Hertford College, Oxford

Fixed-term Junior Research Fellowship in Computer Science

Further Particulars

Hertford College intends to appoint a Junior Research Fellow in Computer Science. This post is designed for an individual with outstanding potential at an early stage of their academic career, wishing to specialise in the field of machine learning. This is a three-year, fixed-term post available from 1 October 2018 until 30 September 2021. An earlier start date could be considered by mutual agreement.

Junior Research Fellowships are intended to provide opportunities for outstanding academics at the beginning of their careers. They provide a stipend, free meals, and the opportunity to interact with the college Fellowship in a rich interdisciplinary setting. The successful candidate will be encouraged to take an affiliation with the Department of Computer Science, and to engage with Oxford’s large and diverse machine learning research community.

The College

Hertford College is heir to the traditions of two medieval Halls, Magdalen Hall (whose alumni include Thomas Hobbes and William Tyndale), and Hart Hall (whose alumni include John Donne and Jonathan Swift). The main College site is located at the heart of the ancient city of Oxford, where Elias de Hertford founded Hart Hall in the 1280s, and to which Magdalen Hall removed in 1822 (subsequently incorporated as Hertford College in 1874). Academic offices are on the main site, as is accommodation for many students, complemented by further accommodation for both graduates and undergraduates at various other sites around Oxford.

The Fellowship, which has responsibility for the governance of the College, currently consists of just over forty Fellows, and the College is home to roughly 650 students, two-thirds of whom are undergraduates. Around thirty Lecturers supplement undergraduate teaching provision. Fellows, Lecturers and students are drawn from a range of disciplines across the Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences. The College has a reputation for being both progressive and friendly. It was one of the first colleges to go mixed, and the ratio of female students to male remains comparatively high. It has championed access for students from schools that have not traditionally encouraged Oxford applications and has a strong academic ethos.
Hertford College is highly active in Oxford’s Computer Science and Philosophy degree, led by Professor Peter Millican who initiated the programme. The College appointed its first fellow in Computer Science, Professor Michael Wooldridge (currently Head of the Department of Computer Science) in 2012, and is in the process of appointing a tutorial fellow in Computer Science, with the intention of admitting undergraduate Computer Science students in 2018. Further information about Hertford College is available from the website at http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/.

Duties of the Post

The primary duty of the post is to carry out research. Of particular interest for the present post are researchers with expertise at the intersection of machine learning and program synthesis. The successful candidate will be expected to:

(i) propose, plan and manage a high quality and ambitious programme of original research;

(ii) publicise the outcomes of that research at a national and international level through presentation of papers and publications;

(iii) liaise with research colleagues across and outside of Oxford with a view to future research collaboration; and

(iv) engage in the life and activities of the College.

While the College is careful to protect the research time of its Junior Research Fellows, the Fellow will be offered a limited amount of teaching (normally up to 3 hours a week during term time), in the interest of their career development.

Assessment Criteria

The primary criterion for appointment to the Junior Research Fellowship will be research excellence. Candidates will be expected to:

(i) have a strong academic track record;

(ii) be approaching the end of their doctoral research or have recently completed their doctorate, and not normally have more than five years of post-doctoral research experience by the closing date, nor have held a comparable appointment previously;

(iii) have relevant research expertise (related to machine learning and program synthesis) as demonstrated by publications, or demonstrate promise of such achievement; and

(iv) have a coherent plan of research for the duration of the Fellowship.
Terms and Conditions

The appointment will be for a three-year, fixed, non-renewable term from 1 October 2018 until 30 September 2021. An earlier start date could be considered by mutual agreement.

The overall salary for the Junior Research Fellowship will be £31,245 per annum (comprising a stipend of £21,808 and housing allowance of £9,437). The stipend will be indexed to academic salary rises, and the postholder will be eligible for membership of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

The Junior Research Fellow will have the following entitlements:

(i) use of an office in College;

(ii) membership of the College’s Senior Common Room (SCR), with full Fellows’ dining rights in term and vacation;

(iii) Fellows’ research allowance (£1,558 p.a.), computer allowance (£593 p.a., available for the full term of the appointment in advance), and entertainment allowance (£273 p.a.).

The College will arrange for a mentor of the Junior Research Fellow.

Application and Appointment Procedure

Candidates should send

(i) a cv including relevant experience;

(ii) a covering letter (of 1-2 pages) describing the research they wish to undertake;

(iii) an application form (available on the college website); and

(iv) the names of three referees

by email to Dr Undine Bruckner, HR Manager, Hertford College, (hr@hertford.ox.ac.uk) by 12 noon on Monday 30 October 2017.

Candidates should also arrange for their referees to write to the College by the same date. The College wishes to take this opportunity to thank in advance those referees who write on behalf of candidates.

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit a short written sample of research (of no more than 12,000 words).

It is anticipated that interviews will be held in the week commencing Monday 13 November 2017.

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25.9.17
Informal enquiries about this post may be directed in the first instance to Professor Mike Wooldridge (michael.wooldridge@cs.ox.ac.uk).

Candidates are strongly encouraged to return the Recruitment Monitoring Form (available for download from the College website - https://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/about/vacancies).

The appointment will be subject to the provision of proof of the right to work in the UK. Applicants who would need a work visa if appointed to the post are asked to note that under the UK’s points-based migration system they will need to demonstrate that they have sufficient points, and in particular that:

(i) they have sufficient English language skills (evidenced by having passed a test in basic English, or coming from a majority English-speaking country, or having taken a degree taught in English)

and

(ii) that they have sufficient funds to maintain themselves and any dependants until they receive their first salary payment.

Further information is available at: https://www.gov.uk/tier-2-general/eligibility

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