



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Data Scientists, Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (LIDA)



Salary: Grade 5, sp 20 (£29,588 p.a.)

Reporting to: Kylie Norman

Reference: MHLDA1057

Closing date: Sunday 24th May 2026 (interviews will be held online 24-26 June 2026)

Fixed-term for 12 months, commencing Monday 28th Sept 2026, because the post is a clearly defined training post

Location: Leeds Institute for Data Analytics and the Wolfson Institute in Bradford (with scope for hybrid working)

LIDA is committed to Equality and Inclusion in its recruitment and selection procedures

Overview of the Role

Data Scientist Development Programme, Data Scientists, Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (LIDA)

The [Leeds Institute for Data Analytics \(LIDA\)](#) is offering a number of data scientist development posts to help advance research activity across each of its constituent areas: Artificial Intelligence (AI), health informatics, urban analytics, statistical and mathematical methods, and visualisation and immersive technologies.

This is a clearly-defined training and development role for early-career data scientists and career changers. The LIDA [Data Scientist Development Programme](#) provides an outstanding opportunity to develop skills that are in high demand within industry and academia, both nationally and globally, within a leading, state-of-the-art facility.

Our offer to those employed on the Programme includes the chance to:

- Own delivery of data science project(s) and get hands-on technical experience using real data;
- Establish links with project partners (internal or external) and work to provide solutions to real-world challenges;
- Build skills and knowledge in advanced analytics, not only through mentorship and applied research, but also through on-site training opportunities in statistical analysis, visualisation, research methods and computer programming;
- Work alongside leading academic researchers as part of the LIDA team and gain valuable work experience.

You will be a graduate (Bachelor's, Master's or PhD) in a relevant field and will have excellent numerical skills that may have been gained in the context of quantitative social science, computing, mathematics/statistics, medical bioinformatics or population studies.



LIDA is committed to supporting the [University's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](#) and particularly encourages applications from groups currently under-represented on the Programme and within LIDA, these include women and low socio-economic background candidates.

One post is reserved for women applicants only; and one post is reserved for low socio-economic background ¹ applicants only, at the request of the funder the Economic and Social Research Council, as part of the funder's commitment to increasing opportunities for women and those from low socio-economic backgrounds in the field of data science. For clarity, women and low socio-economic background candidates are encouraged to apply for any of the data scientist posts we are recruiting on the Programme as well as those which are reserved for them specifically.

Main duties and responsibilities

As a LIDA Data Scientist, your main duties will include:

- Helping to advance research activity across each of LIDA's constituent areas: AI, Health Informatics, Urban Analytics, Statistical and Mathematical methods, and Visualisation and Immersive Technologies;
- Undertaking quantitative analysis on core datasets; e.g. data wrangling, data linkage, data scraping, modelling and analysis; dealing with missing data;
- Planning your own research activity in collaboration with the project investigators and other members of the research team;
- Meeting with clients and partners in support of LIDA's partnership-building strategy;
- Participating in and presenting at LIDA research meetings and seminars;
- Delivering written outputs, including blog articles, case studies and contributing to research papers;
- Attending and representing your project at relevant conferences through poster presentations or giving papers.

¹ Those from low socio-economic backgrounds defined for the purpose of this exercise as those (1) whose main earning parent when the candidate was 16 years of age held an occupation classed under the [National Statistics Socio Economic Classifications \(NS-SEC\)](#) as analytics classes 5-8 (or operational categories L10-L14); (2) an applicant attended a school which achieved below the national average attainment 8 score at GCSE (being a recognised indicator of low socio-economic background); (3) neither parent attended University (being a recognised indicator of low socio-economic background).



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

As a LIDA Data Scientist, you will have:

- Completed an Undergraduate or Master's degree in a relevant field;
- Excellent all-round numerical skills that may have been gained in the context of quantitative social science, computing, mathematics, statistics, bioinformatics, or population studies;
- Knowledge of and experience using the statistical programming language(s) R/ Python or similar for data manipulation and statistical computing;
- A keen interest in using data science for the public good;
- Demonstrable project-management skills, for example gained through work experience or coursework. This includes the ability to organise your time and prioritise workload, working both independently and as part of a project team.

Desirable

You may also have:

- Experience of working with large unstructured (or 'messy') data sets;
- Knowledge of common data science techniques such as: data visualisation, machine learning, deep learning, statistical modelling, or data mining.

Key Attributes

- Interpersonal & communication skills demonstrated through written outputs, presentation skills and the ability to communicate with people at many levels;
- Ability to work professionally and engage with an external client/ stakeholder(s)/ commercial body on a project.



Additional information

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.

Our University

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds and from across the world. Whatever role we recruit for we are always striving to increase the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate.

We have identified that women and those from the Global Majority and low socio-economic backgrounds are currently underrepresented in this role and particularly welcome applications from these people. The law permits positive action in recruitment under **section 159** of the [Equality Act 2010](#), however candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at 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.

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and you were resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this will be your status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Visa Update:

The University encourages applications from all candidates who feel they have the necessary skills to take on the role, regardless of nationality. We would be unable to sponsor first time applicants for this role under the skilled worker visa route due to the changes in the minimum salary threshold. If you already hold a skilled worker visa the role may still be sponsorable. Potential applicants may also be eligible for other visa types, please see <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visasimmigration/work-visas> for more information.

