Job Related Information

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

1. Role Details

Vacancy reference	13579
Job title:	Senior Research Fellow - Data Science
Reports to:	KMi Director
Salary:	£49,772 to £55,998
Terms and conditions:	Research
Grade	AC4
Duration of post:	Permanent
Working hours:	Full Time
Location:	Milton Keynes
Closing date:	12 June 2017
Type of application form accepted:	Covering Letter (a maximum of 2,500 words), short application form and CV
Number of referees required:	Three
Unit recruitment contact:	Ortenz Rose

2. Summary of duties

The post is intended to strengthen the Open University's Knowledge Media Institute (KMi) international research reputation and in particular we are interested in candidates who can pursue a robust and innovative research agenda in one or more of these strategic research areas:

- Data Science (Machine Learning, Linked Data, Analytics, Big Data, Data Visualization, Blockchain Technologies);
- Internet of Things (Smart Objects, Wearable Computing, Ambient Intelligence, Sensor Networks, Smart Cities);
- New Media Technologies (New Media for Collaboration and Learning, Interfaces, Augmented Reality, Novel Interaction Techniques).

Candidates are expected to be established leaders in one or more of these areas with an excellent international standing as evidenced by substantial publications, a proven ability to acquire and carry out research projects, and demonstrable experience of leading and developing research groups. They are also expected to be excellent communicators, able to engage passionately and communicate clearly with a variety of audiences, within and outside the University. KMi has a special ethos, characterised by a 'can-do attitude' and a dynamic hands-on approach to research and we expect the successful candidate to be able to slot in naturally in such informal, research-oriented environment. Consistently with such hands-on ethos, the candidate should be able to demonstrate evidence of having deployed real technologies, in real contexts, for real users: a hallmark of most KMi activities.

JOB DESCRIPTION

This is a senior appointment of high visibility and the successful candidate will be expected to manage a portfolio of research projects with an emphasis on international excellence, publishing and presenting quality papers regularly, and researching and developing leading edge technologies. The post holder will be expected to develop a strong research group and obtain significant external funding to finance his/her research activities and in general to extend his/her significant impact on the international research scene and beyond academia[1].

KMi provides a very supportive environment for carrying out world-class research and the successful candidate will be encouraged to develop his/her research ideas and initiatives. There are no formal teaching responsibilities, though KMi researchers have found in the past that embedding their research in a teaching context has provided an excellent testbed for new ideas.

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[1] For the purposes of the REF, impact is defined as an effect on change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academic (HEFCE et al. 2012a)

3. Person specification

Requirements (E = Essential/ D = Desirable)	
Education, qualifications and training	
Applicants should have a PhD and at least 5 years post-doctoral experience in Computer Science, Cognitive Science, Human-Computer Interaction, or other disciplines relevant to Knowledge Media, with evidence of an international reputation.	
Knowledge, work and other relevant experience	
Essential:	• A clear research vision and a strong drive to perform research of the highest quality at world leading standards of excellence; • Significant research impact in areas relevant to our research agenda – e.g., Semantic, Web and Data Technologies; Cognitive and Learning Sciences; New Media Technologies; Visual Analytics; Internet of Things; Human-Computer Interaction, etc.; • A profile of research excellence that demonstrates outputs of sufficient quality (>3*) and number to be included in the next REF exercise; • A track record of leading innovative research projects; • Strong publication record; • Evidence of working collaboratively with industrial partners; • Evidence of impact beyond academia; • A track record of obtaining research income from external agencies; • Evidence of a hands-on approach to research.
Desirable:	• Evidence of engagement with the key themes associated with The Open University's mission: openness, social justice, pedagogic innovation; • Evidence of income generation from non-research activity.
Personal abilities and qualities	
Essential:	• Evidence of team leadership and 'thought leadership'; • Excellent presentation and communication skills, including the ability to offer and receive constructive criticism; • Flexibility, including the willingness to take on additional activities and responsibilities as necessary to support the objectives of the Knowledge Media Institute; • Commitment to the aims, ethos, and values of The Open University.
Desirable:	n/a

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 Data Science, 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 John Domingue on +44 (0)1908 653800 or email: john.domingue@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:	12 June 2017
Post it to:	Ortenz Rose
Name/Job title:	KMi Senior Co-ordinator - Staffing & Recruitment
Department/Unit:	STEM, The Knowledge Media Institute
Address:	Berrill Building, The Open University, Walton Hall, MILTON KEYNES. Bucks
Post Code:	MK7 6AA
Or e-mail your application to:	kmi-recruitment@open.ac.uk

8. Selection process and date of interview

The interview panel will be chaired by:	Professor John Domingue

The other members of the interview panel will be:	Professor Enrico Motta Professor Stefan Rueger A third Panel Member (to be advised)
The interviews will take place on:	To be advised
The selection process for this post will include:	A presentation to the members of the Institute on aspects of your research work and achievements to date, as well as your vision and plans for future research directions. Please ensure you complete all relevant sections of the application form. You should also include a curriculum vitae. However **any CV submitted without a completed application for employment form will not be accepted**. 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 also be sent to shortlisted candidates.

Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.