

Person Specification – Professor / Associate Professor in Robotics and Autonomous Systems

We are seeking to appoint a Professor or Associate Professor to join the Department of Computer & Information Sciences to expand and diversify our capabilities in the AI subject area through the establishment of a new research cluster in robotics and physical autonomous systems, and work with colleagues in relevant field to drive forward our ambition in space technologies. The post holder is expected to capitalise on the major opportunities available in this area by the current announcement of Northumbria's ambition to have the UK's first university-led multi-satellite space mission and its journey to create the next generation of AI innovators.

The ideal candidate can bring significant experience in Robotics to the ambition in the University's strategy and the Department's ambition through the delivery of high-quality research. The ideal candidate is an established academic with track record in lead a research group with laboratory, attracting large scale research grant with a track record in publishing in high-quality journals. Candidates who are open to relocate their whole team are strongly encouraged.

Key Responsibilities

The role-holder will assist the Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor to build, maintain, enhance and improve the University's national and international reputation in Robotics.

The role-holder will be expected to demonstrate continuing academic attainment and achievement and provide academic leadership, through active contribution to their discipline and to the life and work of their Faculty and the wider University. This may involve undertaking a specific leadership and management portfolio within the Faculty. Beyond the discipline and University, this will involve contributing to significant change within practice, the discipline, profession and/or community at regional, national and international level.

Professors are expected to:

- Demonstrate a sustained academic contribution with a recognised national and international reputation for high quality work.
- Demonstrate original and significant contribution to knowledge, practice or performance (enterprise, research) and the enhancement of student learning (teaching) as evidenced through publications, presentations, demonstrations, exhibitions or other works.
- Make a significant personal contribution to the Faculty's broad portfolio of teaching, research, scholarly, business engagement and professional activities.
- Make a major contribution to improving the capacity for new work to be undertaken either through personal professional development, collaboration or workforce development.
- Introduce demonstrable change to existing products, beliefs, knowledge, practice or performance within the subject discipline.
- Positively promote the University within and outside the institution to build networks which will assist and inform the development of the Faculty and the University.
- Support the Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor, Head(s) of Department, and other colleagues as appropriate, by exercising strategic academic leadership within their academic field, and leading on departmental and faculty portfolios in line with their specific academic focus.

- Support the Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head(s) of Department to deliver the Faculty's plans, by contributing to aligning the planning of research, teaching and enterprise activities within Faculty and University priorities and strategic goals.
- Provide effective leadership and line-management to teams and people including agreeing work plans and objectives. This involves working closely with the Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head(s) of Department to appraise and develop staff, to coach and support colleagues using personal knowledge and expertise, and to mentor colleagues advising on professional and career development to support growing a high performance culture.
- Liaise with Deputy Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor, Head(s) of Department and other key staff as appropriate to champion the integration of those agendas within their portfolio of activity thereby contributing to and delivering Faculty objectives and KPIs.
- Plan, manage and monitor the use of financial and physical resources that are allocated as part of primary work activity.
- Work collaboratively with academic and professional support staff to continue the development of effective systems, support and administration.
- Ensure fair and consistent application of University policies and procedures and compliance with appropriate legislation including, for example, equality and diversity, health and safety and data protection.
- Represent the Faculty internally and the University externally on committees, working groups, forums and at other events. This may include chairing committees and ensuring the effective operation of relevant sub-committees and working groups.
- Contribute to and support Faculty and University-wide initiatives and portfolios as required by the University and Faculty Executive.
- Undertake other University and Faculty responsibilities as the Faculty Executive may require.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

- Lead the development of research, teaching and or business engagement in the field of Robotics.
- Conduct research at a level commensurate with the role of Professor in a research-rich university which includes significant outputs of recognised quality that demonstrate disciplinary relevant impact.
- Lead bids for research, enterprise, consultancy and other relevant funds and awards as appropriate to the discipline, acting as Principal Investigator when required.
- Deliver presentations at national and international conferences and similar events, to raise the profile of the Faculty and the University.
- Produce regular outputs (publications or similar, as appropriate to the discipline and subject) of a quality and frequency consistent with the status of Professor in the field.
- Play a key role in the development, leadership and management of innovative programmes, teaching-related projects or initiatives.
- Make outstanding contributions to the enhancement of student learning via pedagogic innovation and change. This will involve original contributions to the development of pedagogic scholarship, theory and practice development and playing a key role in the advancement of a subject area.

- Lead major innovations in linking research (and scholarly activities) and knowledge transfer through, for example, consultancies, CPD, and enterprise activities which have substantial impact regionally, nationally or internationally.
- Demonstrate sustained success in developing significant and innovative networks and partnerships with internal and external stakeholders.
- Develop substantial sustained industrial/commercial collaboration(s) and activities.
- Develop and lead substantial enterprise activity.
- Demonstrate sustained success in securing major funding.
- Evaluation of external enterprise projects or programmes.
- Make a leading and international contribution to developing the link between the discipline and its stakeholders through, for example, membership of international committees; publications, contribution to international conferences.
- Make a major contribution to the leadership and future development of enterprise and knowledge transfer in the University.
- Play a leading role in the development and/or application of public or professional policy or practice at national or international levels.
- Lead a number of academic engagement activities such as public engagement with the press and broadcast media, public policy engagement and liaison through events and exhibitions.
- Contribute to the development of intellectual property.
- Act as Principal Supervisor for doctoral students.
- Demonstrate active and leading involvement with key research and policy bodies at national or international level.

Location:

The role-holder will be based at either the University's City or Coach Lane campus, but travel to other premises which the University may from time to time occupy will be required. National and international travel to academic partners and corporate clients in relation to programmes, awards, consultancy and/or other activities and externally funded programmes appropriate to the nature of the post may also be required.

Attendance Requirements:

The nature of the post is such that the post holder is expected to work and attend at the University's premises such hours as are reasonably necessary for the effective discharge of the duties of the post, within a normal working week of 37 hours. Within this time a typical workload may include weekday evening delivery and exceptionally, weekend short course work and/or national and international travel appropriate to the nature of the role.

Northumbria University is an on-campus organisation where colleagues work regular patterns of hours and on campus, with some flexibility on the timing of their hours and the location of their work in discussion with their manager. Colleagues who would like to make a long term or permanent change to their hours, pattern or place of work should request this via a Flexible Working Request.