



Research Associate

Department of Computer Science

Part-time (0.2 fte)

Salary Grade 7 - £31,020 to £35,938 per annum, pro rata

Fixed term contract for 12 months (**see below for contract information)

Ref: SEN00239

At Leicester we're going places. Ranked in the top 20 universities in Britain our aim is to climb further. A commitment to high quality fused with an inclusive academic culture is our hallmark and led the Times Higher Education to describe us as "elite without being elitist".

We are seeking to recruit a Research Associate on *evaluation* for a major inter-disciplinary project entitled *Representing Re-Formation: Reconstructing Renaissance Monuments*, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council's 'Science and Heritage' programme. Led by principal investigator Dr. Philip Lindley (History of Art and Film), the project brings together teams from a range of disciplines (history, art history, archaeology, physics and astronomy, computer science, museum studies) from the University of Leicester, University of Oxford and English Heritage.

The role is one day a week, which is flexible for the successful candidate, and on a 1-year fixed term contract with the possibility for an extension of up to 0.4 fte.

The University

There's never been a more exciting time to join us. At the University of Leicester we are enjoying research success on a world stage and gathering the awards and plaudits to match.

A judge in a recent awards ceremony described Leicester as "elite without being elitist". We are proud to be elite. But we are at least as proud to be an inclusive and progressive university. This commitment to high quality, an inclusive academic culture and belief in the synergy of teaching and research are our hallmarks. We believe that teaching is inspirational when delivered by passionate scholars engaged in world-changing research that is delivered in an academic community that includes postgraduate as well as undergraduate students.

Our approach to research yields great rewards. Our research impact, measured by citations per academic, is the sixth highest in the UK. Our success in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise saw Quality Related research income rise by 18% placing us firmly amongst Britain's top 20 research universities by this measure. The RAE also revealed that Leicester is home to Britain's top-rated research department – Museum Studies – which has the highest concentration of world class research of any department of any discipline in the UK.

For a University that believes teaching and research are synergistic, it is pleasing that the National Student Survey reveals the quality of our teaching is amongst the highest in the country. Since the launch of the survey in 2006, Leicester has consistently featured amongst the top-10 universities in

England for student satisfaction. The Sunday Times recently described Leicester as "top... amongst mainstream multi-faculty universities for student satisfaction".

Currently a University of 23,000 students, with a turnover of £260m and 3,800 colleagues, our future is bright. Our Strategic Vision describes our plans to invest a billion pounds in our estate as we transform our campus. Already consistently ranked in the top-20 universities in Britain, by 2015 we aim to rise further to become top-10.

Leicester is the most inclusive of Britain's top-20 universities with the greatest proportions of students from under-represented groups.

As a group of talented individuals we are more diverse than ever and stronger for it. At Leicester we are proud of our distinct approach, our achievements and our ambitious plans. If you share our approach join us.

College of Science and Engineering

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of College: Professor Martin Barstow, BA PhD CSci CPhys F.InstP FRAS

This is an exciting time to join a dynamic new college and contribute to its development.

The College has 436 staff, 1928 undergraduate and 892 postgraduate students. It has an annual turnover of £39M. The new College is creating the academic and physical environment to enable scientists and engineers to work together across traditional boundaries to address some of the grand research challenges and to engage with increasing effectiveness with business and industrial partners.

The College is made up of seven research-led departments: Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Geography, Geology, Mathematics, and Physics and Astronomy. Together, these departments teach approximately 20% of the University's campus based undergraduate students. Our students undertake diverse programmes of study, from human geography, through a range of laboratory-based subjects including engineering. Our departments have contributed to the University's ascent through national league tables with consistently excellent scores in the National Student Survey and a very strong performance in the 2008 RAE. Our departments also generate more than a third of the University's research income.

Our College has a reputation for research of international quality and is home to several specialist multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and intra-disciplinary research centres. These centres included Space Research, Climate Change Research, Mathematical / Computational Modelling and Advanced Microscopy. A new Energy Centre is also being proposed. Researchers within the College have international reputations and collaborate with esteemed colleagues throughout the world, making it an exciting environment for both teaching and research.

The College has led the development of High Performance Computing within the University culminating in the establishment of a dedicated centrally-funded HPC unit and the installation of the ALICE state-of-the-art £2M, 2048 processor super-computer. This facility is freely available to all University staff for their research projects.

Our students benefit from following best practice and working alongside leaders in their fields. Approximately a quarter of our undergraduate students go on to study for a higher degree. Our graduates are much sought after by employers – either by going directly into employment in the broad area of their degree subject, or pursuing successful careers in diverse areas such as education, commerce, IT and the public sector.

