

Senior Lecturer in Computing Science

School of Natural and Computing Sciences

Closing date: 11 June 2022
Interview date: To be confirmed
Reference number: NCS195A



Version: Sep21

INTRODUCTION

The School of Natural and Computing Sciences is a vibrant and dynamic centre, internationally renowned for excellence both in teaching and research. It currently comprises four academic units, namely: Chemistry, Computing Science, Mathematics and Physics. Hosting over 95 academic and research staff, 60 research students, 120 postgraduate taught students and 690 undergraduates; it is a close knit and friendly community, based on the main campus at King's College.

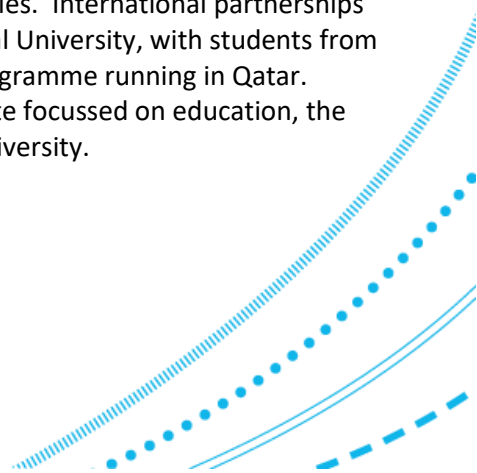
Data Science & Artificial Intelligence have been recognised as a priority for the University as part of its 'Aberdeen 2040' strategy, and the School is looking to significantly increase its strengths in these and related areas.

The School's strategic focus lies across the themes of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security (TIPS), and we particularly encourage candidates who work at the intersection of theory and application within these areas to apply. Within AI, application domains include cybersecurity, energy, food technology and healthcare, while theoretical research encompasses human/machine collaboration, natural language technologies and explanation, as well as machine learning and multi-agent systems. The TIPS theme focuses on computational trust and reputation systems; cybersecurity; provenance; and blockchain technologies - with application areas including healthcare and the digital economy. Successful applicants would be expected to strengthen the School's interdisciplinary collaborations across the University and with industry through funded research.

Computing Science currently has 22 members of academic staff, together with around 40 doctoral researchers and PhD students. The University and School have begun to execute ambitious plans that will see Computing Science roughly double in size over the next few years. Research is underpinned by a strong and broad funding portfolio based around our two themes, with nearly £4M in funding over the past five years from research councils, charities, the EU, and industry. In REF2014, the department 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).

Recent research awards within the department potentially relevant to the proposed appointment include Realising Accountable Intelligent Systems (EPSRC, 2019-2022), and Interactive Natural Language Technology for Explainable Artificial Intelligence (EU, 2019-2023).

The School offers a range of undergraduate and taught postgraduate degree programmes. Successful applicants for this post will be expected to undertake teaching across the Computing Science teaching portfolio. Computing Science runs three highly successful taught MSc programmes: a specialist MSc in Artificial Intelligence, an MSc in Information Technology, and a specialist MSc in Cybersecurity that launched in 2021. At the undergraduate level, teaching revolves around the 4-year BSc (Hons) degree, as well as multiple joint-degrees taught with other disciplines. These are supported by newly redesigned and refurbished teaching facilities. International partnerships include a 2+2 articulation programme in Computing Science with South China Normal University, with students from SCNU joining the Aberdeen Honours programme in third year, and a joint-degree programme running in Qatar. Computing Science additionally benefits from cooperation in a UK-China Joint Institute focussed on education, the Aberdeen Institute of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, South China Normal University.



JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The School of Natural and Computing Sciences is looking to appoint one full-time staff at Senior Lecturer level in Computing Science with research expertise in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) or Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security (TIPS) areas. Applicants should have the ambition to work across disciplines and with industry to achieve their research vision.

Candidates whose work is applicable to domains such as cybersecurity, energy, agri-food and healthcare, or who undertake research related to machine learning, explainable AI, human/machine collaboration, multi-agent systems or natural language technologies are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants are expected to strengthen the department's expertise in these areas.

The successful candidate will also 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

- To conduct cutting-edge research in an area related to the School's strategic themes (AI, TIPS).
- To prepare and submit manuscripts for publications in leading international conferences and journals.
- To prepare and submit grant applications for external (e.g., UKRI) research support.
- Take responsibility for the supervision and training of postgraduate research students.

Education

- 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.

Administrative & Support

- To supervise students directly, providing a high standard of support and help. To identify the learning needs of students and defining learning objectives.
- To undertake administrative duties, as determined by the Head of School and Academic Line Manager.

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

Applications are invited from candidates who can demonstrate an excellent research profile, as evidenced by publications in leading academic conferences and journals. Candidates must also be able to demonstrate their potential for sustaining a funded research programme at the University of Aberdeen.

