

The Alan Turing Institute

Research Project Manager, *Foundational AI 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

In 2022, the Alan Turing Institute signalled its intention to establish a portfolio of foundational AI research, which would complement the strengths of the institute around applications of AI and AI policy. An initial portfolio of research in foundation models, game theory, and probabilistic programming will be launched in early 2023. It is intended that this portfolio will complement the UK's current activity, rather than duplicating existing efforts, and aiming to promote emerging new areas that show promise for the future.

Our aim is to contribute to the Institute's mission – to make great leaps in artificial intelligence research to change the world for the better – by developing research, tools, and techniques that have a positive impact on the lives of as many people as possible.

The programme is led by Professor Michael Wooldridge, Director of Foundational AI Research. The two new pillars have received multi-million-pound funding for 3 years.

Programme Management

The Alan Turing Institute has ten Programmes of scientific research in key areas of AI and data science, each led by a Programme Director. There are also a small number of significant programmes of activity which sit across several research Programmes.

This role sits within the Institute's Programme Management directorate, which is responsible for the management and delivery of these programmes in support of the senior academic Programme Directors and Principal Investigators. The team oversees millions of pounds of data science and AI research, training and knowledge exchange programme initiatives in these programmes, ensuring they are managed to business requirements, specification, time and budget.

There are a number of Programme and Research Project Managers within the team, usually focussed on one research

Programme or programme of activity, but who may provide programme and project management capabilities and support to other projects or activities from time to time as required. Programme managers and Research project managers are not permanently attached to programmes and may be moved to other research programmes in-line with business needs, and may have the opportunity to support other programmes, both ad-hoc or more formally.

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ROLE PURPOSE

A Research Project Manager at the Turing coordinates the implementation and delivery of advanced data science, AI and modelling research projects, and research engineering innovations in data, software and collaborative practices. We anticipate that the postholder will need to embody core values of *initiative*, *reliability* and *collaboration* in addition to their commitment to equity and inclusion as described in the Turing's "Rules of the Game" (see below).

This role is to co-ordinate and support work within *Foundational AI Research*. It will include administering a portfolio of high impact research projects, as well as overseeing, planning, organising and communicating the activities generated by those projects.

The post holder will work with the Programme Director, Deputy Directors and academic researchers as well as the Programme Manager to coordinate each research project from concept to implementation; this will involve understanding the resource requirements for each project, drawing up detailed financial plans, coordinating funding applications, negotiating funding or collaboration contracts, agreeing on clear milestones for each project, ensuring that the deliverables are completed on schedule, as well as providing regular updates to the Institute's leadership on the progress of each project.

The post holder will also coordinate the *Foundational AI Research* programme's interactions with various stakeholders; this will involve organising meetings and workshops that bring together academic researchers, industry and policy makers. The post holder will be instrumental in ensuring that the Turing's *Foundational AI Research* runs smoothly and delivers on its ambitious aim.

The Research Project Manager will need to liaise closely with Institute research and operations staff, in London, at university and research centre partners, to perform their duties. Management of small projects in other areas may also be required, subject to business needs.

This role reports to the AI Programme Manager.

DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Research project management and delivery

- Coordinate and oversee the delivery of research projects. This will involve:
 - Working with the research teams to outline the resource requirements for each project, to support them in applying for funding (if needed), to agree on clear milestones for each project, and to ensure that the deliverables are completed on schedule;
 - Working with the Turing's finance team to draw up detailed financial plans for each project and with the Institute's legal counsel to put the right contracts in place;
 - Providing regular updates to the Institute's leadership on the progress of each project.
 - Working alongside the communications team to disseminate the findings of each project;
 - Coordinate some of the programme's events, training, and knowledge exchange initiatives. This will involve: Working alongside researchers and the programme's leadership to identify a suitable venue for each initiative, to shape the agenda, to create the guest list, to publicise the initiative, and to ensure that meeting minutes are taken and distributed;
- Maintain up-to-date records that enable effective monitoring, control and evaluation of the programme's research initiatives;
- Produce regular reports on activity to external partners and funders.

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Programme Operations and Resources Management

- Perform resources planning and financial analysis for the programme. This will involve assisting in the preparation of the programme's budget, anticipating future staffing and operational needs, identifying potential funding sources, as well as managing the programme's office space and payment of expenses;
- Coordinate the delivery of strong programme governance. This will involve developing, writing, and editing reports and presentations for the Institute's senior leaders, Board of Trustees, and funders, which outline the programme's progress and initiatives;
- Working with the HR team, organise the recruitment of additional programme researchers or administrative staff. This will involve writing job advertisements, organising interview panels, and overseeing the onboarding process for new hires;
- Provide day-to-day support to the Programme Director and programme research leadership.

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	Essential (E) Desirable (D)	Tested at application (a) Tested at interview (i)
Post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:		
Education/Qualification		
Degree or equivalent level of professional qualifications and/or experience.	E	A
Formal training in one or more project management processes (Scrum, Lean, Agile, Prince II, etc.) as well as familiarity with project management tools and software.	D	A
Knowledge and Experience		
Project management and organisational skills: the ability to plan, execute, and keep on schedule numerous projects in an organised fashion;	E	A / I
Budget management and financial processes.	E	A
The ability to form and maintain relationships with a wide range of people at all levels.	E	I
Managing complex research projects involving internal and external partners.	D	A / I
Contractual agreements for research (collaboration, funding etc).	D	A
Facilitating research using sensitive data, including an understanding of information governance requirements.	D	A
Research project management in an academic environment.	D	A
Working closely with Finance teams on budget planning, reporting, reconciliations.	D	A
Knowledge of, or interest in learning about foundation AI Models and/or data-driven research	D	I
Communication		
Clear and effective communication skills (oral and written), whatever your personal style, with and to a wide range of people and audiences at all levels.	E	I
Teamwork and Motivation		
Thrives when working as part of a multi-disciplinary team and comfortable taking either a leadership or a <u>followership</u> role.	E	A / I
Project Management & Project Delivery		
Accurate and up to date knowledge of Research Project Management in an Academic environment with internal and external stakeholders.	E	A / I
Adapts services and systems to meet customers' needs and identifies ways of improving standards. Learns from complaints and takes action to resolve them.	E	A / I
Proactive approach to managing stakeholders and identifying opportunities for collaboration.	E	A / I
Ability to define, measure, and track key metrics for each project	E	A / I
Decision Making		

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Independently make decisions which impact themselves or immediate team members. Escalate decisions where appropriate.	E	A / I
Recommend and advise on available options for decisions that affect operational processes, taking into account any risks.	E	I
Work with others to make collaborative decisions that may be operational or strategic and impact immediate team or work area only.	D	I
Planning and Organising		
Ability to balance competing priorities with minimal direction while maintaining a high standard of accuracy and attention to detail.	E	I
Initiative and Problem Solving		
Track record of excellent problem solving skills, ideally in settings which require multiple domain specialist cooperation.	E	A / I
Other Requirements		
Commitment to EDI principles and to the Organisation values	E	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 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 permanent basis. The annual salary is £36,236 - £42,000 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.

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.