The key strategic aims for the College over the next five years are:

- To ensure a strong performance in the REF and beyond, improving on the RAE 2008 results

- To establish two or three new large interdisciplinary research programmes
- To maintain, and improve where possible, the student experience and resulting student satisfaction ratings

The Department of Computer Science

Computer Science is a young and dynamic department in the midst of rapid expansion in the scope of its research and teaching activities. In the Research Assessment Exercise of 2008, 95% of our activity was judged to be of international quality (with 65% being of international excellence and 20% world leading). We have an ambitious plan of expansion that will establish us as a leading computer science department in the UK over the next few years. The department currently consists of five Professors, one Reader, three Senior Lecturers, seven Lecturers, two Teaching Fellows and one Demonstrator. There are also a number of research associates and visitors.

Research in the department contributes to eight broad themes: Algebraic and Categorical Structures and Methods; Algorithm Design, Analysis and Engineering; Computational Complexity of Algebraic Structures; Deduction, Rewriting and Transformation; Interaction Design and Evaluation of Socio-technical Systems; Models of Software Intensive Systems; Optimisation and Heuristics; and Software Evolution. The department is involved in several national and international research projects and networks in areas that cross-cut these themes, and it has research links with a number of international and UK research groups. Within the University, there are links with the departments of Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, Engineering, the School of Biological Sciences, and the School of Archaeology and Ancient History. We are also members of the university's Institute of Finance and DigitUL – the university's interdisciplinary group on the Digital Economy. More details on the research within the department are available at <http://www.cs.le.ac.uk/research>.

The department is housed in a purpose-built building, which includes office space for post-doctoral researchers and PhD students, a seminar room and a staff reading room. There is an active PhD programme involving over 30 students, some of which are on project scholarships or graduate teaching assistantships. Several internal and external seminar series, graduate lectures and reading groups make for a dynamic research environment in which staff and students can fulfil their potential. Leicester is also an active participant in the Midlands Graduate School, which organises advanced postgraduate courses for PhD students in nearby universities in the Midlands, including Sheffield, Nottingham, Loughborough and Birmingham.

In addition to undergraduate teaching, the department participates in a number of postgraduate programmes, including the MSc in Advanced Computational Methods, the MSc in Advanced Computer Science, the MSc in Advanced Distributed Systems, the MSc in Advanced Software Engineering, the MSc in Agile Software Engineering Techniques, the MSc in Software Engineering for Financial Services, the MSc in Web Applications and Services, the MSc in Bioinformatics (with the School of Biological Sciences), the MSc in Financial Mathematics and Computation (with Mathematics) and the MSc in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computation (also with Mathematics).

Your Role

To evaluate the digital artefacts being produced by the project, capturing feedback and enhancement proposals for the iterative development of the artefacts. Two main artefacts are the

project's website and mobile media application to be launched in the first and third year of the project, respectively.

Principal Accountabilities

- To work closely with the project's Audience Advocate from School of Museum Studies, supporting the capture of requirements, feedback and responses from different audience groups with the use of various social media.
- To maintain and continuously improve the project's website in close collaboration with Audience Advocate based on the analysis of the following types of audience-generated data:
 - quantitative data such as usage patterns automatically tracked by Google Analytics and audiences' ratings of the digital resources presented on the website;
 - qualitative data such as audiences' blog posts, tweets, responses to online form, online forums with respect to the project's research activities and ongoing findings;
- To document the method and findings of the task (2) and present them in appropriate formats (e.g. text, graphics, voice) and venues (e.g. social media, face to face meetings) and on a regular basis.
- To support the evaluation of the mobile application and other public-facing channels for engaging audience groups in digital interpretive invention to be built in the last year of the project. It will involve field studies where in situ observations, interviews and video capture.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Postgraduate qualification (or equivalent experience) in Human-computer Interaction (HCI), Computer Science, Education, Psychology, Sociology, or equivalent.*
- Good knowledge in ICT.*
- Good knowledge in WordPress.*
- Good Knowledge and relevant experience of deploying web technologies and social media for requirements analysis.*
- Good knowledge and relevant experience of both quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods.*

Desirable

- Knowledge and experience about learning technologies in the form of mobile applications.
- Knowledge about history of art and exhibition in museum.

*(*Criteria to be used to shortlist candidates for interview)*

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Good technical skills in web technologies.*

- Good quantitative and qualitative data analysis skills.*
- Good written communication skills.*
- Good verbal communication skills.*
- Ability to work independently and also as part of a research team.*

Desirable

- Ability to make public presentation of results.
- Highly motivated and able to act independently as well as part of a team.

(Criteria to be used to shortlist candidates for interview)*

**** Contract Information**

The appointment will be for 12 months on a fixed term basis as the particular expertise or skill is required for this time.

Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be made to Dr Effie Lai-Chong Law on lcl9@le.ac.uk or 0116 252 5341.

Applications

For further information and to apply on-line, please visit our website: www.le.ac.uk/joinus

The closing date for this post is midnight on 22 Feb 2012.

We anticipate that interviews will take place on 5th March 2012.

Candidates short-listed for interview will be contacted by the University. If you do not receive a communication from the University within 4 weeks of the closing date, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.