Candidates should have a PhD and demonstrable research experience in Computer Science or a related discipline relevant to the role.

For a Senior Lecturer position, candidates should demonstrate a track record of successful grant applications, research student supervision and undergraduate/taught postgraduate teaching.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Salary will be at the appropriate point on Grade 8, £53,348 – 60,022 per annum, and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and probation period

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

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

The candidate appointed to this post may be eligible for homeworking on an occasional or regular basis. For more information please refer to our [Homeworking Policy](#).

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Grant Rae, HR Adviser (grant.rae@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Grade 8

£53,348 – 60,022 per annum

HOURS OF WORK:

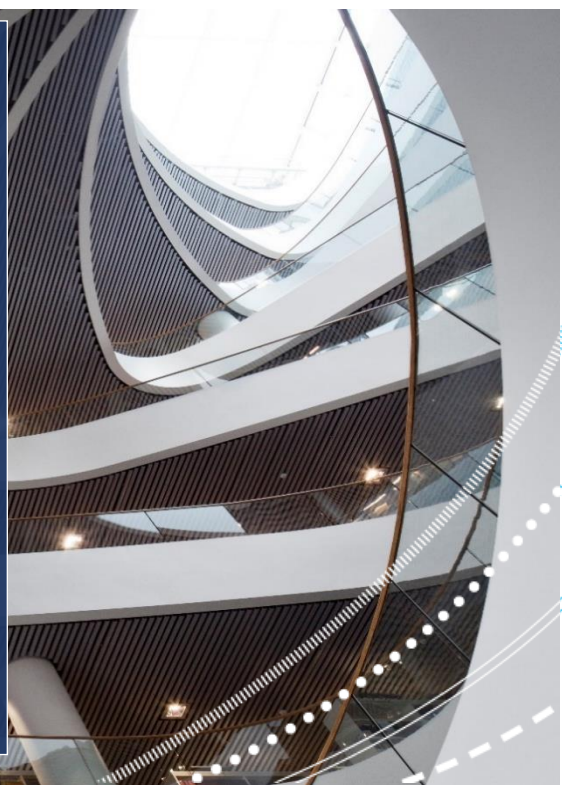
Full-Time, 37.5 hours per week

CONTRACT TYPE:

Substantive

LOCATION:

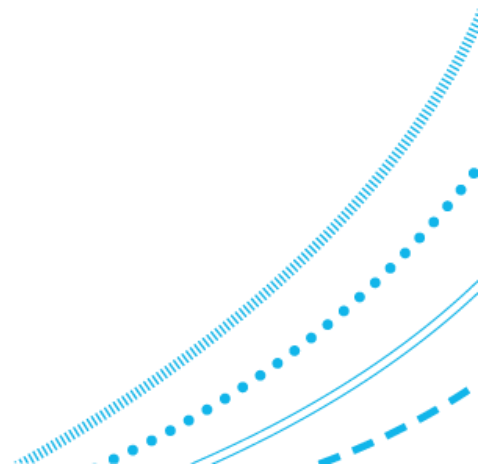
Aberdeen



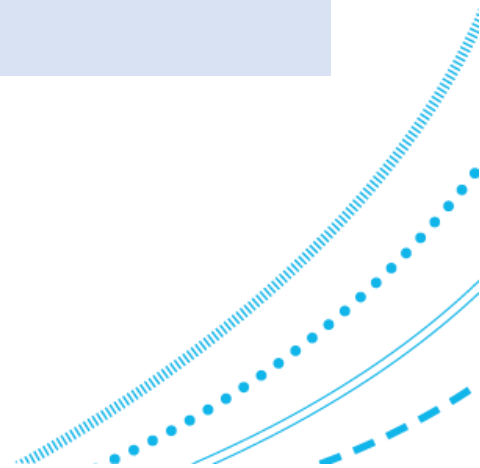
PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL

DESIRABLE



<p>Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in computer science or a related discipline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of appropriate professional/learned institutions. • Appropriate academic professional and teaching qualification (e.g. FHEA).
<p>Work and Other relevant experience (including training) e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of publications in leading international conferences and journals (commensurate with career stage). • Strong research profile with ability to develop and lead research projects (commensurate with career stage). • Demonstrable potential to carry out leading research in specialist area. • Record of or evidence-based potential for securing funding to support research. • Experience, or demonstrable potential, in the development of taught courses at undergraduate or postgraduate level, or equivalent experience. • Teaching capabilities at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. • Ability to provide supervision to doctoral students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of University teaching, supervision of students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. • Experience in the administration of academic affairs or similar experience.
<p>Personal qualities and abilities e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent written, oral and presentation skills. • Ability to think creatively and innovatively and impart enthusiasm for the subject. • Excellent organisational skills. • Ability to balance the pressures of teaching, research and administrative demands and competing deadlines. • 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, commensurate with career stage. • Demonstrable ability to work well as part of team. • Ability to work with minimum supervision and act on own initiative. • Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to participate in appropriate national and international research networks. • Ability and willingness to work in multidisciplinary environment.
<p>Other e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness and flexibility to respond to demands of the role. • Willing to travel nationally and internationally in support of the role. 	



