

The Alan Turing Institute

Research Associate, Data Science for the Arts and Humanities

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 Alan Turing Institute is looking to recruit a Research Associate to work on the '*Data/Culture. Building sustainable communities around Arts and Humanities datasets and software*' project which seeks to develop and test models of building sustainable communities to ensure past investments in Arts and Humanities datasets and tools are still being leveraged. The overall goal of the project is to develop sustainable communities around the [Seshat Global History Databank](#) project and the [Living with Machines project](#), as well as the establishment of a Research Software Engineering network for the Arts and Humanities. This role will contribute to the Seshat Global History Databank component of the project.

ROLE PURPOSE

The Research Associate will work closely with an international group of scholars and research software engineers to analyse datasets on religious tolerance, ritual, power transitions, and luxury goods in world history.

The candidate may be from a (data) science background, whilst having an interest in working with historical and cultural datasets, or from a social sciences, humanities, and arts background, whilst having demonstrated expertise of deploying statistical and data science techniques. Their role will be to analyse existing Seshat dataset as part of a team, to refine statistical methods for the study of cultural datasets, incorporate levels of uncertainty and community/expert engagement within the analyses, foster scholarly communities around the datasets, and help writing up the results.

As Research Associate on the Data/Culture project you will work report to the project PI (Dr Pieter Francois) and work closely with the wider inter-disciplinary team based at the Alan Turing Institute. This is a collaborative research role and so it is crucial that the candidate enjoys working with others and is responsive within an interdisciplinary research environment.

DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The successful candidate will be expected to work closely with the project team, and to:

- Undertake research on the role of religious tolerance, ritual, and the resilience of societies in world history.
- Create a sustainable scholarly community around the datasets and tools from the Seshat Global History Databank.
- Produce high-quality publications for dissemination of the work to the wider community as well as research reports to document the work undertaken during the project.

The Alan Turing Institute

- Work collaboratively with researchers, senior investigators from across the Turing and external partners on the project.
- Build upon open and accessible tools for the scientific research community.
- Manage and engage with open-source collaborative code on GitHub.
- Help create a friendly and approachable community of experts, datasets and engineers, and facilitate integration with Turing's research programmes.
- Attend and present research findings and papers at conferences, and to contribute to the external visibility of the Turing.
- Participate in the organisation of workshops and other events.

Please note that job descriptions cannot be exhaustive, and the postholder 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		
Research Associate level: A PhD degree or equivalent professional experience in quantitative sciences (statistics, math, physics) or in the social sciences, the humanities and the arts.	E	A
Research Assistant level: A master's degree or equivalent level of professional experience in quantitative sciences, social science, or a related discipline.	E	A
Knowledge and Experience		
Experience with regression analysis.	E	A, I
Experience with time-series analysis.	E	A, I
Demonstrated experience in quantitative analysis.	E	A, I
Demonstrated interpersonal skills relevant to collaborating and working as part of a multi-disciplinary team and communicating with stakeholders in academia, the public sector, and industry.	E	I
Highly motivated and committed to achieving the project goals.	E	I
Experience with dimensionality reduction.	D	A, I
Experience fitting models to data.	D	A, I
Experience with spatial analysis.	D	A, I
Experience working with historical or cultural datasets.	D	A, I
Communication		
Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including experience in the visual representation of quantitative data, the authoring of research papers or technical reports, and giving presentations or classes on technical subjects.	E	I
Ability to communicate more complex, specialist or conceptual information clearly and persuasively, presenting compelling arguments to influence and/or negotiate satisfactory outcomes.	E	I
Evidence of high-quality publication(s) in a relevant field (published or in-press) commensurate with your career stage.	E	I
Project Management & Project Delivery		
Ability to work across the team to contribute and assist in diverse research activities.	E	I
Decision Making		
Ability to make independent decisions which are low risk and that mainly affect themselves or a small number of people and are guided by regulation and practice	E	A, I

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Work with others to make collaborative decisions that may be operational or strategic and impact immediate team or work area.	E	I
Initiative and Problem Solving		
Uses judgement to analyse and solve problems and take action to prevent recurrence of problems.	E	I
Analysis and Research		
An ability to formulate pertinent research questions, both general and focused.	E	I
Ability to identify or design computational and statistical analysis approaches to address specific research questions.	E	I
Other Requirements		
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 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 3862 3536 or email recruitment@turing.ac.uk.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2024 AT 23:59 (LONDON, UK GMT)
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

This full-time post is offered on a fixed term basis until 31 March 2025. The annual salary is £42,893 - £48,510 plus excellent benefits, including flexible working and family friendly policies, <https://www.turing.ac.uk/work-turing/why-work-turing/employee-benefits>. This post requires an immediate start.

Candidates who have not yet been officially awarded their PhD will be appointed as Research Assistant at a salary of £40,148 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 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 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.