UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Foundation Models for 6G Networks, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Salary: Grade 7 (£41,064 – £48,822 p.a.)

Reporting to: Dr Syed Zaidi

Reference: EPSEE1147

Closing date: Wednesday 27 August 2025

Fixed-term (until 31 March 2026 – to complete specific time limited work)

Location: Leeds main campus

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Foundation Models for 6G Networks, School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Overview of the Role

The 6G National Research Programme is at the forefront of pioneering research and development in the field of 6G technologies. As part of the Communications Hub for Empowering Distributed Cloud Computing Applications and Research (CHEDDAR), we are focused on advancing the integration of UK expertise in communications and networking to maintain the country's leadership in 6G technologies. Our research is generously funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Department of Science, Innovation, and Technologies (DSIT). By joining our team, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with leading experts nationwide and contribute to groundbreaking projects in the field.

We are seeking a Research Fellow to join our team and lead the research efforts in the domain of Foundation Models for 6G. As part of the CHEDDAR Hub, you will work alongside a diverse group of researchers dedicated to pushing the boundaries of 6G technology. Your primary responsibility will be to spearhead research initiatives aimed at developing foundation models, contributing to the advancement of autonomy in telecommunication networks.

Holding a PhD (or have submitted your thesis before taking up the role) in Computer Science/Electronic and Electrical Engineering or a closely allied discipline, you will have a background in cloud technologies for communication systems, and in programming with proficiency in at least one programming language (e.g., Python, Java, Rust, C/C++).

Main duties and responsibilities

- Developing Large Language Models (LLM) for Telecommunication;
- Lead development of multi-modal ML and AI solutions for generative protocol design;
- Lead development of Intent-based networking and orchestration through LLM models;
- Implementation of the proposed components on real world testbeds;

- Contribute towards the hub showcase and demo events;
- Generating and pursuing independent and original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team including preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own research;
- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals and by presentation at national and international meetings;
- Working independently and as part of a larger team of researchers, both internally and externally, to develop new research links and collaborations and engage in knowledge transfer activities where appropriate;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.

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.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- A PhD (or have submitted your thesis before taking up the role) in Computer Science/Electronic and Electrical Engineering or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in cloud technologies for communication systems, and in programming with proficiency in at least one programming language (e.g., Python, Java, Rust, C/C++);
- Expertise in Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence with special focus on generative machine learning;
- Expertise in deployment pipelines for ML including AWS Bedrock or similar, and in local containerised deployment of LLMs;
- An understanding of Linux operating systems and shell scripting;

- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and manage competing demands effectively without close support;
- A developing track record of peer-reviewed publications in international journals;
- Excellent communication skills both written and verbal, and the ability to communicate your research at national and international conferences;
- A proven ability to work well both independently and in a team.

Desirable

- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Experience of:
    - Contributing towards technology roadmaps;
    - Front-end APIs.

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

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Dr Syed Zaidi, Associate Professor
Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5241
Email: S.A.Zaidi@leeds.ac.uk

OR

Jie Xu, Professor
Email: J.Xu@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Faculty and School Information
Further information is available on the research and teaching activities of the Faculty of Engineering and the School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Working at Leeds
We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our Working at Leeds information page.

A diverse workforce
As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people; people who identify as LGBT+; and people with disabilities. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences are proud to have been awarded the Athena SWAN Silver Award from the Equality Challenge Unit, the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. Our equality and inclusion webpage provides more information.

Information for disabled candidates
Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found under the 'Accessibility' heading on our How to Apply information page or by getting in touch by emailing HR via hr@leeds.ac.uk.

Criminal Record Information
Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our Criminal Records information page.

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information, please visit the Government's Skilled Worker visa page.

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information, please visit the Government's page, Apply for the Global Talent visa.