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	14057
Job title:	Senior Research Fellow x 2
Reports to:	KMi Director
Salary:	Ranging from £50,618 to £56,950
Terms and conditions:	Full time Research Staff
Grade	AC4
Duration of post:	Permanent
Working hours:	Full time
Location:	Milton Keynes
Closing date:	30 November 2017 at 5pm
Type of application form accepted:	Short Application
Number of referees required:	Three
Unit recruitment contact:	Ortenz Rose

2. Summary of duties

Each 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, Learning Analytics, Big Data, Data Visualization, Blockchain Technologies);

- Internet of Things (Smart Objects, Wearable Computing, Ambient Intelligence, Sensor Networks, Smart Cities, Smart Home Devices (e.g. speakers));

- New Media Technologies (New Media for Collaboration and Learning, Interfaces, Augmented Reality, Novel Interaction Techniques).

The two 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

These are senior appointments of high visibility and each 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. Each 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 each 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

(E) 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

Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

The Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is comprised:

- School of Computing & Communications
- School of Environment, Earth & Ecosystem Sciences
- School of Engineering & Innovation
- School of Life, Health & Chemical Sciences
- School of Mathematics & Statistics
- School of Physical Sciences
- Knowledge Media Institute (distinct research institute)
- Deanery including teams supporting Curriculum, Research and Enterprise, Laboratory Infrastructure and Faculty Administration

"We aspire to be world leaders in inclusive, innovative and high impact STEM teaching and research, equipping learners, employers and society with the capabilities to meet tomorrow's challenges"

The Faculty of STEM consists of 700 staff and 1,800 Associate Lecturers. The Faculty delivers over 185 modules across undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, supporting nearly 19,000 students (full time equivalents) which is 29% of the OU total.

The Faculty generates more research income (circa £17M) than any other Faculty in the University, supported by a comprehensive laboratory infrastructure.

We are proud of our distinctive values and capabilities underpinning our aspiration:

We are inclusive:
- We transform people's lives, ensuring STEM education is openly accessible to many thousands of students from diverse backgrounds – our students express high satisfaction with their study experience;
- We engage the public in exciting citizen science and engineering, including through free open educational resources, multi-platform broadcasting, outreach to inspire the next generation and with programmes to encourage more women into STEM.

We are highly innovative:
- We are at the forefront of innovative developments in teaching practical science and engineering at a distance, through simulated and remote access laboratories and practical experimentation;
- Our high quality teaching and curriculum are informed by world-leading research, strong links with professional bodies and communities of practitioners, as well as by scholarship focused on continuously improving our STEM pedagogy.

We deliver significant social and economic impact:
- We provide STEM higher education at a scale and reach unsurpassed in the UK, with a sizeable international reach and further growth potential;
- We inject transferable STEM skills and knowledge direct into the workplace for immediate employee and employer benefit, as students combine study while working;

- The employability value of our courses is underpinned by accreditation from leading STEM Professional Bodies and Learned Societies, as well as partnerships and sponsorship with leading employers;
- Our high quality, applied and academically relevant teaching and research addresses real-world issues, delivering impact for industry and society, including addressing pressing STEM skill-shortages across the UK.

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 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

Your application should contain:	a) A completed short application for employment form; b) An up-to-date CV; c) Covering letter (a maximum of 2,500 words). Please ensure you complete all relevant sections of the application form. Note that **any CVs submitted without a completed application for employment form will not be accepted**. Your covering letter should describe how your skills make you a suitable candidate for the post.
Please ensure that your application reaches the University by:	30 November 2017 at 5pm
E-mail your application to:	kmi-recruitment@open.ac.uk
Or post it to Name/Job title:	Ortenz Rose / KMi Senior Co-ordinator – Staffing & Recruitment
Department/Unit:	The Knowledge Media Institute (STEM)
Address:	The Open University, Walton Hall, MILTON KEYNES. Buck MK7 6AA

8. Selection process and date of interview

The interview panel will be chaired by:	Professor John Domingue - KMi Director
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.

(i)	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.