



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

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Vacancy reference: | 8253 |
| Job title: | Research Assistant / Research Associate |
| Reports to: | Senior Lecturer: Knowledge Media Disciplines |
| Salary: | Ranging from £27,578 – £35,938 |
| Terms and conditions of service: | Full time Research Staff |
| Grade: | AC1 / AC2 |
| Duration of post: | Until 31 st October 2013 |
| Working hours: | Full time – 37 hours per week |
| Location: | Knowledge Media Institute of The Open University |
| Closing date: | 30 th August 2012 |
| Type of application form accepted: | Standard form |
| Number of referees required: | Three |
| Unit recruitment contact: | Ortenz Rose |

2. Summary of duties

The Open University's Knowledge Media Institute (KMi) has an opening for a Research Assistant or Research Associate (depending on experience and qualification) to undertake research on Social Semantic Web and Web Science in the context of the EU-funded project [ROBUST](#).

The appointments will be made on the Academic Grade 1 or 2 Salary Scales for Research Staff, ranging from £27,578 – £35,938 pa depending on qualifications and experience. Appointment as a Research Associate requires a PhD or three years equivalent in quality of achievement.

Job Description

The objective of ROBUST is to analyse and manage business online communities, in order to support their wellbeing, to measure their created values and to explore the knowledge and information contained within. The current main focus of our work is on analysis and monitoring of online social behaviour and health of online communities.

You should have a strong interest and expertise in Social Media, Web Science, and Semantic Web and hold a degree in Computer Science or in other relevant disciplines. You must be able to combine scientific research with practical research and development in the project, and are willing to travel and work with the project's academic and industrial partners. This post offers you the opportunity to take leadership responsibilities and to participate in writing research proposals. Contract is extendible subject to your performance and achievement and availability of further research funding.

A strong publication record in high quality journals and conferences is essential, along with good technical and programming skills and good experience in Social Media and Data Mining. Experience in Social Network Analysis or Sociology is a good advantage. Good English communication and writing skills are necessary.

Relevant Publications

1. Rowe, Matthew; Fernandez, Miriam; Alani, Harith; Ronen, Inbal; Hayes, Conor and Karnstedt, Marcel (2012). [Behaviour analysis across different types of Enterprise Online Communities](#). In: *ACM web Science Conference 2012 (WebSci12)*, 22-24 June 2012, Evanston, US.
2. Rowe, Matthew; Fernandez, Miriam; Angeletou, Sofia and Alani, Harith (2012). [Community analysis through semantic rules and role composition derivation](#). *Journal of Web Semantics* (In press).
3. Angeletou, Sofia; Rowe, Matthew and Alani, Harith (2011). [Modelling and analysis of user behaviour in online communities](#). In: *10th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC 2011)*, 23 - 27 Oct 2010, Bonn, Germany.
4. Karnstedt, Marcel; Rowe, Matthew; Chan, Jeff; Alani, Harith and Hayes, Conor (2011). [The Effect of User Features on Churn in Social Networks](#). In: *ACM Web Science Conference 2011 (WebSci2011)*, 14 - 17 June 2011, Koblenz, Germany.
5. Rowe, Matthew; Angeletou, Sofia and Alani, Harith (2011). [Anticipating discussion activity on community forums](#). In: *Third IEEE International Conference on Social Computing (SocialCom2011)*, 09 - 11 Oct 2011, Boston, USA (forthcoming).
6. Alani, Harith; Szomszor, Martin; Cattuto, Ciro; den Broeck, Wouter Van; Correndo, Gianluca and Barrat, Alain (2009). [Live social semantics](#). In: *8th International Semantic Web Conference (ISWC)*, 25-29 Oct 2009, Westfields Conference Center, Washington, DC.

7. Singla, P. and Richardson, M. (2008) Yes, there is a correlation: - from social networks to personal behavior on the web, Proceeding of the 17th international conference on World Wide Web, Beijing, China.
8. Szomszor, Martin; Cantador, Iván and Alani, Harith (2008). [Correlating user profiles from multiple folksonomies](#). In: *Proceedings of the nineteenth ACM conference on Hypertext and hypermedia*, 19-21 June 2008, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

3. Person specification

You will play a central role in the R&D to be carried out on the main outcome of the project. You will have the opportunity to collaborate with other dynamic researchers in the field of web science and semantic web and social semantics in KMi. There will be the opportunity to develop your research profile, to travel to give demos and presentations, and to write technical and research publications. In your application you should demonstrate your technical skills and understanding Semantic Web and Social Media technologies and be willing to present/demo relevant previous work.

Essential Skills

- Experience with analysis and mining of social media data;
- Experience with existing semantic web standards, technologies, and tools;
- Ability to work in a team, take initiative, and work unsupervised;
- Ability to give talks in front of large audiences;
- Ability to work to strict deadlines;
- Very good publication record;
- Strong verbal and written communication skills;
- Ability to travel abroad;
- Good software skills.

Desirable Skills

- Experience with network analysis and data mining;
- Knowledge of social theories;
- Experience in statistical analysis of large datasets;
- Experience with databases and semantic web triple stores;
- Experience in the design and implementation of online applications;
- Familiarity with Linked Data principles and practices;
- Ability to initiate and write research proposals;
- Good organisational skills.

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 Dr Harith Alani on Tel: +44 (0)1908 659399 or email h.alani@open.ac.uk

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

7. The application process and where to send completed applications

Please ensure that your application reaches the University by: **30 August 2012**

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**

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 Dr Harith Alani. Other members of the interview panel will include members of the project team. Interviews will be arranged as soon after the close date as is possible.

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

Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.