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>14493</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job title:</td>
<td>Senior Lecturer in Computing and Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports to:</td>
<td>Head of School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary:</td>
<td>£50,618 - £56,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms and conditions:</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>AC4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of post:</td>
<td>Fixed-term for 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working hours:</td>
<td>Full Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Milton Keynes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing date:</td>
<td>12 noon, Thursday 29 March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of application form accepted:</td>
<td>Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of referees required:</td>
<td>Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit recruitment contact:</td>
<td>Mary Dahunsi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Summary of duties

The post holder will be a member of the Open University team, comprising academics and technology specialists in cyber security, data science, learning analytics and distributed ledger technologies, who are leading the “University Learners” theme of the Institute of Coding (IoC - www.instituteofcoding.org). The Institute is a unique and innovative collaboration led by University of Bath, Aston University, Coventry University, and Queen Mary University of London, that is supported by £20m from the Higher Education Funding Council for England and match funding from universities and industry partners. This is a hugely exciting new venture to try to address the digital skills gap: equipping learners of all disciplines to fulfil their potential in the digital economy and meet employment needs. This post will be key part of the development and of the OU’s contributions to this initiative.

The successful applicant will have an understanding of the needs of industry and a passion for teaching machine learning, artificial intelligence and related topics, ideally in the context of a data science curriculum. In addition, the applicant will be expected to develop their own scholarship or research agenda in an area aligned with the goals of the Institute of Coding.

Main Duties
As a member of academic staff, the appointee will be expected to undertake a combination of the following duties at a level appropriate for their career stage:

1. Teaching
   a. To contribute to the development, planning and implementation of a high-quality data science curriculum, with a specific focus on machine learning and artificial intelligence;
   b. To prepare excellent learning and assessment materials suitable for flexible online delivery;
   c. To contribute to the delivery and quality enhancement of this curriculum;
   d. To contribute to the briefing, debriefing and training of part-time teaching staff delivering this curriculum;
   e. To contribute to the assurance and enhancement of the quality of teaching and learning within the School, in line with University standards;

2. Research, Scholarship and knowledge exchange
   f. To pursue scholarship or research aligned with the goals of the Institute of Coding;
   g. To publish scholarship or research in ways which have high impact;
   h. To contribute to the continuing development of an excellent and vibrant research and scholarship environment in the School;
   i. To participate in School and Faculty seminars and workshops aimed at sharing research and scholarship outcomes and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration;

3. General
   j. To engage in appropriate professional development;
   k. To participate in Institute of Coding activities and act as an ambassador for the institute in external engagement activities.
3. Person specification

Requirements

Education, qualifications and training

● A PhD, or substantial experience, in Computing and Communications or a relevant discipline area

Knowledge, work and other relevant experience

Essential:

● Ability to contribute to the teaching and assessment of data science, with a particular focus on machine learning and artificial intelligence
● Evidence of innovation in teaching
● Understanding of the needs of industry
● The ability to work with employers
● Evidence of high-quality scholarship or research in an area aligned with the goals of the Institute of Coding
● Demonstrable ability to write clear and accessible distance learning material
● An understanding of the need of individual learners

Desirable:

● Experience of working in industry as a professional data scientist or machine learning specialist.
● Higher Education professional accreditation
● Experience of producing online learning materials
● Experience of supporting students in a distance-learning setting
● Successful experience of gaining external funding

Personal abilities and qualities

Essential:

● Ability to develop a leadership role in teaching and/or research/scholarship, commensurate with stage of career
● The ability to work innovatively, adaptively and responsively 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

Desirable:

● Ability to develop new collaborative partnerships within the University and with external organisations

4. Role specific requirements e.g. Shift working
## 5. About the unit/school

### Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

The Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) comprises:

- 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 more than 20,000 students (full time equivalents) which is 29% of the OU total.

The Faculty generates more research income (circa £20M) 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
The School of Computing and Communications has around 80 academic and research staff, and is also home for a number of visiting researchers and both full-time and part-time research students. Our main research interests lie in the areas of security/privacy, software engineering, communication technology, human-computer interaction, ubiquitous computing, computer science education, technology enhanced learning, computational linguistics, the history of technology, and critical information studies. Our objectives are to:

- Transform students’ lives through innovative and dynamic teaching enriched by world-class research and scholarship.
- Develop graduates with technical, analytical and creative skills who meet the highest expectations of employers and who can make a difference in their workplaces.
- Lead and shape the digital revolution through people-centred, interdisciplinary, collaborative research and scholarship that transforms society.
- Look outwards to engage with individuals and external bodies, sharing our knowledge and developing mutually beneficial partnerships, so together we can create a more technically and socially aware digital society.
- Be a vibrant, agile and inclusive academic community that promotes academic excellence in all areas of teaching, research and external engagement.

We teach a comprehensive range of undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications. We have approximately 11,000 students registered for our undergraduate BSc degree. An example of our innovative teaching is the 'Introduction to Cyber Security' MOOC (http://bit.ly/1pMMKhk), hosted on Futurelearn, which has been studied by over 40,000 learners worldwide.

We aim for, and achieve, international excellence in research and teaching, leading on many projects including smart cities development. 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 (up from 70% in 2008), and an excellent research environment (100% rated world-leading or internationally-excellent).

The School’s research is:

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

In other words, we focus on the use of technology to enhance human experience.

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 promoting gender equality.

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 Professor Arosha Bandara on +44 (0)1908 653545 or email: STEM-CC-HOS@open.ac.uk.

If you have any questions regarding the application process please contact Mary Dahunsi on +44 (0)1908 659573 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. A covering letter which explains how you satisfy the Person Specification  
|                                | 3. CV which includes details of academic qualifications, teaching, management, and scholarship/research experience including grants received and publications. |
| Please ensure that your application reaches the University by: | 12 noon, Thursday 29 March 2018 |
| E-mail your application to:    | STEM-Recruitment@open.ac.uk |
| Or post it to Name/Job title:  | Mary Dahunsi, Staffing Adviser |
| School/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

| The interview panel will be chaired by: | Member of STEM Faculty Executive, to be confirmed |
| The other members of the interview panel will be: | Michel Wermelinger, C&C Institute of Coding Lead  
|                                           | David Morse, Director of Teaching  
|                                           | + 2 others, to be confirmed |
| The interviews will take place on:       | To be confirmed |
| For shortlisted candidates, the selection process for this post will include | 1. A short, specified teaching activity to be completed before the interview date;  
|                                           | 2. A presentation of an aspect of your research or scholarship work to representatives of the school.  
|                                           | The teaching text and presentation will be discussed with you as part of the interview process. |

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.