The Alan Turing Institute

Research Associate, Centre for Emerging Technology 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.

BACKGROUND

This role sits within the Defence and Security Programme's newly-established Centre for Emerging Technology and Security (CETaS). The successful candidate will work across a range of research projects relating to national security and technology policy, reporting directly into the Head of CETaS.

ROLE PURPOSE

In June 2022 the Turing establishd the UK Centre for Emerging Technology and Security. Engaging closely with senior stakeholders from across UK national security, the Centre conducts a range of research, analysis, advisory and engagement activities focussed on the implications of emerging technology for UK national security policy.

We are seeking to appoint a full-time Research Associate to work within the new Centre. The successful candidate will work across a range of research projects relating to emerging technology and national security, engaging with stakeholders across the UK government, academia and the private sector. They will gain experience in designing and delivering high-quality mixed-methods research for an external audience, and relationship building with senior national security decision-makers. They will contribute directly to high-profile public research reports, and will have the opportunity to represent the Turing at various stakeholder engagement activities, such as workshops, conferences and other events.

The successful candidate will be a highly motivated, inquisitive and collaborative researcher, who will work alongside a growing research team at the Turing, engaging closely with external academic partners. The ideal candidate will have a strong track record in delivering policy-focused research for a national security audience, specifically in the field of emerging technology and security. They will have experience of engaging with senior government decision-makers, and synthesising complex material in an accessible format for a non-expert policy audience.

DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The post holder will work closely with the Head of CETaS and Turing research team to:

- Develop, deliver and present high-quality academic research on topics related to emerging technology and national security policy
- Articulate the findings and implications of this research to a non-expert policy audience, through various channels (both written and verbal)
- Review and quality control written outputs produced by other researchers, both at the Turing and externally
- Prepare research material for presentation in both oral and written formats
- Co-organise CETaS events, such as workshops and conferences, to showcase the outputs from this research
- Support the work of policymakers, regulators and others by providing advice, attending workshops and giving presentations
- Support with building a community of policymakers, academics and private sector stakeholders focussed on emerging technology and national security policy
- Contribute to business development processes for future research grants

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.

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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		
A Masters-level qualification in a research role related to security, defence, criminology, technology or a related discipline – or equivalent professional experience	E	A
Knowledge and Experience		
Strong experience of technology and security research, preferably in a policy context. This may have been gained in the public or private sector, as well as through production of academic research papers.	E	A, I
In-depth understanding of academic research methodologies (qualitative and/or quantitative), as well as direct experience of applying qualitative and/or quantitative methods in a professional research project.	E	A, I
A strong working understanding of the machinery of government and policymaking processes.	E	A, I
Evidence of a strong publication record (commensurate with level of experience), including peer review of written material produced by others.	E	A, I
Experience of working independently and in medium to large-scale teams, on collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects with academic and government partners.	E	A, I
Communication		
Good effective communication (oral and written) and the ability to communicate complex information in an accessible format for a non-expert audience.	E	I
Teamwork and Motivation		
Ability to work effectively across disciplinary boundaries, both as part of an interdisciplinary team and in close collaboration with external partners in different disciplines.	E	A
Ability to develop contacts and research collaborations within the Institute and the wider community.	E	I
Project Management & Project Delivery		
Proactive approach to managing stakeholders and their requirements and identifying opportunities for collaboration.	E	A, I
Flexible approach to meeting stakeholders' needs and identifying ways of improving standards. Learning from issues and taking action to resolve them.	E	A, I
Initiative and Problem Solving		

Using judgement to analyse and solve problems, and take action to prevent recurrence of problems.	E	A, I
The ability to initiate, plan, organise and prioritise tasks to meet deadlines, and maintain a high standard of accuracy and attention to detail.	E	A, I
Creatively solving problems, working both independently and with other team members.	E	I
Analysis and Research		
Ability to carry out original research and to produce publishable research papers.	E	A
A developing track record in producing high quality academic publications. Ability to write research reports and papers in styles accessible to both academic and lay audiences.	E	A, I
To take the lead on writing up findings as they emerge, producing reports, and developing publications in collaboration with the research team.	D	A, I
Other Requirements		
Commitment to EDI principles and to the Organisation values	E	I
Valid UK Security Clearance (CTC minimum), with the ability to obtain SC once in post; Must be eligible to hold a UK Security Check (SC) clearance and obtain that within 6 months of the commencement of their employment, or in such longer period as the Institute may in its absolute discretion consider reasonable to obtain such clearance.	E	I
The post holder may be required to travel within the UK and internationally.	D	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 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.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Sunday 05 March 2023 at 23:59

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This full-time post is offered on a fixed term basis for 1 year, with the possibility of extension following the initial term. The annual salary range is £40,850 - £46,200 plus excellent benefits, including flexible working and family friendly policies. https://www.turing.ac.uk/work-turing/why-work-turing/employee-benefits

Security Clearance required: Valid UK Security Clearance (CTC minimum), with the ability to obtain SC once in post.

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 team 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***.***