

JOB DESCRIPTION			
Job title	Visiting Senior Researcher, Education and AI	Department	Ada Lovelace Institute
Job holder	Vacant	Reports to	Senior Researcher, Public Sector Algorithms (oversight from Associate Director, Policy)
Job type	18 month contract. Full time (part time working and secondments considered).	Date created	June 2022
Job aim	To undertake a research project exploring the impacts of the emerging use of AI, algorithms and data-driven technologies in the UK educational system, and the implications of this for policy, practice and society as a whole.		
Key responsibilities: Including but not limited to			
1. Research, analysis and recommendation development			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Complete a 6-month literature review exploring the open research questions and state of the literature on the emerging uses of AI and data-driven technologies in the UK educational system.</li><li>Based on the results of the literature review, develop and undertake a potentially multi-faceted 12-month research project exploring this topic.</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>			
2. Writing and communications			
<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 the Nuffield Foundation and the Ada Lovelace Institute</li><li>Engage with and collaborate on other research projects across the Ada Lovelace Institute.</li><li>Engage with and advise Nuffield colleagues, particularly those in Education</li></ul>			
3. Impact			

- Identifying opportunities for impact in the UK and internationally with different stakeholders, including but not limited to industry practitioners, school administrative staff, teachers, students, hardware and software developers, and others.
- Crafting 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 [2021-2024 strategy](#).
- Inform and feed into Ada's longer-term strategy to develop and test methods for ensuring more accountable and ethical AI and data practices.
- Inform, and where appropriate feed directly into, the Nuffield Foundation's future research agenda and guidance for applicants.

#### 4. Other

- 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.

The postholder will be expected to produce two major outputs from this role:

- A literature review exploring the open research questions and literature around Education and AI and data-driven technologies to be published on the Ada Lovelace Institute website (expected to take up the first 6 months of the role)
- Building from this literature review, the researcher will design and drive their own ~12-month research project in partnership with the Nuffield Foundation and Ada Senior Researchers. The scope, method and output of this project can be agreed to by the applicant and their Nuffield/Ada counterparts, and might take the form of:
  - A piece of qualitative or quantitative research published as a report
  - A series of events and workshops engaging key stakeholders
  - A public engagement exercise with members of the public
  - A case study attempting to test a particular practice or tool in a particular context
  - The development and curation of a community of practice

The research will need to align with the strategy and mission of Ada and Nuffield. Open questions / mapping that may be explored through this post include:

- The different purposes of 'EdTech' technologies, e.g. delivery of learning material, advanced pedagogical functionality, teacher-pupil interactions, assessment and progress tracking, accreditation, accountability systems, other administrative functions
- The different audiences for these technologies e.g. students, teachers, administrators, assessment bodies, parents.
- The different types of technology (e.g. hardware/devices, virtual learning environments, other platforms and networks such as Google Classroom, content delivery services, algorithmic prediction systems) and relationships between these.
- The different types of data that may be collected e.g. pupil work, formative and summative assessment data, National Pupil Database data, including data linkage.

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.

Person specification	Essential, Highly Desirable or Desirable
<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
Knowledge and understanding of the ethical issues of AI and data, education and EdTech, responsible research/development and innovation	E
Knowledge and understanding of education policy and practice.	HD
Interest in or knowledge of the ways in which algorithmic and data-driven technologies are impacting the classroom	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