



Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the postholder.

Job title: Research Officer: Virt-EU Horizon 2020 Research Project

Department/Division: Media and Communications
Accountable to: Dr Alison Powell

Job Summary:

Dr Alison Powell has secured funding as part of a Horizon 2020 collaborative research project to analyze and map the ethical practices of European hardware and software entrepreneurs, maker and hacker spaces, and community innovators in order to:

- * understand how Internet of Things (IoT) innovators enact ethics as they design future devices,
- * generate a new framework for Privacy, Ethical and Social Impact Assessment (PESIA)
- * develop tools to support ethical reflection and self-assessment as part the design and development process for IoT technologies.

The project has funded a Research Officer based at LSE for 24 months from 1 January 2017. The core task of the person taking this role is to work with collaborators to map and define the IoT field in Europe, identify key field sites where IoT work is taking place, and to undertake empirical research at one or more of these field sites, documenting this work through project deliverables and peer-reviewed publications. The post-holder may also be asked, where it is appropriate, to contribute to further funding bids to continue or expand upon the presently-funded research. The project is highly interdisciplinary and the post-holder will need to feel comfortable and confident working with colleagues in computer science, human-computer interaction, law and design.

The Research Officer would be based at the Department of Media and Communications at the LSE. They would work with a degree of independence, within the broader European Project research team, under the supervision of Dr Alison Powell. As well as pursuing the objectives of the research project, the Research Officer would be expected to play an active role in the life and activities of the Department of Media and Communication.

Duties/Responsibilities

Project specific tasks:

- to map the field of IoT development in Europe based on analysis of online communities of practice as well as previous research
- to develop field sites for research on IoT communities of practice based on the mapping of the field
- to undertake situated, ethnographically-driven field research within specific communities of practice and report findings in reports as well as peer-reviewed publications
- to collaborate with other researchers on the production of project deliverables, taking the lead on



their production as appropriate

- to co-organise research meetings
- to present research at seminars/conferences and to contribute to communications and dissemination from the projects.
- to set up and maintain an interdisciplinary network of collaborators within and beyond the framework of the current funded research.

Through these projects the Research Officer will demonstrate the ability to analyse and research complex ideas, concepts or theories, and apply appropriate methodologies and contribute creative solutions to research challenges.

General tasks:

- Contributing to the formulation of peer-reviewed research grant proposals should this be required;
- Managing the activities of research assistants on a day-to-day basis should this be required.

Note

The LSE has a progressive pay structure that rewards you with annual pay increases up to a certain level as you develop in your role. We also provide for further reward past this point in the form of further pay increases based on exceptional performance.

Flexibility

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility is needed, and the post holder may be required to perform work not specifically referred to above.

Equality and Diversity

LSE believes that equality for all is a basic human right. We actively encourage diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Environmental Sustainability

The post holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.