



1 Advertisement

Post Title: LLM Research Fellow

School/department: School of Engineering and Informatics - Informatics

Hours: Part-time hours considered up to a maximum of 0.4 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Location: Brighton, United Kingdom

Contract: Fixed term for 12 months.

Reference: 20725

Salary: starting at £36,333 to £43,155 per annum, pro rata if part-time.

Placed on: 19 June 2023

Closing date: 03 July 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected interview date: To be confirmed

Expected start date: As soon as possible.

The Artificial Intelligence Research Group at the University of Sussex wishes to appoint a fixed-term Research Fellow to work with members of the Natural Language Processing group within the Department of Informatics to develop consulting services to businesses based on novel applications of Large Language Models.

Key Responsibilities

- To develop a deep understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of LLMs across a range of domains
- To establish a comprehensive picture of the ways in which they have been successfully deployed in commercial settings
- To seek out consulting opportunities in which the Sussex NLP group would provide advice regarding ways in which LLMs could be fruitfully exploited within the business.

Key Requirements

- A strong background in Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning
- A PhD in Natural Language Processing
- Experience in the application of NLP methods in practical applications
- Demonstrable experience in python programming and knowledge of various libraries used by the community e.g., pytorch, tensorflow and huggingface
- Prior experience in the use of LLMs

Applications should be accompanied by a full CV.

Please contact Professor David Weir, davidw@sussex.ac.uk 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.

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.

2. The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the school/division at <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/informatics/>

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: LLM Research Fellow

Department: Informatics

Section/Unit/School: School of Engineering and Informatics

Location: AI Group, Chichester 1

Grade: 7

Responsible to: Professor David Weir

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

- 1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.
- 1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.
- 1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
- 1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.
- 1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.
- 1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.
- 1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 1.8 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

- 2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.

- 2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.
- 2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

- 3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
- 3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

- 4.1 To develop a deep understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of LLMs across a range of domains
- 4.2 To establish a comprehensive picture of the ways in which they have been successfully deployed in commercial settings
- 4.3 To seek out consulting opportunities in which the Sussex NLP group would provide advice regarding ways in which LLMs could be fruitfully exploited within the business.

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

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

4. Person Specification

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).

2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.
3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
8. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. A strong background in Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning
2. A PhD in Natural Language Processing
3. Experience in the application of NLP methods in practical applications
4. Demonstrable experience in python programming and knowledge of various libraries used by the community e.g., pytorch, tensorflow and huggingface
5. Prior experience in the use of LLMs

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Prior experience in the use of LLMs
2. Successful track record in publishing at top-tier NLP venues such as ACL and EMNLP