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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vacancy reference</th>
<th>14010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job title:</td>
<td>Research Fellow in Space Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports to:</td>
<td>Relevant Head of School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary:</td>
<td>£39,992 - £56,950</td>
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<td>Terms and conditions:</td>
<td>Research Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>AC3/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration of post:</td>
<td>Temporary contract until 31 July 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working hours:</td>
<td>Full time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Milton Keynes</td>
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<td>Closing date:</td>
<td>Noon on Monday 11 December 2017</td>
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<td>Type of application form accepted:</td>
<td>Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of referees required:</td>
<td>Three</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit recruitment contact:</td>
<td>Fiona McGavin</td>
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2. Summary of duties

This independent fellowship in Space Science is aimed at strengthening the Open University’s world-leading research in the space sciences, and is one of several new posts aimed at bringing in external expertise in the following core research themes of high strategic priority:

- The development and scientific exploitation of imaging and detection technologies
- Addressing global challenges using Space data
- Habitats for space exploration.

The successful applicant will have and maintain a strong independent research programme, adding value to existing research strengths within the STEM Faculty, and have the potential for research leadership. The successful candidate will have an excellent publication record with highly cited / high impact papers.

**Main duties**

The appointee will be expected to undertake a combination of the following duties at a level appropriate for their career stage:

1. **Research**
   - To undertake a self-directed programme of collaborative research and scholarship in a field that will contribute to the strengths of the research centre and at a level commensurate with the current standards of excellence in the Faculty.
   - To undertake research that is internationally excellent and leads to high-impact publications
   - To attract and supervise postgraduate research students
   - To generate grant income as appropriate
   - To participate in and host School and Faculty seminars and workshops aimed at sharing research outcomes and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration
   - To undertake professional development as an academic researcher.

2. **Outreach and Public Engagement**
   - To contribute to the STEM outreach activities of the Faculty
   - To participate in the national and international science community and learned societies
   - To enhance the reputation of the School, the Faculty and the University through scientific meetings and other activities.

3. **Administration & Management**
   - To engage with appropriate administrative tasks (e.g. workload planning, Career Development & Staff Appraisal)
   - To contribute effectively to relevant academic or management fora
   - To undertake a programme of continuous professional development.

4. **Other Responsibilities**
   - Comply with the University’s Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities policies in the performance of their duties
   - Co-operate with the Open University in ensuring as far as necessary, that Statutory Requirements, Codes of Practice, University Policies, and School Health and Safety arrangements are complied with
   - Have a strong commitment to the principles and practice of equality and diversity.

The successful candidate will be appointed to one of the schools within the STEM Faculty most closely aligned to their area of research interests and will be affiliated to the Space Science Research Area and will be expected to make an effective contribution to that academic community.
### 3. Person specification

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

**Education, qualifications and training**

PhD in a relevant discipline area

**Knowledge, work and other relevant experience**

| Essential: | • An excellent track record of independent research, as shown by highly-cited or high impact REF-eligible publications  
• Synergies with current and future research in the Space Sciences discipline, specifically in one of the core research themes  
• Demonstrable ability to participate collaboratively in future research programmes  
• Track record of obtaining external funding, considering stage of career  
• A good record of demonstrable research impact, commensurate with stage of career  
• Experience of managing post-doctoral workers and research budgets, commensurate with stage of career  
• Demonstrable experience of administrative and managerial responsibilities in research |
| --- | --- |
| Desirable: | • Experience of working in/with industry  
• Some experience of teaching support, training, supervision or outreach in a relevant subject area  
• Experience of working with and influencing policy makers, governmental and/or non-governmental institutions |

**Personal abilities and qualities**

| Essential: | • Ability to work collaboratively with others in an interdisciplinary context for research  
• Ability to develop a leadership role in research, commensurate with stage of career  
• Ability to participate in a research programme compatible with the Faculty of STEM research strategy and the interests of other research groups in the School and Faculty  
• The ability to work adaptively and responsively with a variety of colleagues in multidisciplinary teams  
• Excellent communication skills, both oral and written in a variety of contexts, including the ability to offer and receive constructive criticism  
• Ability to plan and organise work to agreed deadlines  
• Commitment to the aims, ethos and values of the Open University |
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<td>Desirable:</td>
<td>• Ability to develop new collaborative partnerships within the University and with external organisations</td>
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4. Role specific requirements e.g. Shift working

