

AI Platform Engineer - KTP Associate



OPPORTUNITY

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Reference: 0618-26

Salary: £40,000 - £43,000 depending on experience and qualifications, with an additional £5,000 budget for the duration of the project for professional and personal development

Contract Type: Fixed Term (30 Months)

Basis: Full Time (based primarily remotely, with monthly travel to central London)

Job description

This project takes the form of a [Knowledge Transfer Partnership \(KTP\)](#), funded by Modular Data Limited and Innovate UK. KTPs provide practical and formal training, alongside support from experienced mentors within the partner business and the academic team. As a KTP Associate, you will play a vital role in delivering a high-impact innovation project that links industry with the UK's world-class knowledge base. To learn more, please visit: www.aston.ac.uk/ktp.

Job Purpose:

This project will enable Modular Data to build an open-source platform 'SUNRAI'; a portmanteau word combining 'Sunlight' and 'Sonrai', (Irish for data) that uses AI tools to predict outcomes such as re-offending rates and to improve supply chains.

It will work securely on local systems or in the cloud, so users can choose their deployment model. The vision is a scalable platform that strengthens supply chain resilience and improves justice outcomes, with long-term value from ethical AI, data governance, and transparency. The project will enable the company to focus on domain-led platform services and scalable solutions across sectors, rather than a single use case.

Candidate Profile: Minimum Masters degree in Computer Science, Data Science, or related subject, strong focus on AI/ Data Analytics.

Essential skills/ experience required include:

- Proficiency in multimodal data analytics, predictive modelling, and human-in-the-loop AI.
- Demonstrable experience with cloud platforms and microservices architecture for multi-cloud systems.
- Knowledge of, and demonstrable experience in, secure data access in complex cloud architectures, knowledge graphs and semantic reasoning.
- Extensive knowledge and practical experience in advanced machine learning models (e.g. deep learning) within the context of cross-modal pattern detection and predictive analytics (e.g. risk scoring).
- Programming experience in Python, Go, and/or Java, with familiarity in Scikit-image, TensorFlow, or PyTorch.
- Feature extraction skills relevant to AI model development, RAG architectures, Human-in-the-Loop approaches.
- Strong problem-solving ability and adaptability for complex challenges in data governance and AI safety.
- Clear communicator with both technical and non-technical stakeholders in academia and industry.
- Proactive approach to learning and use of professional development resources.
- Analytical thinker, able to develop and explain robust technical solutions.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of open-source software development and modular frameworks.
- Certification in ethical AI or cloud architecture.
- Experience in open-source deployment across multiple cloud environments.
- Commitment to societal impact and high standards in ethical data practices.
- PhD in relevant area.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

- Deliver the technical core and modular components of the open-source AI platform.
- Apply advanced multimodal data analytics and predictive modelling to solution design.
- Use cloud platforms such as AWS, Azure, or Google Cloud for multi-cloud interfacing.
- Develop AI tools using Python, Go, and/or Java, and libraries like Scikit-image, TensorFlow, and PyTorch.
- Integrate human-in-the-loop AI features and ensure ethical data practices.
- Attend monthly meetings in central London and travel to Aston University or client locations as required.
- Communicate progress to academic and industry stakeholders.
- Prepare reports and technical documentation for project milestones.
- Assist with open-source release, documentation, and community engagement.

Additional responsibilities

- ▶ Engage in continuous personal and professional development in line with the demands of the role, including undertaking relevant training and development activities.
- ▶ Ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- ▶ Carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.
- ▶ Promote equality of opportunity and support diversity and inclusion as well as working to support the University's environmental sustainability agenda and practices.


Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Minimum Masters degree in Computer Science, Data Science, or related subject, strong focus on AI/Data Analytics 	Application form
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Proficiency in multimodal data analytics, predictive modelling, and human-in-the-loop AI. ▶ Demonstrable experience with cloud platforms and microservices architecture for multi-cloud systems. ▶ Programming experience in Python, Go, and/or Java with familiarity in Scikit-image, TensorFlow, or PyTorch. ▶ Feature extraction skills relevant to AI model development. 	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strong problem-solving ability and adaptability for complex challenges in data governance and AI safety. ▶ Clear communicator with both technical and non-technical stakeholders in academia and industry. ▶ Proactive approach to learning and use of professional development resources. ▶ Analytical thinker, able to develop and explain robust technical solutions. 	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ PhD in relevant area 	Application form
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Knowledge of open-source software development and modular frameworks. ▶ Certification in ethical AI or cloud architecture. ▶ Commitment to societal impact and high standards in ethical data practices. 	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.

Applications should be submitted by 23.59pm 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: Dr Zhuangzhuang Dai

Job Title: Lecturer In Computer Science

Email: z.dai1@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>

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www.aston.ac.uk