

<b>JOB DESCRIPTION</b>			
Job title	<b>Visiting Senior Researcher, Climate and AI</b>	Department	<b>Ada Lovelace Institute</b>
Job holder	<b>Vacant</b>	Reports to	<b>Senior Researcher, Ethics &amp; Accountability in Practice (with oversight from Associate Director, Research Partnerships)</b>
Job type	<b>Fixed term, 24 months</b>	Date created	<b>March 2022</b>
Job aim	To be the lead researcher on a project exploring how AI practitioners and researchers can evaluate and measure the climate impacts of their systems at different stages of the AI lifecycle.		
<b>Key responsibilities: Including but not limited to</b>			
<b>1. Research, analysis and recommendation development</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete and publish a 6-month literature review exploring the open research questions and state of the literature on measurement and evaluation of the climate impacts of AI and data-driven systems.</li> <li>▪ Based on the results of the literature review, develop and undertake a 18-month research project exploring the question of measurement and evaluation of the climate impacts of AI and data-driven systems, working closely with members of the Ethics &amp; Accountability in Practice programme.</li> <li>▪ Use a range of research methodologies that can address your research questions, including but not limited to stakeholder interviews, focus groups, workshops, surveys, tool development, and public engagement exercises.</li> <li>▪ Identify and engage with key stakeholders and experts in the field to seek their guidance and feedback throughout all stages of the project</li> <li>▪ Create a budget, resource plan and roadmap for both the literature review and research projects.</li> <li>▪ Where possible, co-develop recommendations for governments and industry on actions they can take to translate the findings of your research into practice.</li> </ul>		
<b>2. Writing and communications</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To lead and collaborate with external stakeholders to produce project outputs based on emerging evidence.</li> <li>▪ Responsibility for the ongoing drafting and editing of papers, reports, blogs, media comments and other resources.</li> <li>▪ With support from colleagues, to undertake occasional public speaking.</li> <li>▪ Co-developing and organisation of workshops and/or events in order to raise the profile of Ada's research on climate and AI.</li> </ul> <p>Engage with and collaborate on other research projects across the Institute, particularly those relating to the Ethics &amp; Accountability in Practice programme.</p>		

<b>3. Impact</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifying opportunities for impact in the UK and internationally with different stakeholders, including but not limited to industry practitioners, AI/ML researchers, public-sector organisations, hardware and software developers, and others.</li> <li>▪ Craft an impact and dissemination plan that identifies key stakeholders and opportunities to influence their practice. For more information on how Ada thinks about impact, see page 21 of our <a href="#">2021-2024 strategy</a>.</li> <li>▪ Inform and feed into Ada's longer-term strategy to develop and test methods for ensuring more accountable and ethical AI and data practices.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Other</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The above list of key responsibilities (and associated activities) is not exhaustive. It may be necessary to carry out other work within the scope of the role, as reasonably requested, including supporting other researchers</li> </ul>

<b>Person specification</b>	Essential (E), Highly Desirable (HD) or Desirable (D)
<b>Experience</b>	
Experience with social research techniques (whether through experience or academic training), and excellent editorial, synthesis and analysis skills	E
Significant experience working in a public, academic or industry environment, such as international organisations, government agencies, think tanks or learned societies; or experience in tech companies or consultancies	HD
Experience of writing on complex topics for different audiences	HD
Experience in setting up research collaborations involving multiple stakeholders	D
Experience with research planning and coordination	D
Experience writing and drafting literature reviews on complex and interdisciplinary topics.	HD
<b>Knowledge and Skills</b>	
Ability to lead and execute a multidisciplinary research project with high impact	E
A keen and demonstrable interest in issues of AI and data ethics, climate science, responsible research/development and innovation	E
Interest in or knowledge of the climate and environmental impacts of AI	HD
Ability to work with a diverse range of stakeholders	E
Ability to organise workshops/events	E
Excellent project management skills	E
<b>Personal Qualities</b>	
A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion	E
Flexible and creative, able to think outside the box	E
A collaborative approach to research and thinking	E
Ability to work with some level of autonomy and 'manage up' by working independently and in close communication with other team members	E



## **What is expected of applicants in this role**

Successful applicants will be expected to produce two major outputs from this role:

1. A literature review exploring the landscape of research around the evaluation of climate impacts of AI and data driven technologies (expected to take up the first 6 months), to be published on the Ada Lovelace Institute website.
2. Building from this literature review, the researcher will design and drive their own ~18-month research project in partnership with our Senior Researcher on Ethics & Accountability in Practice. The scope, method and output of this project can be agreed to by the applicant and the Senior Researcher, and can take the form of one or a combination of different methods, including:
  - a) A piece of qualitative or quantitative research published as a report.
  - b) A series of events and workshops engaging key stakeholders.
  - c) A public engagement exercise with members of the public.
  - d) The development of a tool or method for evaluating climate impacts.
  - e) A case study attempting to test a particular practice or tool in a particular context.
  - f) The development and curation of a community of practice.

In addition to these two outputs, this role will be responsible for communication strategies for outputs, and conceptualising, facilitating and attending meetings, workshops and events with a view to achieving strategic impact with key stakeholders.

Successful applicants should expect to work closely on this project with the wider Ethics & Accountability in Practice programme team (2-4 individuals). To date, Ada's methodologies include the use of working groups and expert convenings, public deliberation initiatives, desk-based research and synthesis, policy and legal analysis and translation, and ethnographic research. We welcome new kinds of expertise and methodologies into our team.

The Visiting Senior Researcher is expected to produce and execute a novel, achievable, and high-impact research agenda, with international reach beyond the UK. As an independent, policy and practice-facing research institute, we prioritise outputs that are aimed at engaging different audiences for specific purposes. We do not produce exclusively academic publications, so the successful applicant will need to marry technical credibility with framing compelling arguments.

### **A day in the life of a Visiting Senior Researcher at Ada**

You will start your day whenever you like – most of the team are online by 9.30am, but some prefer to start early and finish early, or have a later day. We do not believe in strict adherence to working hours and prioritise productivity over clock-watching. We generally start the day by checking in on Microsoft Teams and letting our colleagues know what the day ahead holds.

Every day will be different, and you will probably spend about half of your day in meetings or on calls – doing outreach and sharing information with stakeholders such as DCMS, peer organisations like Algorithm Watch, or academics and researchers; coordinating external consultants, commissioned researchers or working groups; interviewing data scientists or policy people for research, or speaking to the occasional journalist.

You will find team updates and chats on our Teams Channels, and meeting notes and how-to guides in our Notion page. Depending on the day, you might join a team-wide meeting to hear



project updates or discuss organisational policies. Also depending on the day, you might have a regular 1:1 meeting with your manager to check in on your wellbeing, raise any challenges or obstacles with your project, and discuss career advancement and growth opportunities. You'll have regular interactions with our Comms team, keeping them abreast of work underway, collaborating on influencing strategy for a forthcoming output, or working together on an output.

The other half of your day you'll spend reading and writing. It might be that you're undertaking in-depth research on a topic, co-facilitating a public deliberation on acceptable use of data, editing a draft, or undertaking some responsive commentary. You might have projects that are highly outward-facing, convening experts around project, or you might have a week offline to write a report. You'll spend some time reading recent news articles, dipping into Twitter and catching up on important policy literature and commentary in our field.

You might wrap up the day by doing some thinking about new initiatives Ada should engage with, new projects Ada should conceive, or some writing based on your findings that week.