Research Associate for AI and Regulation

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 PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAMME

The public policy research programme works alongside policy makers to explore how data-driven public service provision and policy innovation might help to 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.

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 tackling modern slavery and 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

Recent advancements in AI and data-driven methods and digital technologies more broadly give rise to a diverse range of questions for regulatory agencies. These include questions about the risks associated with the use of AI by regulated entities and possible regulatory interventions to address such risks ('Regulation of AI') as well as questions about how AI can help regulators in performing their role more effectively and efficiently ('AI for Regulation').

The Public Policy programme is looking to recruit a Research Associate for work in this multi-faceted area. The successful candidate will report to the Policy Theme Lead and contribute to the programme's activities on AI and regulation across different regulatory domains. Depending on background, the post-holder's work may focus on 'Regulation of AI', 'AI for Regulation', or both.

DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The core responsibilities of this role are as follows:
- Work with the Public Policy programme's Policy Theme Lead and other programme members to deliver the programme's work on AI and regulation by conducting research, producing publications for academic and non-academic audiences, developing tools, and providing advice to regulatory bodies across various possible areas:

The Alan Turing Institute

- o Regulation of AI: monitoring and horizon scanning of relevant legislative and regulatory developments, analysing AI-related risks and regulatory gaps, identifying and assessing regulatory solutions, developing policy recommendations.
  - o AI for Regulation: exploring and pursuing the development of data-driven tools and solutions that address analytical and operational needs faced by regulatory bodies across different domains of regulation, including identification of relevant use cases, solution design, feasibility assessments, and proofs of concept.
- Contribute to building and managing relationships with regulators and policymakers and carrying out stakeholder engagement activities.
- Carry out knowledge exchange and impact-oriented activities.
  - o Present work and represent the research team at internal and external events.
  - o Identify and pursue strategies for amplifying the reach and impact of work among national and international audiences, including through organising online and offline events.
  - o Work with the Turing's communications team to ensure that work is effectively promoted in mainstream media.
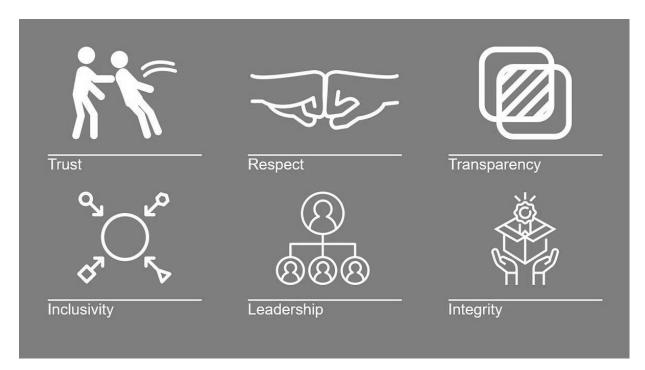
Please note that job descriptions cannot be exhaustive, and the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties, which are broadly in line with the above key responsibilities. This job description is written at a specific time and is subject to changes as the demands of the Institute and the role develop.

The Alan Turing Institute

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		
A PhD or an equivalent level of professional experience in a field that provides suitable foundations for work in the areas of Regulation of AI and/or AI for Regulation, as described above. This degree may either be in a discipline within the social sciences or in an academic field directly related to technical aspects of AI and digital innovation, such as statistics, computer science, mathematics, or HCI.	E	A
Knowledge and Experience		
A solid general understanding of practices and processes related to the design, development, and use of solutions and systems that rely on machine learning	E	A I
A great interest in the work of regulators and knowledge of the regulatory and policymaking landscape in the UK.	E	A I
For 'Regulation of AI': A reliable understanding of the current literature on ethical and regulatory considerations related to the design, development, and use of AI systems.	E	A I
For 'Regulation of AI': A reliable understanding of existing and emerging legal and regulatory frameworks and requirements with relevance to AI technologies at the national and international level.	E	A I
For 'AI for Regulation': Reliable technical skills in machine learning and/or other fields that are relevant to the development of data-driven solutions to analytical and operational needs faced by regulatory bodies.	E	A I
For 'AI for Regulation': Experience with the implementation of digital transformation processes in organisations.	D	A I
Experience in a relevant non-academic environment, such as a regulatory agency, government department, think tank, consultancy, or technology company.	D	A I
A record of scientific publication, which may include journal articles, book chapters, and policy reports/white papers, according to career stage.	D	A I
Communication		
Excellent written and verbal communication skills.	E	A I
Ability to communicate research and advocacy clearly and persuasively to diverse audiences.	E	A I
Ability to explain complex/specialist information and technical concepts in ways that are understandable to non-experts.	E	A I
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

Liaison and Networking		
Experience in interacting with regulators, policymakers and other non-academic stakeholders.	D	A I
Ability to collaborate successfully in a multidisciplinary environment across different levels of seniority.	E	A I
Project Management & Project Delivery		
Ability to manage the delivery of projects and events.	E	A I
Ability to work flexibly, prioritising tasks to meet deadlines and maintaining a high standard and attention to detail.	E	A I
Analysis and Research		
Ability to carry out original research and to produce published research papers.	E	A I
Other Requirements		
Commitment to meeting deadlines.	E	I
Flexible attitude towards work.	E	I
Commitment to EDI principles and to the Organisation values.	E	I

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 Rules of the Game

Respect – We treat everyone with respect, dignity and kindness and acknowledge the experiences, skills and contributions of others.
Trust - We communicate openly and honestly to support an environment where we have trust in each other.
Transparency – We seek to ensure that everyone understands the how and the why of our decisions and actions. We take on board to feedback when those decisions are challenged.
Inclusivity – We are committed to continuously learning how to be more inclusive by listening to those facing barriers.
Leadership – We recognise creating an inclusive, diverse and equitable institute requires leadership from all. We stand up and speak out when change is needed.
Integrity – We recognise that how we work is as important as our outputs and seek to exemplify best practice in all our decisions.

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 that outlines how you meet the job specifications; plus a list of publications as well as a sample piece of writing (a journal article, conference proceeding, book chapter, or equivalent). 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 fixed term basis for 2 years. The annual salary is £37,000-£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.

We are committed to building a diverse community and would like our leadership teal 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***.***