

The Alan Turing Institute

Deputy Lead, AI for Data-Driven Advantage (AIDA)

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There has never been a more significant time to work in data science and AI. There is recognition of the importance of these technologies to our economic and social future: the so-called fourth industrial revolution. The technical challenge of keeping our data secure and private has grown in its urgency and importance. At the same time, voices from academia, industry, and government are coming together to debate how these technologies should be governed and managed.

The Alan Turing Institute, as the UK's national institute for data science and artificial intelligence, plays an important part in driving forward advances in these technologies in order to change the world for the better.

The Institute is named in honour of Alan Turing, whose pioneering work in theoretical and applied mathematics, engineering and computing is considered to have laid the foundations for modern-day data science and artificial intelligence. The Institute's goals are to undertake world-class research, apply its research to real-world problems, driving economic impact and societal good, lead the training of a new generation of scientists, and shape the public conversation around data and algorithms.

After launching in 2015 with government funding from EPSRC and five founding universities, the Institute has grown an extensive network of university partners from across the UK and launched a number of major partnerships with industry, public and third sector. Today it is home to more than 300 researchers, a rapidly growing team of in house research software engineers and data scientists and a business team.

BACKGROUND

This role sits within the Defence and National Security (D&NS) Grand Challenge's newly-established AI for Data-Driven Advantage (AIDA) research centre. The successful candidate will work across a range of research projects relating to defence AI implementation research, reporting directly into the Co-Director D&NS.

ROLE PURPOSE

In April 2026, the Turing established AIDA. Engaging closely with senior stakeholders from across UK Defence and its allies, the Centre conducts a range of research, analysis, advisory and engagement activities focussed on responsible, resilient and effective AI for Defence.

We are seeking to appoint a full-time Deputy Lead to work within the new Centre. The successful candidate will work across a range of research projects relating to the UK's ambitions for Defence AI, engaging with stakeholders across the UK government, academia and the private sector. They will provide expert support when leading high-quality mixed-methods research for a Defence government, academic and industry audience, and relationship building with senior Defence decision-makers. They will lead, quality assure and contribute directly to high-profile public research reports, and will have the opportunity to represent the Turing at various stakeholder engagement activities, such as workshops, conferences and other events. They will also actively keep abreast of Defence AI policy developments and funding opportunities and promote AIDA at closed-door and international events. The Deputy Lead will assist the AIDA Defence AI Policy Lead with defining performance standards and regular monitoring of ongoing research and deliverables to ensure the quality standards of Defence partners and Turing internal policy are being met. Furthermore, the AIDA Head of Research will advise the AIDA Defence AI Policy Lead on strategic and operational decisions and support with business development and workforce planning.

The successful candidate will be an established Defence AI researcher, who will have a strong track record in delivering AI policy-focused research for a Defence audience. They will have considerable experience of engaging with and persuading senior government decision-makers, and synthesising complex material in an accessible format for a non-expert policy audience. The successful candidate will have a Doctorate-level qualification in a related discipline or equivalent experience, several years of experience working directly within a Defence AI research role, a strong track record of peer-reviewed publications on related topics.

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DUTIES AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The post holder will work closely with the AIDA Defence AI Policy Group Lead and Turing research team to:

- Lead the development of AIDA research standards and lean, research quality management protocols
- Resolve high-quality and timely research delivery inefficiencies, collating feedback from government partners and keeping abreast of Defence's requirements to inform AIDA research
- Proactively develop new project proposals
- Mentor AIDA researchers in line with Defence's feedback and requirements
- Engage with senior stakeholders to identify opportunities for AIDA engagement activities such as events and workshops, and lead on the conceptual development of these research engagement activities
- Build new research partnerships with external organisations to co-deliver collaborative AIDA research projects
- Design and lead AIDA projects on topics related to Defence AI Policy
- Articulate the findings and implications of research to non-expert Defence AI policy, legal and regulatory, as well as end user audiences, through various channels (both written and verbal)
- Support the AIDA Defence AI Policy Lead with review and quality control of written outputs produced by other researchers, both at the Turing and of external research collaborators
- Prepare research material for presentation in both oral and written formats
- Co-organise AIDA events, such as workshops and conferences, to showcase the outputs from this research
- Support the work of policymakers, regulators and others by providing advice, attending workshops and giving presentations
- Support with building a community of policymakers, academics and private sector stakeholders focussed on Defence AI Policy
- Contribute strategic input to increase AIDA's impact on high consequence Defence AI challenges, the Turing's international reputation with defence-relevant intergovernmental organisations and on enhancing AIDA's financial sustainability.

