

The Alan Turing Institute

Senior Research Associate – Safe and Ethical AI

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 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

At The Alan Turing Institute, the AI programme's goal is to advance world-class research into artificial intelligence, its applications and its implications for society, building on the wealth of expertise and knowledge across our academic network.

Our programme expertise draws on the cross-disciplinarity at the heart of the Turing; bringing together technical experts to forge ahead with breakthroughs in fundamental AI research and its applications, with social scientists, ethicists, legal experts, industry, and policy-makers who are considering the implications of AI in real-world applications.

The programme will contribute to leadership around this area, drawing on our links with industry and government to help ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of scientific innovation while building an ethical and regulatory framework for the use of AI that prevents misuse and inappropriate discrimination.

Our aim is to build a leading centre of excellence for technical work on safe and ethical AI, in line with the government's Industrial Strategy and in step with global demand for research and guidance in this domain.

ROLE PURPOSE

We are seeking a part-time Senior Research Associate (SRA) to work as part of the AI Programme, on the interaction between law and AI technology, particularly in the use of information and innovative technology by criminal justice bodies and the wider public sector.

It will be vital to interface well with other disciplines, policy makers, industry and the public. Successful candidates will work as part of the AI Programme, alongside Adrian Weller, Lilian Edwards, Anjali Mazumder, Ricardo Silva and other Turing researchers. The Institute is interdisciplinary in its approach and includes lawyers, ethicists, social scientists and humanities researchers in addition to researchers in technical disciplines and collaboration is encouraged.

The Alan Turing Institute

DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- To advise on the development and deployment of AI within policing and criminal justice, the interaction with law, the development of guidance and professional practice, and the development of ethical oversight and other methods of scrutiny.
- To advise on, and drive forward, collaborations and projects involving police forces and other public bodies focused on safe and ethical AI.
- To act as strategic liaison with key policing and criminal justice bodies and other public sector and policy stakeholders.
- To collaborate with other researchers to produce high quality research outputs at top venues, and to present these at workshops and conferences.
- To hold regular meetings with designated members of staff and other collaborators, and travel as necessary to present work and meet with external collaborators.
- Lead on the drafting of a major research report aimed at industry practitioners and policymakers;
- Lead proposals for research grants, corporate sponsorship and other funding
- Serve as a key link between the Turing's project team and the government partners involved in the project, engaging in close collaboration with these partners in shaping and delivering the project. As part of this aspect of the role, a significant part of the researcher's time will be spent working in the offices of the main project partner
- Manage relationships with the project's wider stakeholder community and conduct engagement activities (e.g. workshops, roundtables, interviews) to elicit input and inform project findings
- Represent the Turing at relevant external conferences and events and contribute to the Turing's public communication strategy around the project.
- To oversee the work of other Postdoctoral Research Associates who are conducting research in related areas
- To define the research direction in collaboration with the PIs of the project

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		
PhD or equivalent experience in AI and/or Law	E	(a)
Knowledge and Experience		
Senior Research Associate: Significant Post Doctoral research experience	E	(a) and (i)
Senior level experience in the operation of ethical scrutiny of policing AI and data analytics	E	(a) and (i)
Track record of publications and knowledge exchange in the area of policing AI, the law and ethics	E	(a) and (i)
Track record of external roles linking academia and policy and practice	E	(a) and (i)
Experience and track record of working with policy-makers, Government/public sector bodies	E	(a) and (i)
Experience of UKRI bids and funding	E	(a) and (i)
Experience of collaboration with other academic disciplines	D	(a)/ (i)
Communication		
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	E	(a) and (i)
Liaison and Networking		
Ability to collaborate successfully with colleagues in a multidisciplinary environment. Establishing and promoting cross-programme collaborations	E	(i)
Participates in networks within the organisation or externally to share knowledge and information in order develop practice or help others learn	E	(a)/ (i)
Ability to represent the programme at industry, academic and practitioner events and high level meetings	E	(i)
Help to establish collaborations nationally and internationally	E	(i)