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others

The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 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 and inspires.



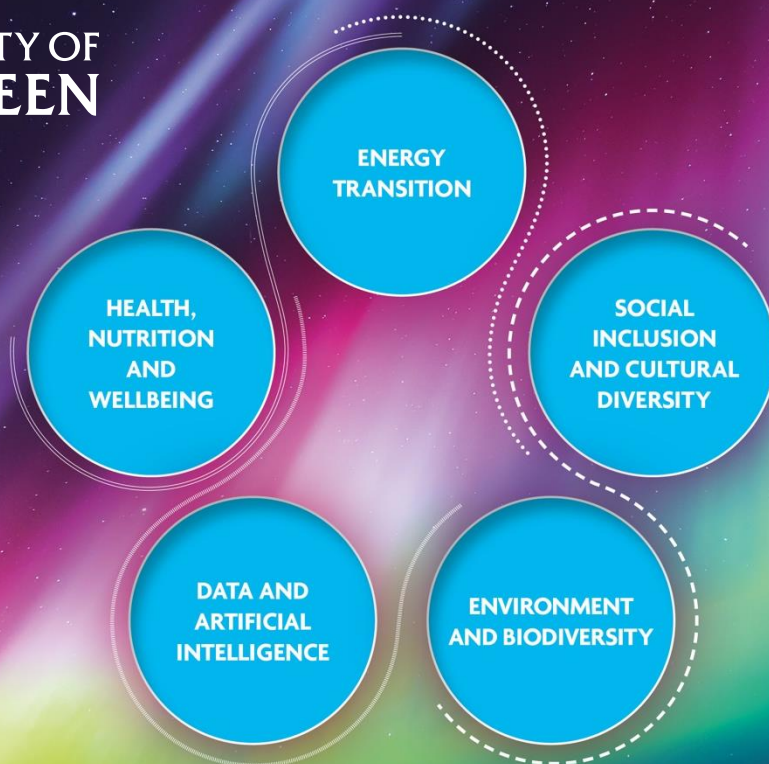
CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to build on its achievements. Underpinning our high performance and significant growth is a £100m investment in Aberdeen's estate which will include the completion of a new Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King's Quarter and a new Business School building. The University has also invested in 50 new academic posts and in 2020 launched five interdisciplinary, cross-institution Research Centres that will catalyse world-leading research in our areas of strength. Our five Interdisciplinary Challenges are: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched [Aberdeen 2040](#), our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- Inclusive**
We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.
- Interdisciplinary**
We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.
- International**
We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.
- Sustainable**
We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances. We work responsibly.



OUR EDUCATION

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

OUR RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen's Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships in e.g. Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students¹ and have been named 31st in the world for International Outlook². The University of Aberdeen is proud to be the first UK University to deliver programmes on a dedicated campus in Qatar in partnership with AFG College. Phase 1 has successfully recruited over 600 students and Phase 2 will see the creation of a substantially larger campus, with capacity for at least 5,000 students and research activity. For further information on our Qatar campus visit www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar.

IMPACT

Our dedication to building a sustainable future is reflected in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021 where we were ranked in the top 60 Universities worldwide for positive impact on society.

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2021 we were listed in the global Top 50 for 6 of these goals and in the UK Top 20 for all 17³.

¹ QS World University Rankings 2022

² Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022

³ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021

ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

Scotland's third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland's top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including [His Majesty's Theatre](#), [Music Hall](#), [Art Gallery](#), [the P&J Arena](#), [Museums](#), and [Beach Leisure Centre](#). The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also 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 has ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, and was recently named the happiest city in the UK to live and work in⁴.

To find out more visit www.visitabdn.com

⁴ Shawbrook Bank Happiest Cities Index 2021



EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The University is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php>.

The University's commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award at an institutional level and across all its subject areas. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT+ equality.

The University is signed up to Advance HE's Race Equality Charter, affirming the University's commitment to the charter's aim of improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using [contact SCOTLAND-BSL](#).

The University is delighted to be accredited as a [Disability Confident](#) employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment.

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277

HOW TO APPLY

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

The closing date for receipt of applications is **11 June 2022**

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Dr Matthew Collinson, Senior Lecturer

matthew.collinson@abdn.ac.uk

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

Please quote reference number **NCS195A** on all correspondence

