1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in Sussex Humanities Lab
School/department: School of Engineering and Informatics/Department of Informatics
Hours: Part-time hours considered up to a maximum of 0.33 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Contract: Fixed Term, ending 31/07/2022.
Reference: 6037
Salary: Grade 7 starting at £33,797 to £40,322 per annum, pro rata
Placed on: 17 June 2021
Closing date: 01 July 2021
Expected start date: ASAP

Applications are invited for a part-time Research Fellow in the Sussex Humanities Lab and Department of Informatics’ TAG Laboratory at the University of Sussex.

The successful applicant should have a PhD in Computer Science or related discipline, with a strong background in natural language processing and machine learning.

The salary offered will be appropriate to the qualifications, standing and experience of the successful candidate. Informal enquiries are welcome and can be made to David Weir (d.j.weir@sussex.ac.uk).

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.
2. School/Division

The University of Sussex is a leading research-intensive university established in 1961. The Department of Informatics at Sussex is highly rated for its teaching and research. Its researchers work in an environment that was deemed to be wholly 4*/3* (world-leading/ internationally excellent) in the REF 2014.

The Sussex Humanities Lab (SHL) was originally established in 2015 as an infrastructure for strengthening the connections between researchers working on digital technology and computational culture across the humanities, social sciences and STEM. We apply innovative technological tools within arts, humanities and social science research, and explore technology’s role in shaping culture, society and environment. Our goals are to facilitate a rich culture of research and knowledge exchange; to design and deliver critical, innovative, interdisciplinary research projects; to capture major funding to expand our research capacity; and to ensure these gains become sustainably rooted in the University.

The TAG Laboratory was co-founded by Professor David Weir and Professor Jeremy Reffin, and undertakes research in both foundational and applied natural language processing (NLP). We also co-founded the Centre for Analysis of Social Media (CASM), and our CASM work is conducted alongside colleagues based at the think tank Demos.

The city of Brighton & Hove has everything - sun, sea, brilliant clubs, Premier League football club, great places to eat, fabulous shops, a truly cosmopolitan vibe and is located only 50min from central London. Located on the beach (only 30min by cycle from the University), Brighton boasts beautiful seaside views and beaches, boating, sports and beach activities. The South Downs provide breathtaking views, tranquil walks and plenty of opportunities for mountain biking, hiking or picnics.

3 Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in Sussex Humanities Lab

Department: Informatics
School: Engineering and Informatics
Location: Falmer Campus, Brighton, UK
Grade: Research Fellow, Grade 7
Responsible to: Professor David Weir
Role description: Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the SHL research team, and also to
develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.

2. To contribute to School teaching activities.

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 Develop and maintain software tools that are relevant to and support research activities in the Sussex Humanities Lab.

4.2 Engage with Sussex Humanities Lab researchers, contributing technical know-how relating to the role that computational technologies can play in their research.

4.3 To work with Sussex Humanities Lab researchers to develop proof of concept software prototypes in support of funding applications.

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.
PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally 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. Completion of a doctoral degree in Computer Science, Statistics, Physics, Mathematics or related disciplines.

2. Substantial research/industrial experience in machine learning and natural language processing.

3. Deep understanding of the current state of machine learning and natural language processing research.

4. High proficiency in programming with languages such as Java, Python, R or C++.

5. High proficiency in use of relational and noSQL database solutions.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.

2. Experience of supervising postgraduate research students.