Regius Chair in Logic (Artificial Intelligence)
School of Natural and Computing Sciences

Closing date: 9 June 2019
Interview date: To be confirmed
Reference number: NCS143A
Introduction

The School of Natural and Computing Sciences is a vibrant and dynamic centre, internationally renowned for excellence both in teaching and research. It comprises four academic departments, namely: Chemistry, Computing Science, Mathematics and Physics. Hosting over 95 academic and research staff, 80 research students, 75 postgraduate taught students and 680 undergraduates; it is a close knit and friendly community, based on the main campus at Kings College.

As part of an institution-wide investment in Artificial Intelligence, the School is looking to appoint a highly experienced international research leader to the Regius Chair in Logic, a position founded in 1860. The Regius chair in Logic was previously situated in Philosophy. Until 2015, it was occupied by Professor Crispin Wright, but is now associated with Computing Science. Only 14 Regius chairs have been granted since the reign of Queen Victoria, and the post-holder will be only the second Regius chair appointed in an area related to Computing Science.

Applicants are expected to take a leading role within Computing Science, complementing the School’s existing research portfolio which covers areas of artificial intelligence including human/AI collaboration; explainable AI; multi-agent systems; natural language technologies; machine learning and knowledge representation and reasoning. AI Research within Computing Science spans the spectrum from fundamental theoretical work to applications across multiple domains, and the post-holder will be expected to provide leadership and drive all aspects of such research.

Computing Science at Aberdeen currently has 16 members of staff, 11 post-doctoral research fellows, and 40 PhD students. Research is underpinned by a strong and broad funding portfolio based around two overarching themes (Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security, and Artificial Intelligence), with nearly £4M in funding over the past five years from research councils, charities, the EU, and industry. In REF2014, the unit was ranked 16th in the UK in terms of research intensity, with 75% of outputs ranked as 3* or 4*. Much of the research is interdisciplinary in nature, reflecting the department’s involvement with, and funding from, the RCUK Digital Economy theme; most notable of which was the award of a Digital Economy Hub (2009-2015).

The department runs two highly successful taught MSc programmes: a specialist MSc in Artificial Intelligence, and an MSc in Information Technology. At the undergraduate level, teaching revolves around the 4-year BSc (Hons) degree, as well as multiple joint degrees taught with other disciplines.
Job description

Main purpose of the role:

The School is looking to appoint a highly experienced internationally recognised research leader to the Regius Chair in Logic.

Applicants should have research interests that complement the School’s existing research strengths in artificial intelligence. We are particularly interested in individuals with expertise in one or more of the following: formal models of artificial intelligence; human/AI collaboration and explainable AI; multi-agent systems; and those working in machine learning at the boundary of symbolic and non-symbolic AI.

The appointee will be expected to:

- Provide research leadership in artificial intelligence, working closely with staff across the School and wider institution.
- Help grow research income by opening up additional national and international funding streams.
- Contribute to the impact of research through collaborations with industry and by advising national or international bodies.
- Collaborate across the department, school and institution to foster interdisciplinary research initiatives.
- Attract high quality international PhD students and research staff.
- Increase teaching capacity, enabling us to enhance undergraduate, postgraduate and CPD offerings in response to market demand.

The successful candidate will be expected to teach on a broad range of computing science lectures, laboratory classes and tutorials, and undertake administrative duties as necessary.

Key responsibilities:

Research

- Take a leadership role in setting and supporting School and institutional research priorities.
- Engage with external stakeholders (including funders) to influence future priorities.
- Conduct cutting-edge research which complements existing strengths.
- Establish a high quality, externally funded research programme that acts as a focus for others within the School and across the institution, to develop their research output.
- Promote and support the School’s academic profile at both national and international levels.
- To create and enhance research collaborations with academic and non-academic partners nationally and internationally.
- Take responsibility for the supervision and training of postgraduate research students.

Teaching & Promotion of Learning

- To contribute to the design, development, delivery, assessment and administration of a broad range of existing and new undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses and programmes.
• To identify and pursue strategic opportunities to enhance teaching provision within and across the institution.

**Administrative & Support**

• To supervise students directly, providing a high standard of support and help.

• To provide leadership, mentoring and collaboration opportunities to colleagues.

• To undertake appropriate administrative duties, as determined by the Head of School and Academic Line Manager.
Candidate background

Applications are invited from candidates who can demonstrate a world-class research and academic leadership profile in an appropriate area, as evidenced by publications in prestigious academic conferences and journals; they should also demonstrate a sustained track record in securing high levels of research funding and successful research student supervision.

Candidates should have significant teaching experience, being able to inspire and enthuse undergraduate and postgraduate students about artificial intelligence, and should be excellent communicators, able to engage a wide range of audiences.

The successful candidate will be expected to take on a research leadership position, working closely with staff across the department and wider institution to conduct world-leading research, attract grant funding, and enhance the University’s teaching offering.

