

# The Alan Turing Institute

**Senior 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 established 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 Senior Research Associate to work within the new Centre to 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.

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## DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Proactively develop new project concepts and proposals and assume overall leadership for the delivery of CETaS research projects from inception to completion.
- Engage with senior stakeholders to identify opportunities for CETaS engagement activities such as events and workshops, and lead on the conceptual development of these research engagement activities.
- Build new research partnerships with external organisations to co-deliver collaborative CETaS research projects.
- Support with building a community of policymakers, academics and private sector stakeholders focussed on emerging technology and national security policy.
- Develop, deliver and present high-quality academic research on topics related to emerging technology and national security policy.
- Articulate the findings and implications of research to a non-expert policy audience, through various channels.
- Review and quality control written outputs produced by other researchers, both at the Turing and externally.
- 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.
- Contribute to business development processes for future research grants.

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	Essential (E) Desirable (D)	Tested at Application (A) Tested at Interview (I)
Post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:		
<b>Education/Qualification</b>		
A PhD-level qualification in a research role related to security, defence, criminology, technology or a related discipline – or equivalent professional experience.	E	A
<b>Knowledge and Experience</b>		
Considerable experience working directly within a national security research or policy role, management experience, a strong track record of peer-reviewed publications on related topics	E	A, I
Strong experience of technology and security research, preferably in a policy context, including demonstrated leadership and management of security-related research projects and overseeing the delivery of such projects from inception to completion.	E	A, I
Considerable experience of applying academic research methodologies in professional research projects, including through the production of peer-reviewed academic publications.	E	A, I
A strong working understanding of the machinery of government and policymaking processes, including a strong working understanding of the UK national security community gained through working directly with national security stakeholders on technology research or policy.	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 working independently and in medium to large-scale teams on collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects with academic and government partners.	E	A, I
Line management experience.	E	A, I
<b>Communication</b>		
Good effective communication (oral and written) and the ability to communicate complex information in an accessible format for a non-expert audience.	E	I
<b>Teamwork and Motivation</b>		
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	I
Ability to develop contacts and research collaborations within the Institute and the wider community.	E	I
<b>Project Management &amp; Delivery</b>		
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

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<b>Initiative and Problem Solving</b>		
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	I
Creatively solving problems, working both independently and with other team members.	E	I
<b>Analysis &amp; Research</b>		
Ability to design, plan, oversee and manage the delivery of large-scale policy research projects from inception to completion.	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
<b>Other requirements</b>		
Commitment to EDI principles and to the Organisation values	E	I
Valid UK Security Clearance (SC minimum), with the ability to obtain DV once in post;  Must be eligible to hold a <b>UK Developed Vetting (DV) clearance and secure DV clearance 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.</b>	E	I
The post holder may be required to travel within the UK and internationally.	D	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 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 3862 3533 or 0203 862 3516, or email [recruitment@turing.ac.uk](mailto: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 £51,025 - £52,500 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 for post: Valid UK security clearance (SC minimum), with the ability to obtain DV 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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:HR@turing.ac.uk).***