# Further Particulars

This document includes information about the role for which you are applying and the information you will need to provide with the application.

## 1. Role details

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| Vacancy reference: | 12034 |
| Job title: | Research Assistant |
| Reports to: | Professor of Knowledge Technologies |
| Salary: | Ranging from £25,769 – £30,738 |
| Terms and conditions of service: | Full time Research Staff |
| Grade: | AC1 |
| Duration of post: | 12 months |
| Working hours: | 37 hours per week (full time Monday to Friday) |
| Location: | Knowledge Media Institute of The Open University |
| Closing date: | 10 March 2016 |
| Type of application form accepted: | Standard / long version (plus covering letter) |
| Number of referees required: | Three |
| Unit recruitment contact: | kmi-recruitment@open.ac.uk |

## 2. Summary of duties

We are currently looking for a Research Assistant to work for an initial period of one year, with the possibility for renewal subject to and funding.

The appointment will be made on the Academic Grade 1 Salary Scales for Research Staff, ranging from £25,769 – £30,738 pa depending on qualifications and experience.

**Job Description**

You will work on Rexplore – http://technologies.kmi.open.ac.uk/rexplore/, a system which leverages novel solutions in large-scale data mining, semantic technologies and visual analytics, to provide an innovative environment for exploring and making sense of scholarly data. You will be part of a high-profile research team, under the supervision of Professor Enrico Motta.

Specific Tasks:

- Integration and management of Big Data in the academic domain.
- Developing and testing the Rexplore technology as a service to be used by publishers and universities worldwide.
- Contributing to the creation of innovative algorithms for extracting information from research data and to forecast the flow of research.

**Relevant Publications and Further Information**

The publications below are available from http://kmi.open.ac.uk/publications/

- Osborne, F. and Motta, E. (2015) Klink-2: Integrating Multiple Web Sources to Generate Semantic Topic Networks, International Semantic Web Conference 2015, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
- Osborne, F., Scavo, G. and Motta, E. (2014) Identifying diachronic topic-based research communities by clustering shared research trajectories, Extended Semantic Web Conference 2014, Crete, Greece
- Osborne, F., Scavo, G. and Motta, E. (2014) A Hybrid Semantic Approach to Building Dynamic Maps of Research Communities, EKAW 2014, Linkoping, Sweden
- Osborne, F., Motta, E. and Mulholland, P. (2013) Exploring Scholarly Data with Rexplore, International Semantic Web Conference, Sydney, Australia
- Osborne, F. and Motta, E. (2012) Mining Semantic Relations between Research Areas, International Semantic Web Conference, Boston, MA

### 3. Person specification

**Essential Skills**

- Master in Computer Science or a related field, or equivalent experience;
- Excellent programming skills in PHP, JavaScript, Java, Apache Server, MySQL and GNU/Linux;
- Database management skills and a proven ability to write quick optimized database queries;
- Experience with processing large quantities of data;
- Experience with machine learning and data mining algorithms;
- Knowledge of existing data standards, e.g. linked, open and semantic data;
- Ability to quickly demonstrate understanding of the project aims and specific tasks as requested;
- Self-starter in providing solutions to meet project needs;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Ability to work to challenging targets and deadlines;
- Ability to handle constructive feedback.

**Desirable Skills**

- Experience with working with a large distributed computing platform, such as Hadoop, and information retrieval technologies, such as Lucene;
- Proven ability to work with and create a robust, large data infrastructure;
- Experience in the design and implementation of Web services and/or RESTful services.

### 4. Role specific requirements e.g. Shift working

n/a

### 5. About the unit/department

The Knowledge Media Institute (KMi) of the UK's Open University is a highly successful interdisciplinary research centre founded at The Open University in 1995, and located in attractive premises at The Open University's main campus in Milton Keynes, UK. We offer a stimulating environment, widely acknowledged to be at the leading edge of research and development, particularly in Semantic Technologies, Human Computer Interaction, New Media and Information Retrieval. The style, impact and content of our work can be seen at http://kmi.open.ac.uk/

### 6. How to obtain more information about the role or application process

If you would like to discuss the particulars of this role before making an application please contact Professor Enrico Motta on Tel: +44 (0)1908 653506, email enrico.motta@open.ac.uk , or Dr Francesco Osborne on Tel: +44 (0)1908 332948, email francesco.osborne@open.ac.uk

If you have any questions regarding the application process please contact Ortenz Rose on +44 (0)1908 654774 or email ortenz.rose@open.ac.uk

## 7. The application process and where to send completed applications

Please ensure that your application reaches the University by: **10 March 2015**

Email your application to: kmi-recruitment@open.ac.uk

<u>or</u> Post it to:

Name/Job title:      Ortenz Rose – Senior Staffing Coordinator

Department/Unit:   Knowledge Media Institute

Address:               The Open University
                            Walton Hall
                            MILTON KEYNES
                            Bucks

Post Code:           MK7 6AA

## 8. Selection process and date of interview

The interviews will take place as soon as possible after the closing date.

The selection process for this post will be by review of applications by the Chair and selected members of the interview panel. There may be a telephone interview before a formal interview.

a) Please ensure you complete all relevant sections of the application form. You are welcome to also include a curriculum vitae; however **CVs <u>will not</u> be accepted on their own**.

b) You are also asked to provide a covering letter describing how your skills make you a suitable candidate for the post.

We will let you know as soon as possible after the closing date whether you have been shortlisted for interview. Further details on the selection process will be sent to shortlisted candidates.

**Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted!**