Please note that job descriptions cannot be exhaustive, and the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties, which are broadly in line with the above key responsibilities. This job description is written at a specific time and is subject to changes as the demands of the Institute and the role develop.

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PERSON SPECIFICATION		
Skills and Requirements Post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following	Essential (E) Desirable (D)	Tested at application (a) Tested at interview (i)
Education/Qualification		
A PhD-level qualification or minimum 5 years of experience in a research role related to defence AI governance and policy or a related discipline.	E	A
Knowledge and Experience		
Demonstrated leadership and management of Defence-related research projects for UK Defence, its allies and partner intergovernmental organisations, including overseeing research quality and delivering such projects from inception to completion and a strong track record of peer-reviewed publications on related topics.	E	A
Considerable experience of applying academic research methodologies to applied policy research problems that inform defence AI policy at the Ministry of Defence, Front Line Commands, Defence AI Centre and NATO, including through the production of peer-reviewed academic publications.	E	A, I
Strong working understanding of the UK Defence community and information security requirements gained through working directly with Defence stakeholders on technology policy research.	E	A, I
Experience working directly with the Front Line Commands and end users to understand their AI-related challenges and of identifying solutions.	D	A, I
Good effective communication (oral and written) and the ability to communicate complex information in an accessible format for a non-expert audience, from senior civil servants and military to end users and in a wide variety of formats from research briefings, conferences, podcasts to media interviews.	E	I
Evidence of understanding common AI security risks and challenges to the delivery of ethical, responsible, effective and resilient AI for Defence.	E	A, I
Evidence of successful fundraising and securing research grants from government Defence AI Policy-relevant funders.	E	A
The ability to gather Defence market intelligence and feedback from funding partners, creatively solving problems, and integrating feedback to inform continuous research and stakeholder management improvement in the team.	E	I
Ability to work effectively across disciplinary boundaries, both as part of an interdisciplinary team and in close collaboration with external partners in different disciplines.	E	A
Ability to develop contacts and research collaborations in government and the global Defence AI ecosystem.	E	I

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Ability to lead, oversee and draft policy-oriented recommendations for Defence AI policy research projects from inception to completion under pressure and according to strict delivery deadlines.	E	A
Evidence of a strong publication record (commensurate with level of experience), including peer review of written material produced by others. Ability to write research reports and papers in styles accessible to both academic and lay audiences, including end users in Defence.	E	A, I
Other Requirements		
Commitment to EDI principles and to the Organisation values	E	I
The post holder may be required to travel within the UK and internationally	D	I

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

If you are interested in this opportunity, please click the apply button on our website. You will need to register on the applicant portal and complete the application form including your CV and covering letter. If you have questions about the role or would like to apply using a different format, please contact us at email recruitment@turing.ac.uk.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This full-time post is offered on a permanent basis. The annual salary range is £66,482 - £77,761 plus excellent benefits, including flexible working and family friendly policies. [Employee-only benefits guide | The Alan Turing Institute](#)

The Alan Turing Institute is based at the British Library, in the heart of London's Knowledge Quarter. We expect staff to come to our office at least 4 days per month. Some roles may require more days in the office; the hiring manager will be able to confirm this during the interview.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We value diversity of background, experience, and perspective, and are proud to be an inclusive employer. We warmly encourage applications from all backgrounds, particularly from groups currently under-represented in our sector. If you feel passionate about this role but don't meet every single requirement, please apply – we recognise that great candidates may bring strengths beyond the criteria listed.

We are committed to making sure our recruitment process is accessible and inclusive. This includes making reasonable adjustments for candidates who have a disability or long-term condition. Please contact us at recruitment@turing.ac.uk to advise us how we can assist you.

Please note all offers of employment are subject to obtaining and retaining the right to work in the UK and satisfactory pre-employment security screening which includes a DBS Check. Full details on the pre-employment screening process can be requested from HR@turing.ac.uk.

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OUR VALUES

The Alan Turing Institute is committed to equality diversity and inclusion and to eliminating discrimination. All employees are expected to embrace, follow and promote our [EDI Principles](#) and Our [Values](#).

Our values



Trust

We create an environment where we have trust and can be trusted



Inclusivity

We expect our Turing community to contribute to a culture that is inclusive and free of barriers



Respect

We all have different roles, priorities and challenges but our shared purpose is the same



Leadership

Leadership is everyone's business; Turing leaders set the right tone and lead by example



Transparency

Everyone should understand the how and the why of our decisions and actions



Integrity

We are all ambassadors for the Turing's mission of changing the world for the better