The Alan Turing Institute

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE SURVEY RESEARCH

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

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 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. Our dynamic group works closely with the UK government, as well as international organisations like the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the European Commission.

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 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

The Alan Turing Institute is kick-starting a six-month research project to study national attitudes to current and future uses of data science and AI. Focusing on the UK, the research will inform strategic priorities for the country's research and development efforts, and will be used as evidence to underpin the development of the Institute's long term public engagement strategy from 22/23 onwards. The post-holder will have full-time responsibilities for pursuing this research in collaboration with Professor Helen Margetts and Dr Cosmina Dorobantu from the Turing's Public Policy Programme, as well as Professor Patrick Sturgis from the London School of Economics. The post-holder will also liaise at relevant times with the Head of Events and Engagement and Public Engagement Manager to ensure that the outputs of this research project inform the development of the Institute's public engagement strategy.

This is a post-doctoral level appointment, suitable for an early career researcher with solid theoretical foundations in survey research methods as well as experience designing survey experiments and analysing the resulting data. We will consider applicants who have recently finished or are in the final stages of their PhDs. The successful candidate will join the Public Policy Programme and will be a part of a large multidisciplinary team focused on helping the public sector take advantage of the latest generation of data-intensive technologies. The postholder will report to the Director of the Turing's Public Policy Programme.

DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The successful candidate will:

- Lead the identification of areas that the survey should focus on. This will include:
  - Conducting a review of similar initiatives within the UK and beyond and ensuring that the Turing's work in this area will complement other data collection efforts
  - Producing a mapping of all the areas that a national attitudes survey on current and future uses of data science and AI could cover
  - Engaging with stakeholders within the Turing (the Institute's senior research leadership, the public engagement team) and beyond (key government and civil society partners) to understand which areas the survey should prioritise
- Lead the design of the survey, which will include:
  - Developing the questionnaire, by paying close attention to question wording, order, and response categories, and testing drafts of the questionnaire as part of a collaborative and iterative process
  - Identifying the most appropriate data collection practices, which will include ensuring that the sample is respresentative of the UK population as well as choosing and working with a polling agency to conduct the survey
- Sharing the outputs of the survey. This will include:
  - Making the raw data public, including its limitations
  - Conducting descriptive and multivariate analysis of the data
  - Drafting a report, in liaison with the communications and engagement directorate, that brings together the main findings of the work and highlights the survey's main findings
  - Presenting the research findings at internal and external conferences, workshops, and seminars.
  - Work closely with the Communications and Engagement team to ensure that the outputs of the research that are targeting audiences beyond academia are accessible, on brand, and innovative

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		
PhD (or close to completion) in a social science discipline that provides strong theoretical foundations in survey research methods and data analysis.	E	A
Knowledge and Experience		
Experience of designing survey experiments and analysing the resulting data.	E	A,I
Solid methodological foundations in experimental design, sampling and measurement theory, conjoint analysis, and causal inference.	E	A,I
Familiarity with and interest in AI technologies, their areas of application, as well as their associated benefits and risks.	E	A,I
Knowledge/understanding of the UK government and the policy-making landscape.	D	A,I
Experience in interacting with policy-makers and translating data-driven findings into meaningful insights and policy-focused reports.	D	A,I
Communication		
Excellent writing skills and proven ability to communicate complex, specialist or conceptual information/research findings clearly and persuasively to diverse audiences.	E	A,I
Diplomatic, able to communicate and liaise with multiple teams.	E	A,I
Teamwork and Motivation		
Proactive and self-motivated, able to retain good judgement and amend plans in a fast-paced environment.	E	I
A proven ability to collaborate successfully in a multidisciplinary environment and to manage delivery of projects.	E	I
Planning and Organising		
Excellent organisation and time management skills.	E	I
Initiative and Problem Solving		
Consultative and able to see the bigger picture.	E	I
Creative approach to problem solving	D	A, I
Analysis and Research		
A record of scientific publication, which may include journal articles, book chapters, and scientific advisory reports/white papers, that is suitable to career stage and appointment level	E	A,I
Excellent writing skills and a proven ability to communicate research findings to diverse audiences.	E	A
Other Requirements		
Commitment to EDI principles and to the Organisation values	E	I

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.

Our values

Trust
We create an environment where we have trust and can be trusted

Inclusivity
We expect our Turing community to contribute to a culture that is inclusive and free of barriers

Respect
We all have different roles, priorities and challenges but our shared purpose is the same

Leadership
Leadership is everyone's business; Turing leaders set the right tone and lead by example

Transparency
Everyone should understand the how and the why of our decisions and actions

Integrity
We are all ambassadors for the Turing's mission of changing the world for the better

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.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This FULL TIME post is offered on a FIXED TERM basis for six months. The annual salary is £37,000 - £41,000 plus excellent benefits, including flexible working and family friendly policies, https://www.turing.ac.uk/work-turing/why-work-turing/employee-benefits

Candidates who have not yet been officially awarded their PhD will be appointed as Research Assistant at a salary of £34,510 per annum.

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 teal 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***.***