Job Description – Senior Lecturer - Technology Enhanced Learning, Ref 17179

Reports to: TBC
Location: Milton Keynes
Grade: AC4 £52,560
Full Time 12 month fixed term contract

Purpose Statement of the Role

To conduct teaching, research and scholarship in support of the strategic aims of the Institute of Educational Technology and The Open University at the level appropriate for a Lectureship.

Members of IET are research active academics who enable the University to innovate the way it works with its learners and provide advice on learning and teaching to the University and other faculties and units. They must be excellent in their own teaching and understanding of the student learning experience, and also skilled communicators. Through the conduct of high-quality, internationally recognised research, members of IET contribute to and influence the direction of the University’s approach to teaching and learning, developing and maintaining the University’s reputation for excellence. We welcome in IET energetic people who can make creative contributions to community development and influence the direction of the Institute.

For the permanent post we are particularly interested in contributions in the area of Learning Analytics, automatic Assessment, Professional or Workplace Learning or Informal Learning or Artificial Intelligence in Education or Microcredentials and innovative pedagogy with new platforms for learning, or any other area of relevance to the work of the Institute of Educational Technology.

You will be excellent in your own teaching and understanding of the student learning experience, and also a skilled communicator. Through the conduct of high-quality, internationally recognised research, you will contribute to and influence the direction of the University’s approach to teaching and learning, developing and maintaining the University’s reputation for excellence.

Main Responsibilities

Develop, define and deliver to schedule learning and teaching projects agreed with the Director of IET, including independent and team working approaches to support the strategy of the Institute of Educational Technology and The Open University.

- Contribute to the teaching programme of Institute of Educational Technology through conducting teaching related projects and also future course development and presentation e.g. Microcredentials, Online and Distance Education Programme, open online courses on OpenLearn.
- To apply expertise that is aligned with some of the Research, and Innovation Programme areas.
- Conduct research agreed with the Associate Director (Research and Innovation) through bidding for and carrying out grant funded activities, publication of scholarly outcomes,
and engagement with national and international research communities appropriate to a high-quality assessed research unit.

- Undertake such other duties as may be required for the achievement of IET objectives, in consideration and agreement with the Associate Directors.

Skills and experience

**Essential:**

- PhD in Educational Technology, or a related area.
- Experience in leading teaching and learning in higher education.
- Experience in initiating and carrying out and leading research in Educational Technology or a related discipline.
- Experience of both quantitative and qualitative research analysis
- A publication records appropriate to a Senior Lecturer post in a University aiming for excellence within the REF.
- A record in leading and developing funded research in the field.
- Ability to help subject specialists carry out projects to assist the development of their scholarship and teaching
- Proven writing skills within the context of adult learning (permanent post only).
- Proven self-management and self-starting abilities.
- Demonstrably excellent team working skills.
- Demonstrably excellent interactive and interpersonal skills.
- Proven ability to present information clearly (orally and written) both to individuals and in group meetings.
- Good IT skills including expertise in using TEL to support learning.

**Desirable:**

- A qualification in teaching and learning in higher education.
- Experience of successful PhD supervision.
- Experience of qualitative research analysis.
- An up-to-date understanding of national and OU developments in enhancing the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.
- Experience in project management and planning applied to own work and the work of others.
- Experience of planning and delivering professional development activities.
Institute of Educational Technology (IET)

Mission
IET will provide engaged excellence in educational technology research and expertise to inform and improve the Open University’s mission.

EXCELLENCE
The development of an Institute of Educational Technology (IET) was integral to the founding and success of the OU, with a 1969 proposal for its inception arguing for staff “with special skills in all the modern methods of educational technology”. Since then IET has continued to play a pivotal role in helping the OU incorporate new educational technologies effectively into service for students and staff and maintain the OU’s reputation as a world leader in the field of educational technology. Now the OU faces a very different context to when it was founded, with a highly competitive environment in higher education and in lifelong learning. This means that it is essential for the Open University to maintain excellence and innovation in educational technology. This necessitates using the best ideas and research evidence to deliver worthwhile improvements in education.

In the next 5 years distance learning systems and pedagogies will have to deliver educational experiences that are highly valued, engaging, adaptable, and open to diverse people across the globe. The wider context for educational technology will be the growth in everyday uses of intelligent systems across all areas of life, changing how lives are lived and how life is intertwined with learning.

Professional development for staff involved in teaching, assessment, academic work and research needs to keep pace with these massive changes through development and networking approaches that are equally ambitious.

Research should be responsive to unexpectedly emerging practices and trends, yet it also needs to continue questioning and explaining the nature of education and its relationship to technology in the 21st century.

New forms of knowledge communication and exchange need to be practiced, bringing together academics, research users and wider groups and communities to share ideas, evidence and expertise.

There is great opportunity for innovation, yet innovation brings disruption, so it must genuinely benefit those who are affected. Taking care of people and being mindful of their individual responses in a complex and challenging world will be an increasingly important part of educational technology innovations and academic practices. IET is a crucial means of bring all these developments to the OU’s attention, championing the best ways forward and offering expertise and support.

ENGAGED
IET’s function is to engage and help the OU meet this challenge. In doing so, its activity can be classified into the following four components:

Finding - Through ‘Open-TEL’ we will create with the university faculties new knowledge in a specific area or discipline, engaging in educational technology research to stay abreast of developments and maintain a global reputation for excellence.

Linking - IET is independent of a particular unit, and this pan-university role gives it a unique insight into many applications across the university. This is realised by leading on strategic pan-University projects, which integrate educational technology into practice. This work enables the
co-development of approaches that can be applied across the University. This is realized by working with expertise in the faculties to co-create strategic pan-University projects, which integrate educational technology into practice. The benefit to the University is in developing pan-university perspectives, allowing for development of good practice and feeding into strategy.

**Application** - IET will undertake to support faculty ‘test and learn’ research applicable to the application of technology to educational problems. This is realised through embedded institutional research, active knowledge exchange and successful externally funded research projects to develop tools and applications. The benefit for the University is in co-creating with faculties educational technology and research that produces realistic benefits for the OU whilst maintaining a critical perspective in an area which is often dominated by hyperbole.

**Teaching** – IET staff work closely with colleagues in all units to develop a better understanding of student behaviour and how technology can be used to enhance that experience. Examples of our Pan-University work include; Quality Enhancement work (QME leading, Pedagogical Innovators, Assessment, TEF support); Academic Professional Development (including Applaud, Module Team Chair conference, Concordat, Career Development training); Knowledge Exchange (KE training, KEF support)

[https://iet.open.ac.uk/](https://iet.open.ac.uk/)