation such as machine learning, data supply chains, and other emerging digital technologies.	E	A I
Knowledge/understanding of the UK government and policy-making landscape.	E	I
Experience working with policy makers, such as local authorities, government departments, or international organisations .	E	A I
Experience in writing grant proposals.	D	A I
Experience in setting up research collaborations involving multiple stakeholders.	D	A I
<b>Communications</b>		
Communication and advocacy skills, both verbal and written, with the ability to express and present ideas and concepts clearly and coherently to diverse audiences.	E	A I
<b>Teamwork and Motivation</b>		
A proven ability to collaborate successfully in a multidisciplinary environment and to manage delivery of projects	E	A I
<b>Liaison and Networking</b>		
Excellent relationship building skills	E	I
Experience in interacting with policy-makers and translating data-driven findings into meaningful insights and policy-focused reports	D	A I

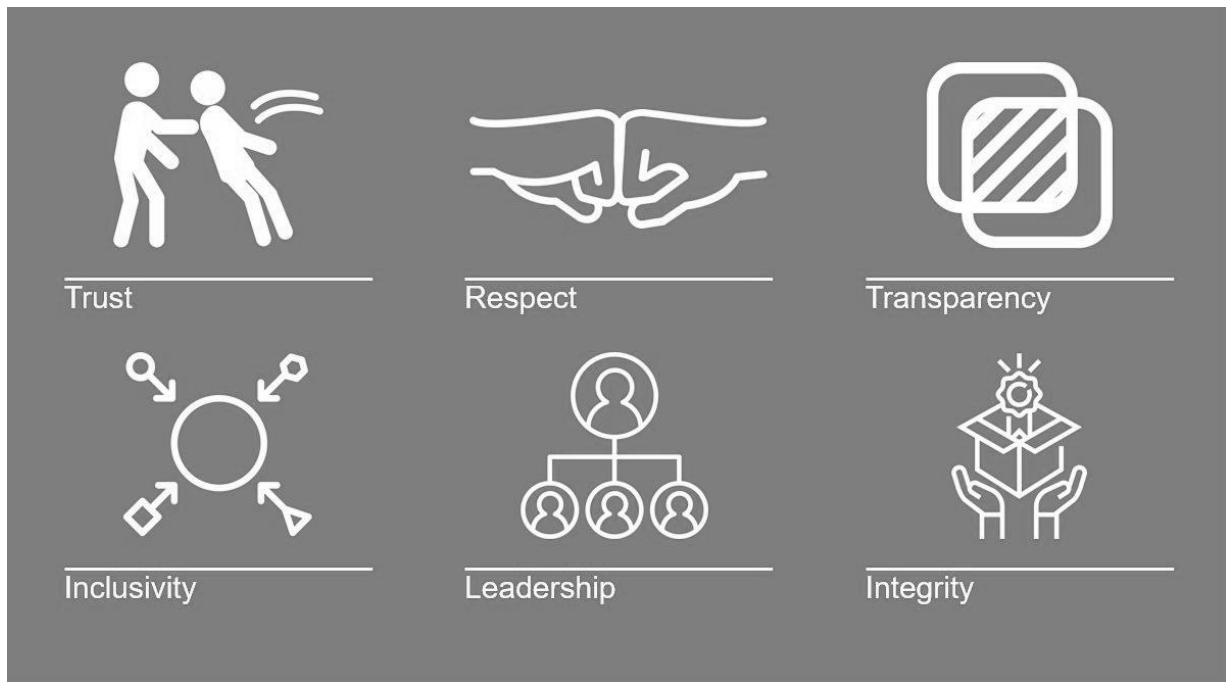
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Ability to actively collaborate and network with a diverse range of contacts to pursue a shared interest, collaborating on projects and strengthening future relations, promoting a positive image of the Turing Institute	E	A I
<b>Analysis and Research</b>		
A record of scientific publication, which may include journal articles, book chapters, and scientific advisory reports/white papers.	E	A I
Excellent writing skills and a proven ability to communicate research findings and advocate policy at multiple levels and to diverse audiences.	E	A
<b>Team Development</b>		
Experience developing and leading internal teams, providing expert advice and guidance when required.	D	A I
<b>Project Management &amp; Project Delivery</b>		
Adapts services and systems to meet stakeholders' needs and identifies ways of improving research outcomes and programme impact.	E	I
Undertakes regular monitoring and review to ensure that standards are being met. Is aware of and deals with internal and external factors that may impact on service levels.	E	I
<b>Other Requirements</b>		
Commitment to meeting deadlines	E	I
Flexible attitude towards work	E	I
Commitment to EDI principles and to the Organisation values	E	I

# The Alan Turing Institute

## 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 [Rules of the Game](#)



**Respect** – We treat everyone with respect, dignity and kindness and acknowledge the experiences, skills and contributions of others.

**Trust** - We communicate openly and honestly to support an environment where we have trust in each other.

**Transparency** – We seek to ensure that everyone understands the how and the why of our decisions and actions. We take on board to feedback when those decisions are challenged.

**Inclusivity** – We are committed to continuously learning how to be more inclusive by listening to those facing barriers.

**Leadership** – We recognise creating an inclusive, diverse and equitable institute requires leadership from all. We stand up and speak out when change is needed.

**Integrity** – We recognise that how we work is as important as our outputs and seek to exemplify best practice in all our decisions.

## 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](mailto:recruitment@turing.ac.uk).

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This full-time post is offered on a 2 year fixed term basis, with the possibility of extension. The annual salary is £66,000 - £70,000 plus excellent benefits, including flexible working and family friendly policies, <https://www.turing.ac.uk/work-turing/why-work-turing/employee-benefits>

## 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.

Reasonable adjustments to the interview process will be made for any candidates with a disability.

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

***Full details on the pre-employment screening process can be requested from [HR@turing.ac.uk](mailto:HR@turing.ac.uk).***