



Research Assistant (50% of Full Time)

Personalized Behaviour Intervention in Cyber-security, School of Natural and Computing Sciences

Closing date: 19 September 2019

Interview date: TBC

Reference number: NCS151R



Introduction

The Department of Computing Science has an opening for a Research Assistant to undertake research on the use of digital behaviour interventions (persuasive technology) in cyber-security.

The post is within the context of an EPSRC-funded project on supporting security with effective digital intervention, and is available until 26 March 2020.



Job description



Main purpose of the role:

We are seeking a research assistant to contribute to the SSPEDI project working across in the area of Digital Behaviour Intervention applied to cyber-security. You will contribute to the user-centered development of methodologies and digital interventions for persuading users to comply with organizational security policies. You will be responsible for the computer programming that drives these interventions, and the integration and application of software artifacts provided by other researchers.

Supporting Security Policy with Effective Digital Intervention (SSPEDI) is a three-year, £0.95M, research project sponsored by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

Key responsibilities:

Research Assistant

- *Supporting research in the area of personalized digital behaviour interventions and cyber-security.*
- *Development and programming of software and technologies for digital behaviour intervention in cyber-security.*
- *Supporting the design and analysis of user studies and participatory design workshops.*
- *Supporting engagements with project partners from industry and other disciplines.*
- *Contributing to business and public engagement and dissemination activities.*
- *Supporting, and contributing to, the production of reports and academic papers.*
- *Participating in internal and external research events, research seminars, conferences, staff development workshops and other research-related events.*

At a glance

Salary:

£28,332 pro rata
per annum

Hours of work:

50% of Full Time

Contract type:

Available until 26 March
2020

Candidate background



The successful candidate will have a BSc or an MSc in Computer Science or Information Technology. Excellent programming skills are essential. You will have experience of writing substantial computer programs. You will also be able to write scripts to integrate the function of various computational artefacts into a larger framework. You will have research experience and enjoy teamwork. An interest in digital behaviour interventions and cyber security is strongly desirable.



Terms of appointment

The appointment will be for 50%. Salary will be paid at the rate of £28,332 pro rata per annum on the Grade 5 salary scale.

As this post is funded by the EPSRC it is available until 26 March 2020.

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.



This post does not meet the minimum requirements as issued by UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) to qualify for an employer-sponsored visa. We are therefore unable to consider applications from candidates for this post who require sponsorship to work in the UK.



Person specification

| | <i>Essential</i> | <i>Desirable</i> |
|---|--|---|
| Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hold a BSc or MSc degree in Computer Science or a cognate discipline.</i> | |
| Work and Other relevant experience (including training) eg Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Research Experience.</i> • <i>Advanced programming skills.</i> • <i>Experience in qualitative and quantitative research methods.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Knowledge of Human Computer Interaction and user interface design principles.</i> • <i>Knowledge of Digital Behaviour Interventions and Persuasive Technologies.</i> • <i>Knowledge of cyber-security.</i> |
| Personal qualities and abilities eg initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enthusiasm for innovation relevant to society and industry.</i> • <i>Ability to work as part of a computing science team, and to work with partners from other disciplines and industry.</i> • <i>Ability to work independently.</i> • <i>Excellent written and oral communication skills.</i> • <i>Excellent organizational skills.</i> • <i>Flexible approach.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Experience in public engagement.</i> |
| Other eg special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Willingness and ability to travel for research purposes.</i> | |

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 and 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, Gatwick, 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), Paris (Charles De-Gaulle) and Frankfurt 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 19 September 2019

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact

Dr Matthew Collinson

01224 272298

matthew.collinson@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Dr Collinson.

Please quote reference number NCS151R on all correspondence

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