

Job Title: Research Associate

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,906 to £41,064 per annum due to external funding restrictions, pro-rata if part-time

Department: School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences

Hours/Contract: Full-time or job share, fixed term contract from 01 January 2027 to 31 December 2029

Reference: 13637

Role Purpose

The post holder will be responsible for the day-to-day delivery of project activities under the supervision of the line manager. Responsibilities will include planning and conducting research using appropriate qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods approaches; supporting the design, development and evaluation of Human-AI interaction frameworks; contributing to co-design and stakeholder engagement activities; analysing research findings; and disseminating outcomes through high-quality publications and presentations.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To undertake on-going research and development in the ABIGAIL-4D project.
- In agreement with the line manager, to deliver research as part of a collaborative team and contribute to the achievement of specific research objectives. This will involve working with academic and research staff in the Schools of Computing and Mathematical Sciences, Genetics and Genome Biology and Cancer Sciences at the University of Leicester; the post holder will also have to be working with academic, industry and service partners across Europe.
- To plan and conduct research with wide range of adult patients, clinicians and other healthcare-related professionals, utilising recognised approaches, methodologies and techniques within the research area. For example, planning and designing co-design workshops and controlled sessions, focus groups, interviews, laboratory experiments and field studies.
- To analyse and present quantitative and qualitative data, interpret reports, evaluate and criticise texts and bring new insights to the research area.
- To submit proposals for ethical review, recruit research participants, and develop innovative theory and methods where appropriate.
- To contribute to research outputs as a co-author to high quality academic journals articles, technical papers, monographs, book chapters, and contribute to dissemination at national/international conferences, resulting in successful research outputs.
- To build relationships with both internal and external contacts in order to exchange information, to form relationships for future collaborations and identify potential sources of funds and/or opportunities for collaboration.
- To contribute to collaborative decision-making with colleagues in the area of research.
- To feed back to the project team on progress, to make recommendations for next steps and to help prepare interim and final project reports and deliverables.





- To present the results of research at project progress meetings.
- To plan and manage own research activity and resolve problems, if required, in meeting own/team research objectives and deadlines in collaboration with others.
- To assist in the co-ordination of the research and related administrative tasks, including liaising with external project collaborators and providing assistance with supervision of doctoral students.
- To contribute to organising workshops and meetings as appropriate.
- To work effectively with relevant administrative, technical and academic staff in the School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences and across the University.
- To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.
- To work outside normal office hours at peak times, if required and to travel frequently to sites of research throughout the UK and overseas as required.
- To engage in training programmes in the University (e.g. through Staff Development) which are consistent with PDRAs needs and aspirations and those of the project team and the host School.
- To actively seek opportunities to carry out multi-disciplinary research with other research groups at the University or stakeholders external to the University, with the approval of the line manager.

Professional Development

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that support own professional development.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange

- Network and contribute to the maintaining and furthering of the wider research programme and research area
- To contribute to industry collaborations
- To consult effectively on own specialism directly with people external to the University
- To engage positively and pro-actively in research impact

Leadership and Citizenship

- Guidance to other team members both research staff and students
- Pro-actively build networks and collaborations.
- Providing mentoring and coaching to Early Career Researchers and research students.

Internal and External Relationships

- Regular meetings with members of the programme research group
- Meeting members of the School for critical discussion of the research and exchange of new ideas and approaches that might benefit the research
- Liaison with external collaborators





Planning and Organising

You will be required to effectively manage your time to plan your research activity and to deliver on the priorities of the project:

- Prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules;
- Plan for specific aspects of research incorporating issues such as deadlines, project milestones and overall research aims;
- Adapt daily and weekly plans to accommodate new developments and be flexible to the changing priorities of the research project;

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- PhD (close to submission/ submitted or awarded) or equivalent in appropriate discipline or the equivalent professional qualification and experience e.g. Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Human Factors/Ergonomics, Product Design or a closely related area*
- Evidence of a contribution to peer-reviewed journal papers or equivalent e.g. technical report/writing a piece of software*
- Evidence of proven analytical problem-solving capability*
- Expertise in relevant approaches/models and analytical techniques and ability to develop new ones where required*
- Knowledge of participatory design and co-design methods*
- Evidence of continued development of subject expertise*
- Experience in experimental design
- Experience of writing scientific reports and participation in academic and/or industrial conferences.*

Desirable

- Experience of interdisciplinary research.
- Relevant post-doctoral research experience with a track record of publication in leading academic journals and conferences.
- Record of research publications submitted or accepted in relevant area.
- Experience of working in large-scale multidisciplinary research projects.
- Experience of working closely with industrial partners and end users.

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Willingness and ability to work with internal and external stakeholders





- Excellent communication skills – written* and verbal evidenced by the ability to communicate complex information
- Ability to analyse and present quantitative and qualitative data, interprets reports, evaluate and criticise texts and bring new insights
- Ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques and methods
- Ability to conduct interviews and focus groups
- Ability to evaluate technologies (e.g. on their effectiveness, usability etc.)
- Evidence of working effectively as part of a team and the ability to work independently
- Competent IT skills - word-processing, statistical and analytic software and Internet usage
- Capacity and capability to travel to conduct research as required by the project

Desirable

- Budget management skills
- European language skills.
- Working towards independence and ability to be involved in collaborative research
- Evidence and commitment to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for yourself, and encourage commitment to learn and develop in others

****Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview***

Reason for Fixed Term Contract

The reason for the fixed term contract is stated in section 1.9 in the summary of contractual terms in your contract of employment.

Criminal Declaration

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.

Supporting University Activities

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are encouraged to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We encourage all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required. If supporting these activities is likely to affect your workload, please speak to your line manager in the first instance.





University Values

Inclusive - We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

Inspiring - We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

Impactful - As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community

Freedom of Speech

The University is committed to upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law throughout our recruitment processes. We ensure that all candidates are considered based on merit and suitability for the role, without regard to their lawful viewpoints or the expression of challenging or controversial ideas. Our recruitment policies and practices are designed to protect applicants from discrimination or adverse treatment on the basis of their opinions, and to foster an environment where open debate and diverse perspectives are valued as essential to our academic mission.

Equity and Diversity

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equality support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equality, diversity and inclusion.

