

The Alan Turing Institute

Project Lead, Data Skills Taskforce

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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 creation of the [Data Skills Taskforce](#) was a key recommendation in the Nesta and Universities UK report, Analytic Britain. The report found that there were many agencies in the UK exercising leadership to address the skills shortages arising in industry from the data revolution. However, collaboration was needed to address this national challenge and to identify good practices for education and skills provision.

The Data Skills Taskforce is co-chaired by Ray Eitel-Porter (Managing Director, Accenture Analytics) and Sir Adrian Smith (Institute Director and Chief Executive, The Alan Turing Institute), who are supported by a steering group with representatives from DCMS and The Alan Turing Institute.

ROLE PURPOSE

The Data Skills Taskforce are offering up to 3 positions to individuals wishing to work alongside the Taskforce to address data skills challenges. Position holders will be responsible for leading task-and-finish groups in areas of specific interest or expertise. They will engage with – and contribute to the expansion of – the Taskforce's network of stakeholders and co-produce policy outputs and briefings. The role involves undertaking a project, guided by Taskforce stakeholders, to address challenges in the data science education landscape. We are accepting a wide range of project proposals in any one, or multiple, of the four thematic areas identified by the Taskforce below.

1. Organisational Data Readiness ([AI Council Roadmap: "National, Cross-sector Adoption: Business as smart adopters"](#)).
2. Professionalisation ([NDS: 5.1.1 Definition of data skills and role descriptors](#), [AI Council Roadmap: Recommendation 6: Commit to achieving AI and data literacy for everyone](#). Recommendation 5: Make diversity and inclusion a priority).
3. School-level data literacy ([AI Council Roadmap: Recommendation 6: Commit to achieving AI and data literacy for everyone](#). Recommendation 5: Make diversity and inclusion a priority).
4. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion / Widening Participation ([AI Council Roadmap: Make diversity and inclusion a priority](#).)

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We also welcome applications from projects in other thematic areas relevant to national data skills challenges as outlined in the AI Council Roadmap or other recent government reports.

The role holder(s) will lead task-and-finish groups comprising of both group and individual work to create output(s) pertaining to challenges in the four thematic areas above. The output(s) are developed and implemented by the secondment in relation to their current work/research and signed off by the Executive Board.

The project is expected to last for 12 months, and the role is offered as a secondment up to 0.6 FTE. The role will sit within the Academic Engagement directorate, Skills Team and will report to the Senior Advisor for Skills while working extensively with Skills team colleagues.

DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The role holder(s) will be responsible for leading on the development of their projects, including scoping (identification of focus groups, scoping project breadth, identifying delivery options), curriculum material design (static and interactive web content) and implementing the project outcomes (developing pedagogical resources, evaluating findings).

- Work in partnership with project partners (academic and industry) to identify, design and develop a project to support organisations' data skills development and align with policy recommendations from the documents linked under thematic areas.
- Lead task-and-finish work groups comprised of the Skills Team and Taskforce members to gather and collate evidence, conduct research, produce regular project management reports for project stakeholders and undertake workshops with the Taskforce Executive Board.
- Ensure project deliverables comply with accessibility and usability guidelines, copyright legislation, and be made available open source, considering Equality, Diversity and Inclusion practices at all stages of development.
- Undertake evaluation and user testing of new learning materials and resources, including industry and academic consultation.
- Work with the task-and-finish-group to co-produce a policy artefact (report, recommendation, consultation) at the end of the project, detailing the progress against the project's objectives.
- Communicate and relay findings to the Data Skills Taskforce and other UK organisations to support the development of future strategic developments and encourage national level interest.
- Launch the project with support from the Skills Team to create standardised communications assets for describing the project outcome(s) to a wide public audience.

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 and Qualifications		
Undergraduate degree in a pedagogical / data science / AI / digital related field.	E	A/I
Doctoral or Post-doctoral experience in a pedagogical / data science / AI / digital related field.	D	A
Knowledge and Experience		
Experience conducting research in an educational or academic context.	E	A/I
Ability to lead a large project with responsibility for developing and communicating action plans and objectives linked to organisational strategy.	E	A/I
Expert in data gathering and analysis, able to develop hypotheses to explain results and confidently present findings.	E	A/I
Ability to critically collect evidence from distributed sources (including the National Skills Agenda) to support future strategy.	E	A/I
Experience in effective communication and ability to withstand challenge by relying on evidence gathered and processes used for analysis.	E	A/I
Collaborative approach to project work and experience in working with multiple stakeholders within a project.	E	A/I
Service Delivery		
Ability to analyse stakeholder requirements and provide a high level of service when engaging with diverse stakeholders.	E	A/I
Liaison and Networking		
Experience in active collaboration and promotion of collaborative achievements.	E	A/I
Experience in networking within an organisation to share knowledge.	D	A/I
Planning and Organising		
Extensive experience of prioritising own workload effectively and working to deadlines	E	A/I
Experience of managing complex projects with multiple stakeholders and leading task-and-finish work groups.	E	A/I
Teaching and Learning		
Experience of leading training / skills programmes and / or teaching experience and curriculum development at postgraduate level in higher education.	E	A/I

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Other Requirements		
Flexible attitude towards work	E	A/I
Commitment to EDI principles and to the Organisation values	E	A/I

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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 a short proposal (up to 500 words) for a thematic area or another National Data Skills challenge. In your proposal, please detail how you would approach the research to achieve the desired project goals highlighting the motivation, experience and skills you would bring. For example, the [National Data Skills Portal](#) was a research project undertaken to identify and bridge data science and AI training skills gaps, providing a centralised platform with a self-assessment tool for small businesses, labour market analyses, collated resources and more.

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: 14 February 2022 at 23:59

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This part time (0.4 – 0.6 FTE) post is offered on a fixed term basis for up to 12 months. For the successful candidates, the Turing will try to accommodate the work requirements. The salary range for this post is £35,000-£40,000 according to experience 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.