



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

**University Academic Fellow in Immersive Technologies  
School of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine and Health**



**Salary: Grade 8 (£40,792 – £48,677 p.a.)**

**Reference: MHFW1042**

**Closing date: 10 March 2019**

**We will consider flexible working arrangements**

## **University Academic Fellow in Immersive Technologies School of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine and Health**

**Are you an experienced and ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a strong research background in computational approaches to human learning? Do you want to further your career in a world-leading, research-intensive Russell Group University?**

With a vision and drive to contribute to a World-Leading research portfolio, as well as a passion for undertaking research-led teaching, you will make a significant impact on the performance, stature and profile of research and student education at The University of Leeds.

The last five years has seen a rapid advancement in the development of immersive technologies. Augmented and Virtual Reality displays are presenting fundamentally new ways for users to process and interact with information, and these technologies have the potential to transform the ways in which we live, work and play by recreating and enhancing our interactions with the real world. However, large-scale adoption of these technologies creates considerable implementation challenges that require human-centred research - specifically, investigations into the processes underlying how humans learn (including work on the development of human-like computing systems).

The Centre for Immersive Technologies (CfIT) at the University of Leeds is providing a platform for our researchers to connect with national and global partners from the public and private sectors. CfIT is allowing our academics to overcome barriers to Immersive Technologies adoption, and stimulate economic growth and create societal benefit by placing humans at the heart of this new technological revolution. We are looking for a future research leader with the capability, inventiveness and initiative to develop their career in driving this activity to the highest possible level.

Whilst your research interests may fall out with our existing areas of research excellence, it is likely that they will complement one or more of these three challenge areas:

- Health and Wellbeing - the use of immersive technologies for applications in healthcare delivery, surgical training and rehabilitation;
- Human-Centred Design - human-computer interactions with engineered systems (e.g. robots and autonomous vehicles) ;
- Accelerating Education - understanding and optimising the effectiveness of VR/AR training for skill transfer across multiple domains.

As a University Academic Fellow, you will be able to take advantage of the University's unique capabilities and infrastructure in immersive technologies - including but not

restricted to the Centre's state-of-art Immersive Labs (housing >£2m immersive technologies including large virtual display technologies and a 6m wide omnidirectional motorised treadmill combined with optical tracking technology) and state-of-the-art driving and traffic simulators, including the Highly Immersive Kinematic Experimental Research lab - the world's largest 4K resolution 'CAVE-based' simulation environment.

**Career Pathway:** Tenure track equivalent post requiring successful completion of a five year development plan, leading to appointment to a grade 9 Associate Professor, with the potential for accelerated progression.

## What does the role entail?

As a University Academic Fellow your main duties will include:

- Pursuing a programme of individual and collaborative research, resulting in high quality publications and a national and international profile and engaging with industry as appropriate to attract and co-ordinate major initiatives;
- Promoting the integration of your own research area with other research interests, in the germane School and Faculty, and across the University;
- Attracting research funding individually and collaboratively to underpin high quality research activity and research programmes/projects;
- Developing a strategy to ensure that your research has the potential for impact (societal and/or economic) beyond academia;
- Undertaking research-led teaching at different levels, with engagement in continual improvement in response to student and other feedback;
- Contributing to the design, development and planning of teaching modules and policy within the subject area as required;
- Working in partnership with students to provide outstanding education and an excellent student experience;
- Contributing to the management of School or cross university interdisciplinary initiatives by taking on appropriate leadership, management and administrative responsibility;
- Leading academic initiatives and projects in research and student education which facilitate School, Faculty and/or University development;
- Participating in the recruitment, management and development of staff, as well as acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues;
- Contributing to the development of the discipline or research area, e.g. through organisation of conferences or membership of key bodies setting the strategic direction of the area;
- Contributing to the development and achievement of University, faculty and school strategy within the context of an international, research-led university;
- Becoming a specialist in the field, developing and maintaining an external profile as appropriate to the discipline;

- Maintaining your own continuing professional development;
- Carrying out the duties of the post in accordance with University policies, procedures, values and standards, including the Leadership and Management standard.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

## **What will you bring to the role?**

As a University Academic Fellow you will have:

- A PhD (or equivalent qualification) in a relevant field connected to the study of human learning, for example Psychology, Medical Education, Cognitive Science, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering;
- Significant research expertise in the study of human behaviour, with a particular focus on the study of cognitive and sensorimotor interactions that can be applied to the development and implementation of virtual environments;
- Evidence of the potential to secure significant external funding to support your research activity;
- A clear and compelling academic plan that will deliver academic and societal impact at an international level;
- A clear strategy to connect across the different research groups within the University;
- Significant proven research experience within the academic discipline, with a developing record of internationally excellent publications;
- Experience of presenting at national and international conferences and/or symposia;
- Evidence of building strong working relationships within and, as appropriate, beyond your own discipline and contributing to successful projects and collaborations;
- The potential and commitment to undertake high quality and innovative teaching, and gain a higher education teaching qualification or award;
- Experience of delivering and engaging with student education where opportunities have existed;
- A high level of interpersonal and communication skills, and a strong ability to communicate effectively (verbally and in writing) with students, and academic and external audiences;
- The ability to lead projects, and organise, balance and prioritise work commitments.



You may also have:

- Experience in the development and application of computational models of human behaviour;
- Experience of leading on projects and initiatives, including managing resources and conflicting priorities within challenging circumstances;
- A growing track record of successful and innovative teaching at both undergraduate and/or postgraduate level;
- Experience of involvement in postgraduate research supervision;
- Experience of working collaboratively with external partner organisations;
- Experience of mentoring in the workplace.

## How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

## Contact information

For any queries, please email: [UAFSupport@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:UAFSupport@leeds.ac.uk)

To explore the post further, please contact:

**Professor Rory O'Connor, Pro-Dean for Research and Innovation (Faculty of Medicine and Health)**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 0671

Email: [R.J.O'Connor@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:R.J.O'Connor@leeds.ac.uk)

**Professor Mark Mon-Williams, Director, Centre for Immersive Technologies**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5725

Email: [m.mon-williams@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:m.mon-williams@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

### Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

### Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [disclosure@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

## **Criminal record information**

### **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975**

This post requires an enhanced and barred list criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.»

Any offer of appointment will be subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks, in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.