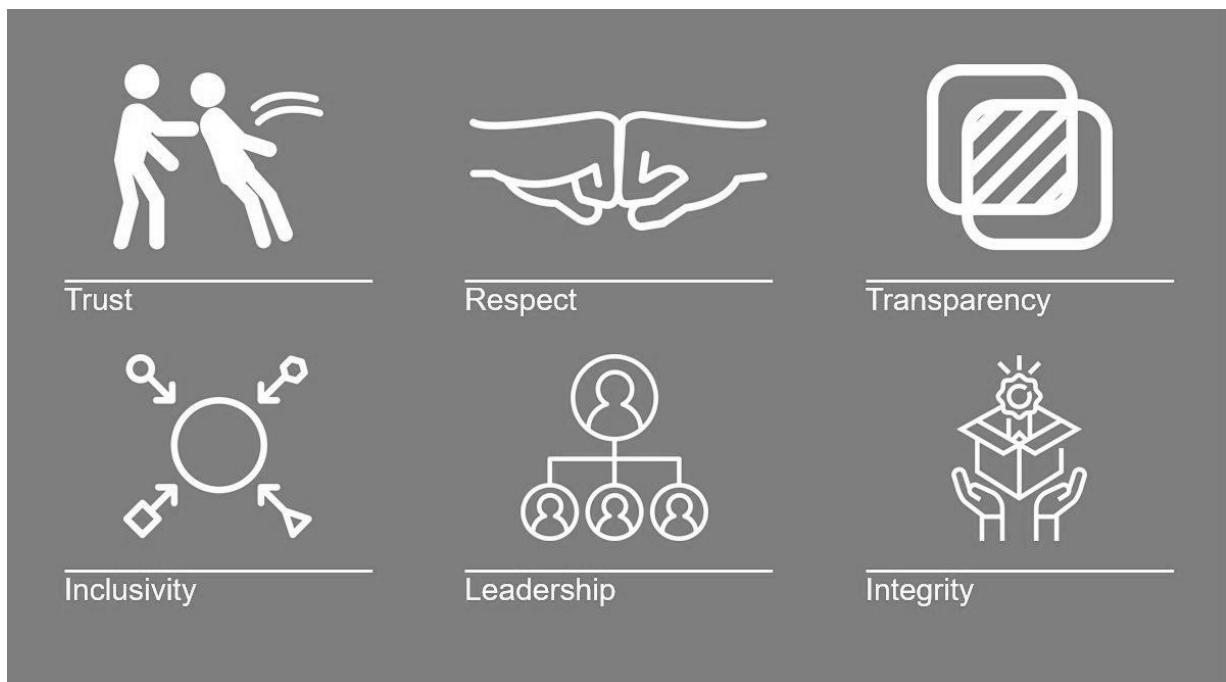
The Alan Turing Institute

Project Management & Project Delivery		
Ability to keep accurate and up to date knowledge of services available in own and related areas of work	E	(a)/ (i)
Ability to work across the Research Team/Programme, to contribute and assist in a number of research activities	E	(i)
Ability to develop and lead collaborative programme-oriented research and innovation strategy	E	(i)
Lead proposals for research grants, corporate sponsorship and other funding	E	(i)
Decision Making		
Works with others to make collaborative decisions	E	(a)/ (i)
Recommends and advises on available options for decisions that affect operational processes, taking into account any risks	D	(a)/ (i)
Initiative and Problem Solving		
Ability to use own judgement to analyse and solve problems	E	(a)/ (i)
Considers possible solutions to identify ones which offer wider benefits. Obtains evidence to support thinking	E	(a)/ (i)
Ability to lead one's own work, including planning and execution, and to prioritise work to meet deadlines	E	(a)/ (i)
Analysis and Research		
Ability to organise working time, take the initiative, and carry out research independently and perform as a PI when required	E	(i)
Other Requirements		
Commitment to meeting deadlines	E	(a)/ (i)
Flexible attitude towards work	E	(i)
Commitment to EDI principles and to the Organisation values	E	(i)

The Alan Turing Institute

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. If you have questions about the role or would like to apply using a different format, please contact us on 020 3970 2148 or email recruitment@turing.ac.uk.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Sunday 24 October 2021

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This 20% FTE post is offered on a 2 year fixed-term basis with the possibility of extension. The ideal start is November 2021 however an earlier start date can be arranged. The full-time equivalent annual salary is £46,700 with an actual salary of £9,340 per annum 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 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.