



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Research Fellow in Data Analysis and Security for Railway Microgrids,
Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences**



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

Reporting to: Professor Kang Li

Closing date: Thursday 15 January 2026

Reference: EPSEE1151

Fixed term (until 31 August 2027 - to complete specific time limited work)

Location: Leeds main campus

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Fellow in Data Analysis and Security for Railway Microgrids, School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Are you a researcher looking for your first challenge? Do you have a background in computer science, data science, electrical engineering, cyber-physical systems, or a closely related field? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive universities?

Overview of the Role

As a Research Fellow in Data Analysis and Security for Railway Microgrids, you will join an exciting consortium to accelerate the journey to transport decarbonisation by developing networked energy hubs for, potentially, as many as over 2,500 railway stations and depots across the UK, and extend the technology to road, ports and airports. You will be improving efficiency and supporting transport electrification with networked railway energy hubs, while offering greater flexibility to support both transport and grid operation. The project will explore the commercial opportunities to adopt and scale up networked energy hubs as virtual power plants to deliver creative, predictable, and cost-effective use of electric power on the transport while offering flexibility services to the power grid.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Processing, cleaning, and analysing large, multi-modal datasets from sources including SCADA, IoT sensors, railway timetabling systems, and power and energy market;
- Developing robust data pipelines for ingesting, processing, and storing real-time and historical data;
- Designing, code, and test the core software platform for the microgrid energy management system;
- Implementing user-friendly dashboards for visualization of system status, performance metrics, and security alerts;
- Exploring the governance structures necessary to support secure, efficient, and compliant data sharing between the energy and rail sectors;



- Conducting threat modelling and vulnerability assessments for the railway microgrid's cyber-physical architecture;
- 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, Data Science, Electrical Engineering, Cyber-Physical Systems, or a closely related field; or a MSc in one of the above closely related fields with 3+ years of work experience in the relevant industry;
- Strong programming proficiency in languages such as Python (essential), with experience in relevant libraries;
- Proven experience in database management, including schema design, query optimization, and experience with both SQL and/or NoSQL technologies;



- Proven experience in data analysis, machine learning, and statistical modelling;
- Demonstrable experience in software development, including version control and writing clean, documented code;
- A solid understanding of cybersecurity principles, particularly as they apply to IoT or industrial control systems;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and manage competing demands effectively without close support;
- A developing proven 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 individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

Desirable:

- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Experience with real-time software, embedded systems, and knowledge of industrial communication protocols;
- Experience with cloud platforms for data processing and deployment, including managed database services;
- Knowledge of data governance and data lifecycle management principles.

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:

[Professor Kang Li](#), Chair in Smart Energy Systems

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 2045

Email: K.Li1@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](#).

