FURTHER PARTICULARS FOR THE ROLE

Research Fellow (Disaster 2.0)
Fixed term until 30/04/2013

Aston Business School

Reference Number: R110148

Closing date: 25 April 2011

Interview date: 9 May 2011

Contents:

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Disaster 2.0 project will investigate the actual and potential use of Web 2.0 and Semantic Web technologies in the application area of disaster response and emergency management. The project will on the one hand identify best practice and develop policy recommendations, and on the other hand further the relevant technologies by developing use cases, specifications, ontologies and software prototypes.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Research Assistant (Disaster 2.0 Project)

Purpose of role:

To contribute to the Disaster 2.0 project as a researcher focussing on the application of Semantic Web technologies to disaster response and emergency management domains.

The post holder will focus on specification, design, development of the technical aspects of the project, focussing on the use cases, specifications, ontologies and software prototypes.

Responsibilities:

1. Contribute to research proposals, develop and design experiments and research instruments, carry out experiments, analyse data and disseminate findings by writing papers and abstracts and by presenting work at conferences and seminars.

2. Design, develop and refine experimental apparatus, field research, software systems or experiments in order to obtain reliable data, or solve specific research challenges.

3. Carry out research/experiments.

4. Analyse and record data to aid the design of future research and produce useful findings for other academics, funders, policy makers and practitioners.

5. Prepare papers for journals/presentations either in-house or at national/international conferences or seminars to disseminate research findings.

6. Collaborate with the existing scientific community to cultivate existing and form new research collaborations.

7. Write supporting documents to contribute to and support the work of the Research Group, e.g. reports, interim reports and grant applications. Carry out administrative roles as required; as secretary to Research Group meetings, etc.

8. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks and attend conferences to keep abreast of developments

PERSON SPECIFICATION

MOA = Method of assessment

Application Form (AF) Interview (I)

	ESSENTIAL	**MOA**
Education and Qualifications	Good first degree in Computer Science or related discipline.	AF
	PhD in Computer Science or related discipline (at a minimum thesis should have been submitted)	AF
Experience	Substantial experience in designing and developing research	AFI
	Web software development	AFI
	Knowledge and experience of Semantic Web and Linked Data technologies	AFI
	Extensive programming experience at an advanced level, preferably with existing widely used systems	AFI
	Advanced knowledge of one or more of the following: PHP, Python, Java, Javascript	AFI
Aptitudes and Skills	Good written communication skills	AF
	Writing peer-reviewed research papers	AFI
	IT skills, including the ability to use specialised packages	AF
	Interpersonal and communication skills to present findings at conferences and conduct effective working relationships.	I
	Ability to work to measurable performance indicators, particularly timescales	AFI
	Good presentation skills	I

	Keep up to date with ongoing research associated with current projects	I
	Update and acquire new skills and knowledge in line with advances in the relevant subject area, including technical expertise and experience	I
	Ability to deal with confidential and sensitive data	AFI
	DESIRABLE	**MOA**
Experience	Requirements gathering	AFI
	Experience developing formal vocabularies and ontologies	AFI
	Presenting research results to non-academic audiences	AFI

OUTLINE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE APPOINTMENT

Term of appointment: The Disaster 2.0 project is funded by CIPS and is offered on fixed term basis until 30 April 2013. The appointment is Grade 8 and the salary will be £29,972 per annum.

Holiday entitlement: 30 days per annum in addition to up to 13 days per annum for public and University holidays.

Pension: Eligible staff are offered a defined benefit pension with the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

Performance related pay: In addition to the basic salary, the University operates a PRP scheme. Awards are determined on an annual basis.

Qualifications: Successful candidates will be required to produce evidence of their qualifications upon joining the University.

Teaching qualifications: It is the normal expectation that all teaching staff who are not able to satisfy the requirements of an advanced teaching qualification (such as the University's PG Certificate in Professional Practice (PGCPP)) on appointment should be able to do so within two years of appointment. This may be extended to four years in exceptional circumstances or where staff hold part-time posts.

Relocation: Newly-appointed staff are required to establish their homes within reasonable daily travelling distance to and from the University. The University operates a relocation scheme to assist newly-appointed staff in meeting this requirement. Full details of the relocation scheme are included with offers of appointment.

Medical examination: It is a condition of appointment that newly-appointed staff receive medical clearance from the University's Health Centre.

Eligibility to work in the UK: Candidates who are not citizens of the United Kingdom, or of another EEA member country, should ensure that they meet the requirements of one of the 5 tiers of the immigration points based system. Candidates should check their eligibility to enter or remain in the UK **in advance of making any job application** using the points-based calculator on the UK Border & Immigration Agency (UKBA) website. If you do not meet the minimum points requirement, you will not be able to work in the UK and any application for employment would be unsuccessful.

Document checks: As a result of the implementation of sections 15 to 26 of the

Immigration, Asylum and Nationality 2006 Act on 29 February 2008, the University requires all prospective and, in some cases, current employees, to provide documentation to verify their eligibility to work in the UK. Further information about these requirements can be found on the UK Border Agency website.
www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Full details of the salary scales, terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available on the recruitment website.

FURTHER ADVICE

Please contact Professor Duncan Shaw or Dr Christopher Brewster, for an informal discussion about the post.

Tel: +44(0) 121 204 3233   Email: c.a.brewster@aston.ac.uk

Tel: +44(0) 121 204 3231   Email: d.a.shaw@aston.ac.uk

If you would like information on the progress of your application, or advice on any aspect of the appointment process generally, or the terms and conditions of service, please do not hesitate to contact:

| Sarah Carey | HR Advisor | +44 (0) 121 204 4586 | s.j.carey@aston.ac.uk |
| Jenni Medza | HR Assistant | +44 (0) 121 204 4590 | j.medza@aston.ac.uk |

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

Aston University undertakes to promote equality and diversity within the University Community in all aspects of its work. Further, it aims to ensure through its admissions policies for students and its recruitment and selection processes for staff that it encourages applications from all groups represented in the wider community at a local, national and international level. The University will endeavour not to discriminate unfairly or illegally, directly or indirectly, against students or potential students, staff or potential staff. This commitment applies to all functions of the University and to any stage of an individual's career at Aston. For further details of policies and codes of practice on race, gender, disability, religion and belief, sexual orientation and age see: http://www.aston.ac.uk/staff/equalops/

An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included with the application form.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

Your application will only be used to inform the selection process, unless you are successful, in which case it will form the basis of your personal record with the University which may be stored in manual and/or electronic files. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.

Data you provide on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be included in a general database, for statistical monitoring purposes enabling the University to monitor the effectiveness of its Policy, Code of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.