



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Professor in Informatics

School/department: Engineering and Informatics/Informatics

Hours: Part-time considered up to a maximum of 0.5 FTE

Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Location: Brighton, United Kingdom

Contract: Permanent

Reference: 20114

Salary: Competitive

Placed on: 02 June 2023

Closing date: 07 August 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected Interview date: 07 September 2023

Expected start date: As soon as possible

The School of Engineering and Informatics at the University of Sussex is appointing new academic staff in Computer Science and Artificial intelligence as part of a strategy to grow and complement the current strengths in the Department of Informatics.

We wish to appoint a Research Professor in Artificial Intelligence to work in the Department of Informatics and join our AI research group. The AI Research group was created through the merger of the Evolutionary and Adaptive Systems (EASy) and the Data Science groups. We conduct research and teach a wide range of AI related topics, often cross-disciplinary and with a unique Sussex angle. We collaborate internationally and locally with academics, businesses, and public stakeholders, working at the frontiers of knowledge, on solving real-world problems, and in policy and public outreach.

The successful candidate will undertake research within the department. They will be associated with the Artificial Intelligence research group and contribute to research leadership and research-led undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Applications should be accompanied by a full CV, and statements of future research plans.

Please contact Professor Ian Mackie I.Mackie@sussex.ac.uk, Head of the Department of Informatics, for informal enquiries.

The University is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are

under-represented in academic posts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEMM) at Sussex.

“Please note that this position may be subject to [ATAS clearance](#) if you require visa sponsorship.”

For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#)

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

Please note: The University requires that work undertaken for the University is performed from the UK.

2. The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the school/division at

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/ei/>

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: **Research Professor in Informatics**

Department: Informatics

Section/Unit/School: Engineering and Informatics

Location: Falmer, Brighton, UK

Grade: 10

Responsible to: Head of School

Responsible for: n/a

Key contacts: Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University, academics of similar standing in the field in other institutions.

Role Description: Professorial Fellow is the most senior career-grade research position. Professorial Fellows are expected to show high academic standing, to make a broad and sustained contribution to their field and the discipline both nationally and internationally, and to demonstrate sustained exceptional

performance in research. They will demonstrate academic leadership in research, and support the management and strategic planning processes of the School and the University.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in high-quality research activity resulting in high-quality publications to be submitted to the REF at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence; to lead major research projects; to consistently secure research funding and third-stream income; and to play a key role in the development and implementation of the School research strategy.
2. To provide guidance, support and mentoring to junior members of staff working in the same or cognate research areas.
3. To provide a significant contribution to School teaching and learning activities.
4. To support the management activities of the School and University.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

- 1.1 Play a leading role in the development and implementation of School research strategies and themes, and lead and co-ordinate research activity in own subject.
- 1.2 Identify and develop research objectives, and proposals for own or joint research.
- 1.3 Carry out independent research and act as a Principal Investigator or project leader on major research projects. This may involve leading and line managing the staff including their recruitment, probation, mentoring, performance review and staff development; managing the budget, and taking responsibility for the delivery of the programme.
- 1.4 Define research objectives and questions, review and synthesise the outcomes of research studies, and develop ideas for application of research outcomes.
- 1.5 Develop proposals for major research projects which will make a significant impact, and lead to an increase in knowledge or understanding or the development of new explanations, insights, concepts or processes.
- 1.6 Produce high-quality research outputs that are world-leading in the field, for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and make a significant contribution to the School's REF assessment at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.
- 1.7 Make presentations at national or international conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events of a similar standing and identify ways to disseminate research outputs informally via the internet and the media.
- 1.8 Develop and maintain an independent research reputation by, for example, serving on peer review committees, or acting as a referee for journal articles or research grant applications.
- 1.9 Play a key role in the management of the REF assessment exercise.
- 1.10 Provide academic leadership and inspiration to those working within own research area, and foster inter-disciplinary team-working.
- 1.11 Play a lead role in identifying sources of funding and securing bids, both individually and in collaboration with others.
- 1.12 Play a lead role in identifying and exploring opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, and in planning and managing these activities.
- 1.13 Lead and develop internal and external networks to foster collaboration on both an individual level and on behalf of others in the School, share information and ideas, and promote the subject and the University, both nationally and internationally.

