

Post-Doctoral Research Assistant in Multi-agent Agentic AI systems



OPPORTUNITY

Where change gets real.



Reference: 0392-26

Grade: 08

Salary: £38,784 to £41,064 per annum, depending on experience

Contract Type: Fixed Term (36 months)

Basis: Full time

Job description

Job Purpose:

Aston University's Centre for Cybersecurity, Privacy and Trust (CyberHub) is the technical coordinator of a £3m, 10-partner EU Horizon project Agentic6G. The project will conduct leading research and experimentation in the area of Multi-agent Agentic AI systems applied to 6G network and service management.

By leveraging recent advances in Large Language Models (LLM) and other key agentic tools (starting with MCP or LangChain), the project will design, specify, implement, and evaluate advanced capabilities such as self-organisation, spontaneous generation, self-protection, and auto-scaling. Collaborative agentic AI agents will autonomously allocate resources, compose services, monitor and optimise, and secure the underlying infrastructure and service delivery.

CyberHub invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate who will primarily contribute to the project. The successful applicant will be ideally educated to PhD level in Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Software Engineering, Networks, or other related areas, and be proficient in software development and systems administration.

The successful applicant will be integrated in a rapidly growing research environment and collaborate with leading industry and academic partners in the UK and Europe.

It is further expected that the post-holder will support graduate students and contribute to the preparation of reports and scientific publications. Contributing to teaching activities and student supervision will be encouraged.

This is an invaluable opportunity to develop research in an exciting area, gain experience in international research projects, and join a leading University in the top 200 in Europe.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

- Lead the research and development of novel approaches to systems based on Multi-Agent Agentic AI architectures.
- Develop AI models and AI-based applications, tools, and software components collaboratively.
- Build, maintain and operate a private 6G cloud testbed primarily based on open-source software.
- Conduct experiments/trials, and collect, process and analyse data.
- Collaboratively create demonstrable proof-of-concepts, integrate with other subsystems, and conduct demonstrations in different events.
- Represent the research team in project meetings, which may include travelling.
- Contribute or lead internal project reports and deliverables.
- Write, publish and/or present research papers in conferences, seminars, workshops and peer-reviewed journals.
- Develop further novel research ideas and contribute to grants applications.
- Support the team in other related research projects.
- Contribute to the wider academic activities at Aston University.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in a relevant subject 	Application form and interview
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of research outputs such as publication • Strong skills in software development and systems administration • Experimental skills in testbed integration and evaluation 	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ability to deliver complex technical work within an international team • ability to produce documentation such as internal reports and research publications • ability to represent the team in project and other external events 	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postdoctoral experience 	Application form
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working in an externally funded project; ideally, in a EU Horizon project 	Application form and interview

Aptitude and Skills	Desirable knowledge of any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecom architectures, such as open air interfaces, etc • Cloud/containers-based frameworks such as Open Stack and Kubernetes • tools and frameworks of open-source LLM inference engines such as vLMM, TGI, SGLang • Agentic AI development frameworks such as LangChain, MCP/A2A, CrewAI, NVIDIA NeMo 	Application form and interview
----------------------------	---	--------------------------------

University values

All staff are expected to demonstrate/promote the University's values and expectations, which are an integral part of our strategy and underpin the culture of the University. In addition, our leaders are expected to be accountable, help to execute strategic visions of the University and share and set clear expectations that inspire those around them.

Values + Behaviours

Innovation	Collaboration	Ambition	Inclusion	Integrity
We strive for excellence within ourselves and others, providing solutions to new and existing challenges.	We work best when we are collaborative, working together to contribute to the Aston community.	We strive together for improvement and innovation looking ahead to see the bigger picture.	We treat everyone in our community equally and how they would like to be treated.	We are open, honest and fair. We take ownership of the way we work and how we treat each other.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs>.

Applications should be submitted by 23.59 on the advertised closing date.
All applicants must complete an application form, along with your CV.

Any CV sent direct to the Recruitment Team and Recruiting Manager will not be accepted.

If you require a manual application form, then please contact the Recruitment Team via recruitment@aston.ac.uk.

Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Prof Alcaraz Calero

Job Title: Director of Aston Research Centre for Cyber Security, Privacy and Trust

Email: j.alcarazcalero@aston.ac.uk

Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via recruitment@aston.ac.uk or 0121 204 4500.

Additional information

Visit our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr> for full details of our salary scales and benefits Aston University staff enjoy.

Salary scales: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/payroll-and-pensions/salary-scales/index>

Benefits: [Benefits and Rewards | Aston University](#)

Working in Birmingham: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/birmingham>

Employment of Ex-Offenders: Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a person with a criminal record is not required to disclose any spent convictions unless the positions they applying for is listed an exception under the act.

Eligibility to work in the UK: You should ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements, including meeting the [English language standards](#). If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful. Please see UKVI guidance for further information on eligibility, knowledge of English requirements and approved test centres <https://www.gov.uk/tier-2-general>

With the end of free movement for EU/EEA/Swiss nationals from 1 January 2021, the UK's new immigration system applies to all non-UK/Irish nationals who require a visa.

Where an individual is subject to UK immigration control, they will require a visa to work in the UK.

The following individuals do not need a visa for the UK, but do still have to prove their right to work before employment can commence:

- **British Citizens or Irish Nationals**
- **EU/EEA/Swiss nationals with Settled or Pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme**
- **Non-EEA nationals with Indefinite Leave to Remain/Settlement in the UK**

The main routes available for those who need a visa to work in the UK are **Skilled Worker**, **Global Talent** and the **Graduate Route**.

You can find further information about each of these visa routes on our candidate immigration page.

If you will conduct research in your role, you may need to apply for and obtain ATAS clearance before Aston can issue a Certificate of Sponsorship for your visa application. Please see below for further details.

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS):

If you will conduct research in your role and you apply for a Skilled Worker or Temporary

Worker GAE visa, you may need to apply for and obtain ATAS clearance before Aston can issue a Certificate of Sponsorship for your visa application.

This process can take at least 6 weeks to process, and Aston will consider this when confirming your expected start date. Processing times will increase between April and September and can longer to complete.

There is no fast-track option available. ATAS certificates will be processed in order of receipt.

You can find more information about ATAS on our candidate immigration page.

Before you start and Right to Work

90-day entry vignette

If you have applied for your visa outside of the UK, you will receive a vignette in your passport which is usually valid for 90 days. Please make sure to travel to the UK within the 'valid from' and 'valid to' dates on this visa. If you entered the UK before or after these dates, you would not 'activate' the visa and you would need to leave and re-enter the country.

You will also receive a decision letter confirming details about your immigration permission and where to collect your Biometric Residence Permit.

Cost of Living - Estate and Letting Agents

There are numerous Estate and Letting Agents in and around Birmingham that can help you find suitable accommodation. The Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme provides a list of professional agencies and landlords who have applied with them for accreditation. Whilst accreditation is not a guarantee of quality, it provides some reassurance about the standard of the service they provide.

You can also use property search websites such as Rightmove or Zoopla.

Equal Opportunities

Aston University promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of its work. We aim to ensure, through our admissions policies for students, and our staff recruitment and selection processes that we encourage 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 student 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.

An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included within the application form. 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, Codes of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.

Data Protection

Your personal data will be processed in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) ("GDPR"). The University's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices, including the Job Applicant Privacy Notice can be found at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/data-protection>. 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 will be stored in manual and/or electronic files. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.

Full details of our terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available online at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/policies>

Aston University
Birmingham
B4 7ET, UK.
+44 (0)121 204 3000

www.aston.ac.uk