

The Alan Turing Institute

Research Assistant, Defence and Security

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 ROLE

The Alan Turing Institute is recruiting a casual research assistant to assist with research into AI for safeguard human and border security with particular focus on modern slavery and related drivers and factors. The project is funded through Turing's D&S funders. The project aims to identify opportunities and develop data science and AI tools to better safeguard human and border security. The project focuses on following areas: (a) data sources and methods to detect illicit activity at sea (with transferable knowledge to land), (b) causal links to broader human and security issues such as conflict, migration, (c) narratives that can inform the pathways to exploitation, and (d) methods to improve data capture and measurement of hidden populations.

The work will take place from February to April 2021 and will include:

- Assisting in stakeholder interviews and mapping.
- Drafting summary reports or briefs on stakeholder interviews, surveys and activities.
- Cataloging relevant data sources and features, and narrative texts.
- Conducting desk research and literature review into methods for measuring and capturing hidden populations.
- Support in writing other outputs such as blog, explainers, academic outputs

The research team has already made contributions to these areas. The Research Assistant will work with the PIs and Co-Is to complete these threads of work and bring them together.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Master Degree in statistics, law, human rights, computer science or a related social science discipline.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including the ability to present complex or technical information, and to communicate effectively with analysts and other stakeholders outside the research community.
- Ability to work as a member of a team.
- Ability to work flexibly, prioritising tasks to meet deadlines and maintaining a high standard of accuracy and attention to detail;
- Experience supporting research including desk-based literature review, content analysis and summary, and compiling and formatting bibliographic material;
- A demonstrated interest in the mission of the Alan Turing Institute, and in exploring the real-world impact of cutting-edge technology.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This is a part-time role offered on a zero hours contract. The hourly rate for this casual position is £16 and it is anticipated that the successful candidate will be expected to work 10-15 hours per week.

This contract is subject to there being no restriction by the Home Office or by the UK Border Agency to your entry and/or continued stay in the UK.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To apply for the position, please send a CV and short statement of interest that covers the essential criteria with no more than 500 words to recruitment@turing.ac.uk

Closing date: Thursday 04 March 2021 at 23:59.

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.