

The Alan Turing Institute

Research Assistant in Government AI (Casual Worker)

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.

THE PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAMME

The Public Policy 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 Public Policy Programme is developing a major new stream of work dedicated to understanding the implications of bringing artificial intelligence and machine learning into government and public services. As part of this work, we are seeking to appoint a casual research assistant focussing on applications of government AI. This part time position would be especially suitable to someone currently in a graduate degree programme at the masters or PhD level. The successful candidates will help push forward our programme of work and further our understanding of the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence in government and public services.

The appointed research assistants will work on a variety of projects within the broad area of government AI. They will help to create a wide ranging UK decision index, which maps the landscape of contemporary AI in UK public services. They will also help complete a project reviewing the use of automatic prioritisation algorithms across healthcare and social services. The outputs of their work will lead to both high impact journal publications in major outlets in political science and public administration and deep engagement with current government AI practitioners.

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DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Support original research in the area of artificial intelligence in government.
- Support with the creation of resources for the wider academic and policymaking community, such as UK Government Decision Index.
- Support the work of policymakers, regulators and others by providing advice, attending workshops and giving talks.
- Help to write Turing Public Policy Briefing Paper, blogs and insight reports.
- Support with building the AI and public policy community at The Turing.

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		
Masters or undergraduate degree in politics, government, policy, sociology, history, or a related discipline.	E	A
Knowledge and Experience		
Demonstrable interest in government and public administration	E	A
Demonstrable interest in artificial intelligence and technology	E	A
Experience and/or interest in scientific communication	D	A
Experience in study of public services	D	A
Experience and knowledge of some area of artificial intelligence.	D	A
Communication		
Excellent writing skills and proven ability to communicate complex, specialist or conceptual information/research findings clearly and persuasively to diverse audiences.	E	A
Teamwork and Motivation		
Highly motivated and committed to achieving the project goals	E	I
Liaison and Networking		
Participates in networks within the organisation or externally to share knowledge and information in order develop practice or help others learn.	E	A
Decision Making		
Independently makes decisions which are low risk and that mainly affect themselves or a small number of people and are guided by regulation and practice.	E	I
Initiative and Problem Solving		
Creatively solve problems, working both independently and with other team members	E	I
Analysis and Research		
Ability to organise working time, take the initiative, and carry out research independently, under the guidance of the PI.	E	I
Ability to use own judgement to analyse and solve problems.	E	I
Other Requirements		
Flexible attitude towards work	E	I
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 a covering letter that outlines how you meet the job specifications. 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: Sunday 26 March 2023 at 23:59

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This is a part-time role is offered on a zero hours contract for 3 months with the possibility of extension. The hourly rate for this casual position is £16.80 and it is anticipated that the successful candidate will be expected to work 10-15 hours per week.

We also welcome applications from PhD students who wish to work on a part-time basis. This position requires an immediate start.

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.