# 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

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| Vacancy reference | 12680 |
| Job title: | Research Assistant / Associate |
| Reports to: | Senior Research Fellow, head of Data Science Group |
| Salary: | Ranging from £28,982 to £37,768 |
| Terms and conditions: | Full time Research Staff |
| Grade | AC1 / AC2 |
| Duration of post: | 12 months |
| Working hours: | 37 hours per week (full time, Monday to Friday) |
| Location: | Milton Keynes |
| Closing date: | 17 October 2016 |
| Type of application form accepted: | Standard or Accessible version |
| Number of referees required: | Three |
| Unit recruitment contact: | Ortenz Rose |

## 2. **Summary of duties**

We are looking for a bright and ambitious post-doctoral researcher to complement the Open University's Data Science Group, working at the interface between computer science and the social sciences on the non-technological implications of Data Science and Big Data. The successful applicant will have a profound understanding of the practices related to data management, data protection, privacy, ethics and data licencing, as applied both to large data-intensive processes (see e.g. MK:Smart) and to general public applications (including learning analytics - see e.g. AFEL).

The appointment will be made on the Academic Grade 1 or Grade 2 Salary Scales for Research Staff, ranging from £28,982 to £37,768 pa depending on qualifications and experience.

*JOB DESCRIPTION*

Joining an already strong Data Science group (http://datascience.kmi.open.ac.uk) within the Knowledge Media Institute of the Open University, you will be in charge of research studying the social and ethical challenges raised by the democratisation of Data Science technologies and practices, as enabled in particular through the technological research in the group. Working with computer scientists as well as researchers from the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Open University's business school, you will identify and study these challenges, with the aim to propose socio-technical solutions constructing to enable greater control and transparency over these issues for data producers and consumers. As a researcher, your role will also be to create and engage into collaborations with external partners, identify new direction for researcher and setup new funded projects to support this research.

Specific Tasks:

- Identify key societal and ethical bottleneck in the development of Data Science technologies and practices;
- Study specific issues around data curation, data protection and privacy raised by Data Science technologies and practices as considered in the group;
- Design, test and evaluate possible socio-technological solutions to these issues, working in collaboration with computer scientists and social scientists;
- Reach out to other units of the Open University to identify opportunities for and test the applicability of the developed research;
- Establish new collaborations and research direction within the Data Science Group, and participate in setting up funding proposals to support this research.

*RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION*

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

- d'Aquin, Mathieu, and Enrico Motta. "The Epistemology of Intelligent Semantic Web Systems." Synthesis Lectures on the Semantic Web: Theory and Technology 6, no. 1 (2016): 1-88.

- Daga, Enrico, Mathieu d'Aquin, Aldo Gangemi, and Enrico Motta. "Propagation of Policies in Rich Data Flows." In Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Knowledge Capture, p. 5. ACM, 2015.

- d'Aquin, Mathieu, Alessandro Adamou, Enrico Daga, Shuangyan Liu, Keerthi Thomas, and Enrico Motta. "Dealing with diversity in a smart-city datahub." In Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Semantics for Smarter Cities-Volume 1280, pp. 68-82. CEUR-WS. org, 2014.

- Daga, Enrico, Mathieu d'Aquin, Enrico Motta, and Aldo Gangemi. "A bottom-up approach for licences classification and selection." In European Semantic Web Conference, pp. 257-267. Springer International Publishing, 2015.

- d'Aquin, Mathieu, and Keerthi Thomas. "Modeling and reasoning upon facebook privacy settings." In Proceedings of the 2013th International Conference on Posters & Demonstrations Track-Volume 1035, pp. 141-144. CEUR-WS. org, 2013.

- Thomas, Keerthi, and Mathieu d'Aquin. "On the privacy implications of releasing consumer activity data." Knowledge Media Institute, Tech. Report kmi-13-02 (2013).

- d'Aquin, Mathieu, and Keerthi Thomas. "Consumer activity data: Usages and challenges." Knowledge Media Institute, Tech. Report kmi-12-03 (2012).

## 3. Person specification

### Requirements   (E = Essential/ D = Desirable)

**Education, qualifications and training**

A Master in Computer Science or related field, or equivalent experience. Appointment as a Research Associate requires a PhD in Computer Science or related field, or 2+ years equivalent in quality of achievement.

**Knowledge, work and other relevant experience**

| Essential: | • Knowledge and understanding of data related regulation and data protection practices;<br>• Experience in research on technologies and their applications;<br>• Strong experience in qualitative/empirical research methodologies;<br>• Skills in data interpretation and manipulation;<br>• Experience in working in collaborative, multidisciplinary environments. |
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| Desirable: | • Some programming and software development skills;<br>• Knowledge of data analytics technologies;<br>• Knowledge of web data standards. |

**Personal abilities and qualities**

| Essential: | • Excellent written and oral scientific communication skills, and proven ability to setup and engage in collaborative research;<br>• Ability to quickly demonstrate understanding of the project aims and specific tasks as requested;<br>• Self-starter in providing solutions to meet project needs;<br>• Ability to work to challenging targets and deadlines;<br>• Ability to handle constructive feedback. |
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| Desirable: | • Experience in using social and other media to communicate complex, technical research to a general public. |
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## 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 Mathieu d'Aquin by email: mathieu.daquin@open.ac.uk

If you have any questions regarding the application process please contact Ortenz Rose on +44 (0)1908 654774 or by 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: | 17 October 2016 |
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| Post it to: | Ortenz Rose |
| Name/Job title: | KMI Senior Admin Co-ordinator - Staffing & Recruitment |
| Department/Unit: | The Knowledge Media Institute |
| Address: | The Open University<br>Walton Hall<br>MILTON KEYNES<br>Bucks |
| Post Code: | MK7 6AA |
| Or e-mail your application to: | kmi-recruitment@open.ac.uk |

# 8. Selection process and date of interview

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| The interview panel will be chaired by: | Mathieu d'Aquin, Senior Research Fellow, Head of the Data Science Group |
| The other members of the interview panel will be: | Professor John Domingue, Director of the Knowledge Media Institute<br><br>NB: Other members to be confirmed |
| The interviews will take place on: | To be advised |
| The selection process for this post will include… | …a review of applications by the Chair and selected members of the interview panel.<br><br>a) Please ensure you complete all relevant sections of the application form. You are encouraged to also include a curriculum vitae; however **any CV submitted without a completed application for employment form will not be accepted**.<br><br>b) You are also asked to provide a covering letter describing how your skills make you a suitable candidate for the post. |

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| (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.<br><br>Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted. |