The Alan Turing Institute

Research Fellow (Digital Ethics)

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 purpose is to make great leaps in data science and AI research to change the world for the better. Its goals are to advance world-class research and apply it to national and global challenges, build skills for the future by contributing to training people across sectors and career stages, and drive an informed public conversation by providing balanced and evidence-based views on data science and AI.

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 Alan Turing Institute's Defence and Security has three aims – to support defence and national security agencies to keep societies and citizens safe; to protect the privacy and security of citizens, institutions, and industry; and to contribute to the global good by enabling societies around the world to derive benefit and prosper from emerging technology. To achieve these aims, the programme has formed long-term strategic partnerships, with the UK Government defence and security organisations, and a range of academic and industry partners.

The Research Fellow role will sit within the Alan Turing Institute's Defence & Security Grand Challenge and will work to support the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's interests in ethics.

ROLE PURPOSE

The Research Fellow Dstl (Digital Ethics) will work across the Defence research portfolio to assist in building a consensus on the definitions and parameters for the ethics of applied research in future AI technologies. They will lead the development of ethical guidelines for responsible innovation practices to help ensure the smooth transition of these technologies from research into Defense's acquisition processes. In addition, they will help Defence both to anticipate future national and international moral and ethical values in this area and to articulate value priorities in this area of the greater AI innovation ecosystem. The Research Fellow Dstl (Digital Ethics) will also support the development of Dstl's capability in digital ethics and will have a well-established academic network to draw upon.

DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Research Fellow Dstl (Digital Ethics) will work closely with the fellows based at The Turing Institute as well as those at Dstl to:

- Develop a collaborative research and capability development strategy for applied digital ethics research.
- Support the development of MOD policy and frameworks for the ethical application of AI in Defence.
- Define the requirements for MOD funded research and lead the delivery of these research activities.
- Attend and present research findings and papers at academic and professional conferences and contribute to the external visibility of Dstl.
- Manage own research and administrative activities, within guidelines provided by senior colleagues.

- Undertake comprehensive and systematic literature reviews and write up the results for internal reports, publication in peer-reviewed journals or for presentation at conferences or public meetings.
- Contribute to the design of research materials and make arrangements for data gathering.
- Contribute to drafting research publications, book chapters, article, reports, and reviews.
- Contribute to discussions and share research findings with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups.

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 Post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:	**Essential (E)** **Desirable (D)**	**Tested at application (a)** **Tested at interview (I)**
Education/Qualification		
Possession of a PhD or has equivalent experience in Applied / Practical Ethics or a related discipline	E	A
Knowledge and Experience		
Experience in developing and implementing strategic research and capability development plans	E	A/I
Experience or demonstrable understanding of applied ethics in technology	E	A/I
Effective strategic thinking and leadership skills	E	A/I
Strong track record of research publication in the area of applied ethics appropriate to career stage	D	A
Established vibrant research and practitioner networks as the national and international level	D	A/I
Knowledge and understanding of the Defence and Security domain	D	A/I
Literacy in data science, particularly in the science of machine learning and interpretable AI	D	A
Understanding of artificial intelligence and digital ethics, with a preference for those with understanding of human-machine interface, neuroethics and/or cognitive philosophy.	D	A
Communication		
Excellent communication, negotiation and influencing skills at all levels	E	A/I
Excellent verbal and writing skills and proven ability to communicate complex, specialist, or conceptual information/research findings clearly and persuasively to diverse audiences	E	A/I
Liaison and Networking		
Ability to interact with scientists and engineers from a broad range of disciplines in multi- and inter-disciplinary teams	E	I
Project Management & Project Delivery		
Ability to develop and implement strategic research and capability development plans	E	I
Ability to initiate, plan, organise, implement, and deliver programmes of work to tight deadlines	E	I
Decision Making		
Ability to make strategic or operational decisions collaboratively, as part of the team	E	I

Teamwork and Motivation		
Ability to interact professionally with others from a broad range of disciplines in multi and inter-disciplinary teams	E	I
Analysis and Research		
Ability to adopt appropriate data analysis methods for the purpose and present the findings	E	I
Proven ability to conduct research independently to advance research agenda and to identify new research problems and solve them originally	E	A/I
Other Requirements		
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 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 at recruitment@turing.ac.uk

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Sunday 21 April 2024 at 23:59

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This is full-time post is offered on a fixed term basis till 31 March 2025. The annual salary is £53,576 - £55,125 plus excellent benefits, including flexible working and family friendly policies, https://www.turing.ac.uk/work-turing/why-work-turing/employee-benefits

Successful candidates will need to undergo a security check by DSTL's security team.

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.

We are committed to making sure our recruitment process is accessible and inclusive. This includes making reasonable adjustments for candidates who have a disability or long-term condition. Please contact us at adjustments@turing.ac.uk to find out how we can assist you.

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*.*