5. About the unit/department

**Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics**
The Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is comprised:

- School of Computing & Communications
- School of Environment, Earth & Ecosystem Sciences
- School of Engineering & Innovation
- School of Life, Health & Chemical Sciences
- School of Mathematics & Statistics
- School of Physical Sciences
- Knowledge Media Institute
- Deanery including teams supporting Curriculum, Research and Enterprise, Laboratory Infrastructure and Faculty Administration

“We aspire to be world leaders in inclusive, innovative and high impact STEM teaching and research, equipping learners, employers and society with the capabilities to meet tomorrow’s challenges”

The Faculty of STEM consists of 700 staff and 1,800 Associate Lecturers. The Faculty delivers over 185 modules across undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, supporting nearly 19,000 students (full time equivalents) which is 29% of the OU total.

The Faculty generates more research income (circa £17M) than any other Faculty in the University, supported by a comprehensive laboratory infrastructure.

We are proud of our distinctive values and capabilities underpinning our aspiration:

*We are inclusive:*
- We transform people’s lives, ensuring STEM education is openly accessible to many thousands of students from diverse backgrounds – our students express high satisfaction with their study experience
- We engage the public in exciting citizen science and engineering, including through free open educational resources, multi-platform broadcasting, outreach to inspire the next generation and with programmes to encourage more women into STEM

*We are highly innovative:*
- We are at the forefront of innovative developments in teaching practical science and engineering at a distance, through simulated and remote access laboratories and practical experimentation
- Our high quality teaching and curriculum are informed by world-leading research, strong links with professional bodies and communities of practitioners, as well as by scholarship focused on continuously improving our STEM pedagogy

*We deliver significant social and economic impact:*
- We provide STEM higher education at a scale and reach unsurpassed in the UK, with a sizeable international reach and further growth potential
We inject transferable STEM skills and knowledge direct into the workplace for immediate employee and employer benefit, as students combine study while working.

The employability value of our courses is underpinned by accreditation from leading STEM Professional Bodies and Learned Societies, as well as partnerships and sponsorship with leading employers.

Our high quality, applied and academically relevant teaching and research addresses real-world issues, delivering impact for industry and society, including addressing pressing STEM skill-shortages across the UK.

**Space Science Research at the OU**

The Open University has committed, through the creation of the Space Strategic Research Area (Space SRA), to generating a step-change in its capability to address global challenges and its role in the growth of the space sector of the UK economy. The aim of the Space SRA is to contribute to significant cross-fertilization of people, instrumentation, and ideas. To support research infrastructure, develop research leadership, and cultivate new collaborations and partnerships. Investment is centred on new research activity that will be deliver research impact strategically aligned with the three core SRA themes:

- The development and scientific exploitation of imaging and detection technologies
- Research in analytical and space flight instrumentation
- Addressing global challenges using Space data

**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 Dr Ross Burgon on +44 1908 659602 or email: ross.burgon@open.ac.uk

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact Fiona McGavin on +44 (0) 1908 858110 or email: STEM-Recruitment@open.ac.uk.

**7. The application process and where to send completed applications**

| Your application should contain: | 1. A completed short application form  
| | 2. Covering letter  
| | 3. CV which includes details of academic qualifications, teaching, management, and research experience including grants received and publications. |
| Please ensure that your application reaches the University by: | Noon on Monday 11 December 2017 |
| E-mail your application to: | STEM-Recruitment@open.ac.uk |
| Or post it to Name/Job title: | Fiona McGavin, Staffing Adviser |
| Department/Unit: | Deanery, Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics |
| Address: | The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA |
8. Selection process and date of interview

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<tr>
<th>The interview panel will be chaired by:</th>
<th>Prof. Helen Sharp</th>
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| The other members of the interview panel will be: | Prof. Andrew Holland  
TBC  
TBC |
| The interviews will take place on: | TBC |
| The selection process for this post will include | Interview |

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.

Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.