Terms of appointment

A competitive remuneration package will be available for exceptional candidates considered at Professorial level.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

Should you require a visa to undertake paid employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship and Tier 2 visa. As appropriate, at the time an offer of appointment is made you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of financial maintenance and competency in English. Please do not hesitate to contact Heather Clark, HR Adviser on +44 (0)1224 273244 or email h.m.clark@abdn.ac.uk for further information.
### Person specification

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<th>Education/Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<td>Academic, technical and professional education and training</td>
<td>PhD in computer science or a related discipline.</td>
<td>Membership of appropriate professional/learned institutions.</td>
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<td>Appropriate academic professional and teaching qualification (e.g. FHEA).</td>
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<th>Work and Other relevant experience (including training)</th>
<th>Essential</th>
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<td>eg Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research</td>
<td>World-class record of publications in leading international conferences and journals.</td>
<td>Formal training in performance of colleagues through line management, coaching and mentoring.</td>
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<td>Demonstrable evidence of leadership and international reputation in chosen research field.</td>
<td>Evidence of leadership in undergraduate and/or postgraduate teaching.</td>
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<td>Excellent research profile with ability to develop and lead research projects.</td>
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<td>Sustained track record in securing high levels of research funding.</td>
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<td>Evidence of contribution to the development and performance of colleagues through line management, coaching and mentoring.</td>
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<td>Experience in the development and delivery of taught courses at undergraduate or postgraduate level.</td>
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<td>Experience of supervision of students at undergraduate and postgraduate (inc. doctoral) levels.</td>
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<th>Personal qualities and abilities</th>
<th>Essential</th>
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<td>eg initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills</td>
<td>Evidence of leadership skills.</td>
<td>Ability and willingness to work in multidisciplinary environment.</td>
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<td>Excellent written, oral and presentation skills.</td>
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<td>Ability to think creatively and innovatively and impart enthusiasm for the subject.</td>
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<td>Proven organisational abilities, including evidence of effective time-management and negotiating skills.</td>
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<td>Good interpersonal skills with the ability to interact constructively with a wide range of colleagues.</td>
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- Excellent networking skills in order to develop strong relationships with external partners and with academics and researchers from other institutions.
- Ability to contribute, professionally and otherwise, to the life of the School and the University.
- Experience of leading and nurturing complex teams.

**Other**

eg special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.

- Willing to travel nationally and internationally in support of teaching and research.
- Ongoing commitment to personal career development.
The University

Founded in 1495, Aberdeen is Scotland’s third oldest University and the fifth oldest in the UK. Ranked within the world top 160 in the Times Higher Education Rankings 2019 and named Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019. Aberdeen is ‘open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others’.

Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, which puts students at the head of everything it does. It has significant academic strengths and potential across a wide variety of disciplines. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen has also been credited for its international reach and its commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies.

The University has over 14,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges, inspires and helps every individual to reach their full potential.

The University combines a distinguished heritage with a forward-looking attitude. In the past few years, the University has encouraged creativity in its academic staff, broken new ground with an innovative curriculum, and developed state-of-the-art facilities including the new Sir Duncan Rice Library and the Aberdeen Sports Village and Aquatics Centre. In looking to the future, the University seeks to enhance its reputation as one of the world’s leading Universities by moving forward with ever more ground-breaking research; ensuring students have an intellectual and social experience second to none; and capitalising upon the dual role as one of the major institutions of the north and as a cornerstone of regional economic and cultural life.
The City and the Region

Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire

With a population of approximately 230,000, the city stands between the Rivers Dee and Don. This historic city has many architectural splendours and the use of its sparkling local granite has earned Aberdeen the name of the Silver City. Recognised as the oil capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live.

Aberdeen enjoys excellent communication services with other European cities - e.g. flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights. There are direct air links to London (City, Heathrow, and Luton), Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Southampton, Belfast and East Midlands within the U.K. There are also flights to international hub airports: Amsterdam (Schiphol), and Paris (Charles De-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations (http://www.aberdeenairport.com). Road and rail links are also well developed.

The Grampian Region which took its name from the Grampian Mountains has a population of approximately 545,000. It is made up of five districts – Aberdeen, Banff & Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine & Deeside and Moray. The city and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, sea-side and country pursuits. Aberdeen has first class amenities including His Majesty's Theatre, Music Hall, Art Gallery, the Aberdeen Exhibition Centre, Museums, and Beach Leisure centre. Within a short time, beach pursuits, equine activities, salmon, trout and sea fishing, hill-walking, mountaineering, golf, sailing, surfing and windsurfing can be reached. The city and the surrounding countryside are repeatedly given high ratings for quality of life in surveys.

Aberdeenshire is one of Scotland’s most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire cater for a wide range of tastes in sporting and cultural activities.

To find out more about Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire go to www.visitabdn.com
How to apply

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is 9 June 2019

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact
Professor Peter Edwards, Head of School
01224 274078
hos-ncs@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Professor Edwards

Please quote reference number NCS143A on all correspondence

The University pursues a policy of equal opportunities in the appointment
and promotion of staff.