

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

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| **Job Title:** | Research Assistant |
| Grade: | SP27 |
| **School/Service:** | Institute for Connected Communities |
| **Campus** | Stratford/Docklands |
| **Responsible to:** | Professor Md Atiqur Rahman Ahad, ACE, UEL and Prof Gopal Netuveli (dotted line) |
| **Responsible for:** | Supporting impactful AI research and its application in real-world public sector challenges as detailed below. |
| **Contract type** | Fixed term (1 May 2025 – April 2026 (12 months)), Full-time (100% FTE)  |

Build your career, follow your passion, be inspired by our environment of success **#BeTheChange**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON**

The University of East London is one of the most diverse and vibrant universities in the global capital. Our pioneering and forward-thinking vision has a positive and significant impact on the communities we serve, inspiring both staff and students to reach their full potential.

Born in 1898 to serve the skills needs of the 2nd industrial revolution, the University of East London commenced Year 4 of its transformational 10-year Vision 2028 strategic plan led by our Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Amanda Broderick, to advance Industry 4.0 careers-1st education. We have a clear route map to provide a springboard for the jobs and opportunities of the future, drive diversity in the 4.0 talent pipeline, work in partnership to promote talent wherever it is found, and create an inclusive and sustainable, green future.

We are looking for forward-thinking, innovative, curious, high-energy, self-aware people who are passionate about making a positive difference and who will thrive in an inclusive and diverse university community that is never moving forward.

As one of the most socially inclusive and international universities and comprises one of the most diverse staff populations in the UK (50% of our professoriate identify from black or minority ethnic backgrounds), we are hugely proud of our track record in reducing inequalities (ranked 1st in the UK & 2nd globally, Times Higher Education Global Impact Rankings, 2020), and our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion is at the heart of Vision 2028.

We are building an environment of success where colleagues are supported, and our community can flourish and thrive. We are accredited Investors in People Award Institution and have achieved the Investors in the People Health and Wellbeing Award. With the Athena Swan Awards and being one of a small number of universities that have achieved the race equality charter award, we continue our journey to address and reduce barriers to opportunity.

Therefore, if you are looking to build your career in a dynamic, inclusive, and performance-focused team and are inspired by our environment and drive for success, we want you to join the University of East London. We are looking for inspirational individuals who have a passion to make a positive difference between people and the planet, creating a more sustainable future for everyone.

**JOB PURPOSE**

**The UK Centre for Artificial Intelligence for the Public Sector,** a pioneering collaboration between the London Borough of Newham and the University of East London, aims to harness AI to transform public-service delivery. It is the first centre of its kind, with a focus on local governments’ concerns, such as housing, social care, climate change, and economic inclusion, and the centre’s remit is to develop innovative, ethical AI solutions to enhance decision-making and efficiency at the local government level and in time become influencers at the national policy level. The post advertised offers you a window seat as the centre journeys forward to fulfil these ambitions. You will have the opportunity to contribute to groundbreaking projects, engage with policymakers, and shape AI-driven strategies to tackle pressing societal challenges, working with experts across both institutions. This initiative represents a unique opportunity to influence real-world changes through applied AI research and interdisciplinary collaboration.

**FOCUS AREAS OF UK-CAIPS**

The joint venture will focus on utilising AI in the following critical areas:

1. **Temporary Accommodation**: Enhancing the efficiency of temporary housing, prediction modelling, and data-service mapping.
2. **Local Economy**: Using AI to boost local economic development, career opportunities, AI-tech start-ups, and support SMEs.
3. **Social Care:** Implementing AI solutions to improve the delivery and management of social care services and improve life opportunities.
4. **Climate Change**: Developing AI tools to support climate action/just transition plans and sustainability initiatives.
5. **Health Inequalities**: Addressing disparities in health outcomes through AI-driven healthcare solutions.
6. **Economic Inequalities**: Utilising AI to analyse and mitigate economic disparities within the community.
7. **Data Economy/Cybersecurity:** Ensuring data security and leveraging data for economic growth while safeguarding privacy.
8. **Arts and Culture:** Promoting the integration of AI into arts and cultural projects to enhance creativity and accessibility.
9. **Young People:** Engaging young people in AI initiatives to build future skills and promote inclusive innovation.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POST HOLDER**

* Conduct research on AI-driven solutions for public sector challenges, particularly in temporary housing, social care, local economy, and sustainability, on a priority basis.
* Develop predictive models and AI-driven decision-making frameworks to enhance efficiency in homelessness prevention and temporary accommodation allocation.
* Contribution to AI-enabled data integration strategies that improve service coordination among public sector departments.
* Assist in the development of ethical AI governance frameworks and ensure compliance with data privacy and security regulations.
* Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams across academia, government, and industry partners to develop AI-driven solutions.
* Design and implementation of AI algorithms for economic and social inequality analyses.
* Contribute to funding proposals and reports, supporting sustainability, and expansion of AI research initiatives.
* Publish findings in leading academic journals and present them at conferences.
* They participate in regular project team meetings and actively contribute to review meetings.
* Ensure compliance with University Health & Safety requirements and regulations and apply the University’s Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) policy in general conduct.

This document outlines the duties required for the Research Assistant’s post and indicates the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list, and duties may vary by project team.

The postholders will be based at the School of Architecture, Computing, and Engineering (ACE) at the University of East London, Docklands Campus, London, UK.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Essential**

* RA: Master’s degree in data science, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science,
* Strong experience in machine learning and AI model development in Python. (A/C)
* Expertise in database management and data integration from structured and unstructured sources. (A/C)
* Ability to design explainable AI systems and interpret AI model outputs. (A/C)
* Excellent communication and project management skills. (A/C)

**Desirable**

* PhD in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, or a related field. (A/C)
* Experience with public datasets and public sector data systems. (A/C)
* Experience in academic paper writing. (A/C)
* Experience of working in research project(s). (A/C)
* Critical thinking skills. (A/C)
* Proficiency in data visualisation tools (e.g. Power BI and Tableau), NLP, and LLM.

**KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:**

**Essential**

* Research experience or extensive project management experience. (A)
* Demonstrable experience working on deadlines. (A/I)

**Desirable criteria**

* Experience of publishing research in peer-review forums. (A/I)

**SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

**Essential**

* Excellent oral and written communication skills and the ability to produce peer-reviewed publications and other research outputs such as reports and oral presentations. (A/I)
* Ability to plan and prioritise workloads, ensuring deadlines are met, and keeping clear and appropriate records. (A/I)

**Desirable**

* Have a good research background and good research publication records. (A/I)

**PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:**

**Essential criteria**

* Ability to work in a team as well as independently and with project partners. (A)
* Flexible and adaptable approach to work. (A)
* Understanding and respecting confidentiality. (I)
* Motivated and reliable. (I)

**OTHER ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:**

* Commitment to and understanding of equality and diversity in diverse and multicultural environments. (I)
* Commitment to the highest ethical and professional standards in research. (A/I)

UEL is an inclusive equal opportunity employer who is proud of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity achievements. We expect all employees of the UEL to accept our EDI policy and not tolerate discrimination in any form. As an employee of the UEL, we expect you to follow all relevant Health & Safety policies.

So, if you would like to take your career to the next level with us here at the University of East London and are passionate about our environment and commit to success, we want you to apply today!

**Criteria tested by** **Key:**

A = Application form

C = Certification

I = Interview

T = Test

Informal enquiries can be made to Professor Md Atiqur Rahman Ahad, University of East London M.Ahad@uel.ac.uk