Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Computing & Communications (2 posts)

Permanent - Full time  
Grade AC3/AC4  
Walton Hall, Milton Keynes

The Role

We are seeking candidates with a strong background in at least one of the following two areas:
- Network engineering and security  
- Digital communication technologies

We aim to appoint inspiring and innovative teachers and scholars, who enjoy developing novel approaches to teaching and research, and is effective in working collaboratively with colleagues.

Since its inception, The Open University (OU) has focused on innovation in teaching and learning, with a track record of providing inspiring, world-leading programmes of higher education for students who learn at a distance. Building on award-winning initiatives such as the OpenSTEM Labs and the Institute of Coding, the University is committed to delivering the highest quality teaching, together with excellent research. We provide rewarding academic career paths that are focused on world-class teaching, research, and knowledge exchange.

We welcome applicants from a range of backgrounds, including professionals from academia and industry. Applicants will be appointed at Lecturer or Senior Lecturers based on their track record in research, teaching and academic leadership. In line with our commitment to the Athena SWAN initiative and the Race Equality Charter, we welcome and support all applicants equally.

Key Duties

Teaching

- Actively contribute to the design and teaching of a high-quality distance learning curriculum in digital communications and/or computer networking technologies, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Be an active member of the School of Computing & Communications to help deliver academic excellence by:
  - developing innovative and effective teaching approaches, drawing upon educational scholarship and industry best practice as appropriate
  - developing novel models for assessing practical competencies as well as domain knowledge
  - promoting employability and career progression for our students.
Research, scholarship and knowledge exchange

- Pursue high quality research in digital communications and/or computer networking technologies or a related area (including supervising research students)
- Enhance our links with industry to enable teaching and research collaborations and knowledge exchange
- Attract external income to the School
- Contribute to the vibrant scholarship environment in the School.

General

- Act as an ambassador, both internally and externally, for the academic excellence of the School, Faculty and University.
- Take responsibility for administrative and/or other academic duties as required by the Head of School.
- Contribute to the outreach activities of the School, Faculty and University.
Person Specification

Skills and experience

**Essential:**

- A PhD, or substantial experience, in a relevant area
- Ability to contribute to the distance teaching of communications and networking.
- Expertise in digital communications and/or computer networking, with a good understanding of recent developments (*commensurate with career stage*).
- Ability to undertake high quality research and produce research/scholarly publications in a relevant subject (*commensurate with career stage*).
- An understanding of the educational and study needs of students, particularly those studying part-time at a distance (*commensurate with career stage*).
- Evidence of, or the potential to deliver, innovative teaching.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to collaborate effectively in multidisciplinary teams.
- Excellent written and spoken English skills, together with the ability to offer and receive constructive criticism.
- Ability to plan, organise and complete work to agreed deadlines.
- Commitment to the aims, ethos and values of the Open University.

**Desirable:**

- Experience of producing distance/online learning materials and assessment materials.
- Experience of supporting students in a distance/online learning setting.
- Evidence of successful research student supervision.
- Relevant professional qualifications, such as CISSP, CCNA, CCNP.
- Fellowship (or higher) of the UK Higher Education Academy, or equivalent teaching experience/standing in the UK or in another country (*commensurate with career stage*).
- Ability to develop new collaborative partnerships within the University and with external organisations (*commensurate with career stage*).
- Successful experience of gaining external funding (*commensurate with career stage*).
Panel and Interview

The interview panel will be chaired by:
   Rachael Luck, Associate Dean Research & Scholarship

The other members of the interview panel will be:
   Arosha K. Bandara, Head of School – Computing & Communications
   Helen Donelan, Senior Lecturer, School of Computing & Communications
   + 2 other members, to be confirmed

The interviews will take place on:
   To be confirmed

The selection process for this post will include:
   A short, specified teaching activity to be completed before the interview date
   A presentation of aspects of your teaching, research and/or other professional activities to members of the School.

   The teaching activity and presentation will be discussed with you as part of the interview process.
About the Unit

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 2500 staff including 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.

School of Computing & Communications

The School of Computing and Communications has around 80 academic and research staff, and is home for a number of visiting researchers and full-time and part-time research students.

Our vision is to empower our students and wider society through life-changing learning and excellent research in computing & communications.

We teach a comprehensive range of undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications. Most of our students are studying part-time, and they study at different rates. We have the equivalent of over 4600 full-time students registered for our undergraduate and postgraduate degrees across the UK and Europe, and approximately 30 PhD students studying both full and part-time. We have a degree apprenticeship in Digital Technology Solutions in England. In Scotland we have undergraduate degree apprenticeships in Software Engineering, Cybersecurity and IT Management for Business, and an MSc apprenticeship in Cybersecurity. We also have a degree apprenticeship in Software Engineering in Wales.

We pioneered an online Introduction to Cyber Security MOOC (http://bit.ly/1pMMKhk), hosted on Futurelearn, which has been studied by over 200,000 learners worldwide. We also have extensive Open Educational Resources hosted by OpenLearn and have a robotics lab funded by HEFCE.

We aim for, and achieve, international excellence in research and teaching. The OU’s Computing research performed strongly in the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) assessment, with 75% of outputs rated world-leading or internationally-excellent, and an excellent research environment (100% rated world-leading or internationally-excellent).

We focus on the use of technology to enhance people’s lives. Our research is:

- Empowering: placing people at the centre
- Situated: focusing as much on context as on technology
- Interdisciplinary: creatively crossing discipline borders to give fresh perspectives and solutions.

Our strong sense of collegiality and community continues to shape and direct the interdisciplinary approaches used throughout our work. The School of Computing and Communications holds the Athena SWAN Bronze Award and is committed to transforming gender equality. We offer a highly flexible working environment and working practices which are family-friendly.

Athena SWAN Bronze Award