- 1.14 Develop successful links with external contacts such as other educational and research bodies, employers, professional bodies and other providers of funding and research initiatives to foster collaboration and generate income, and to influence the external research and policy agenda.
- 1.15 Contribute to the enhancement of research quality and thinking in the field by being involved in quality assurance and other external decision-making bodies.
- 1.16 Act as a leading authority in the field or specialism, developing new knowledge, understanding and innovation in the area.
- 1.17 Conduct risk assessments and take responsibility for the health and safety of others, if required.

2. Teaching & Student Support

- 2.1 Undertake teaching duties, and contribute to the development of the curriculum in own area, if required.
- 2.2 Contribute to the development of teaching and learning strategies within the School.
- 2.3 Supervise postgraduate research students.

3. Contribution to School & University

- 3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
- 3.2 Contribute to the overall management of the School in areas such as budget management and business planning, if required.
- 3.3 Chair School or University committees, and participate in University decision-making and governance.
- 3.4 Contribute to School- and University-level strategic planning and development.
- 3.5 Advise and provide support to less experienced colleagues.
- 3.6 Mentor staff in related or cognate research areas within the School, providing advice on personal and career development plans, and assisting them in identifying and securing career development opportunities.
- 3.7 Undertake additional administrative duties, as required by the Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

- 4.1 Contribute to the activities of their research group.
- 4.2 Carry out a programme of research related to the activities of the Artificial Intelligence research group.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Publication of highly-regarded text books or other significant teaching materials for use in higher education, chosen by third parties on a discretionary basis.
- Evidence of sustained output of high-quality research publications or other recognised forms of output, subjected to peer review and describing significant discoveries, applications or observations.
- Evidence of providing academic leadership, development, mentoring and career management advice for colleagues, research assistants and students.
- Evidence of leadership in the discipline and cognate disciplines, demonstrating an ability to inspire colleagues to develop their own research potential, including partnerships with individuals and/or bodies of international standing.
- Sustained record of attracting funds year-on-year, which are notable awards in terms of size and scope, and of leadership of and collaboration in significant research projects and/or consultancy or work with external organisations.
- Transfer of intellectual property into the wider economy.
- Development of research and consulting relationships with other organisations, and development of business and community links that bring tangible benefits to the University.
- Sustained record of successful postgraduate research supervision.
- Academic distinctions (e.g. academic awards; editorship of, or refereeing for, journals; grant reviewer for awarding bodies; services for learned societies; election to Fellowships).
- Transfer of research findings into practical applications and/or enrichment of the wider culture through creativity in the social sciences, humanities and the visual and performing arts.
- External and visiting appointments.
- Influence on the formulation of policy.
- Advancement of the discipline through a distinctive contribution to intellectual leadership, professional, clinical or vocational practice.
- Evidence of enhancing the international standing and profile of the School and University.
- A sustained contribution to the delivery of University and/or School strategy.
- Evidence of exceptional collegiality.
- A leadership role within the University, creating significant performance improvement.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Educated to doctoral level in a relevant discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. In-depth knowledge of specialism to enable the development of new knowledge, innovation and understanding in the field.
3. Significant track record of influential publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
4. Successful and sustained track record of generating research and knowledge exchange income that is notable in terms of size and scope, and the translation of research results into practice.
5. Experience of successfully leading large externally-funded research projects.
6. An international reputation in the field of study.
7. Successful track record of supervising postgraduate students.
8. Evidence of proactive contribution to the School and/or University.
9. Excellent presentation skills, with the proven ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
10. Leadership and people management skills.
11. Ability to exercise a high degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
12. Commitment to collegiality and inter-disciplinary working.
13. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
14. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
15. A willingness to participate in support activities beyond normal teaching duties.
16. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. A track record of internationally excellent research in Computer Science and related fields.