



Candidate Information

Position:	Data Scientist, KTP Associate, BIA Analytical
School/Department:	KTP and Business Networks
Reference:	21/109305
Closing Date:	Wednesday 10 November 2021
Salary:	£26,000 - £34,500 per annum. One of the key KTP benefits for graduates is access to a £6,000 training and travel budget over the 24-month project.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 29 November 2021
Duration:	24 months

JOB PURPOSE:

To develop, apply and embed advanced software engineering, statistical modelling and AI / ML techniques to develop and validate models for food authenticity tests.

MAIN ACTIVITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

Queen's University Belfast in partnership with Bia Analytical Ltd have an exciting employment opportunity for a graduate to work on a project to develop, apply and embed advanced software engineering and statistical modelling techniques to develop and validate models for food authenticity tests. Bia Analytical is a spin out company from the world-leading Institute of Global Food Security, Queen's University Belfast. Bia Analytical specialises in food authenticity testing and have developed novel laboratory-based food authenticity testing services using spectroscopy and chemometric model interpretation to test the authenticity of a range of food products.

This is a unique opportunity for a dynamic and motivated graduate to work in Bia Analytical (Belfast) on a 24-month collaborative project with world-class academics from Queen's University Belfast. The KTP Associate will lead on the delivery of the following key project stages under the guidance of company and academic supervisors:

1. Assessment of current processes and data practices.
2. Establish software architecture and feature set of present product.
3. Identification of the catalogue of software assets for statistical modelling and machine learning methods and incorporate these into a suitable software architecture.
4. Identify, implement and embed advanced chemometrics methods.
5. Expanding the software asset base with new AI / ML models.
6. Creation of training materials and training of staff, protection of software assets, creation of promotional and marketing materials and dissemination.

PLANNING & ORGANISING:

1. Manage and coordinate the items of work as laid out in the project plan (individual work plan will be provided by Supervisors).
2. Plan day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed work plan.
3. Contribute to the planning and management of the project, approximately 3-6 months in advance.
4. Ensure that all training and development activity is scheduled to ensure that progress on the work plan objectives is not interrupted or delayed.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Plan and manage day-to-day resources to ensure the project runs to time and on budget.
2. Coordinate and obtain approval for planned expenditure/allocation of resources with the Management Committee and Steering Group.
3. Carry out supervision of placement students or other staff members as required.
4. Monitor travel and development budgets and produce a Personal Development Plan which will ensure best use of financial resources.
5. Attend training modules (mandatory and additional job-specific training). This may be local, national and international.

6. Perform any other additional duties as agreed by the Local Management Committee and Steering Groups to contribute to the development of the company, the university and the Associate.

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS:

1. Present regular progress reports to members of the Steering and Management Groups and to external audiences.
2. Liaise with company staff on a daily basis. Contribute to training of staff in the company and university as required.
3. Build relationships with both company and university staff to ensure effective working practices are established.
4. Attend and contribute to any appropriate meetings, both in the company and the university as required.
5. Establish contacts with additional groups and organisations (other KTP Associates, other university departments, other industrial contacts, and Innovate UK) as required to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
6. Act as an Ambassador for the Knowledge Transfer Partnership Scheme.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Knowledge Transfer Partnerships help forward thinking companies innovate for growth. They do this by connecting organisations who have an innovative idea with the knowledge and expertise to help deliver it. This dynamic three-way partnership formed between an inspired graduate, the university and the company means that the graduate, known as the KTP Associate, provides the link between an expert academic team and a dynamic organisation. This bridge gives the graduate unique and exceptional access to both world class academic support and experts from within the business.
- A KTP provides a fulfilling employment opportunity where you can apply your knowledge to turn a key strategic innovative idea into reality and although the KTP Programme is aimed at recent graduates, any suitable qualified graduate may apply. Each KTP Associate role is a fully salaried job and last between 12 months and three years with approximately 70% of Associates offered employment by the host business at the end of the project. Projects can be in any sector and for businesses of all sizes. Each KTP Associate will have a travel / training budget to provide funding for job-specific training and further professional development. Two, one week residential management training modules are also included as part of the package.
- For all KTP projects, the graduate is employed by the University but contracted to work in the business, under the business' basic terms and conditions including holidays and hours of work. As a member of University staff, KTP Associates can join the University pension scheme, gain access to University resources including the Library and sports facilities.
- KTP aims to help businesses improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills held within the UK knowledge base. KTPs are funded by UKRI through Innovate UK with the support of co-funders, including the Scottish Funding Council, Welsh Government, Invest Northern Ireland, Defra and BEIS. Innovate UK manages the KTP Programme and facilitates its delivery through a range of partners including the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN), Knowledge Bases (in this case, Queen's University Belfast) and Businesses.
- More details about are available at www.ktp-uk.org

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

Please note that the Shortlisting Panel cannot make assumptions on your experience or qualifications; it is the responsibility of the applicant to evidence their suitability for the role. As such your Application Form, CV and/or Cover Letter must clearly demonstrate how your Qualifications and Experience meet the Essential Criteria and, where possible, Desirable Criteria as listed in the Candidate Information Booklet.

1. Hold at least a 2.1 Honours Degree (or equivalent) in Statistics, Mathematics, Computer Science or a closely related highly quantitative discipline. Candidates who hold, or are about to obtain, a 2.2 in the above in addition to either a relevant higher degree or one year's relevant experience will also be considered. Please clearly state your qualifications and degree classification when making your application
2. Relevant experience of modelling and solving computer science, mathematics, statistics or engineering problems (may be demonstrated through a suitable module or project).
3. Proficient in statistical or dynamic programming languages (eg. R, Python or a closely related language).
4. Completion of a substantial statistical project/ software development project (either group-based or sole) in either university or industry.
5. Good oral, written and presentation skills.
6. High level of IT skills.
7. Ability to think logically, create solutions and make informed decisions.
8. A high level of numeracy and the ability to interpret data.
9. Self-motivated, capable of working independently, with a drive and ambition to succeed.
10. Ability to work effectively as a member of a group.

11. Enthusiasm for research/project area.
12. Well organised, attention to detail and ability to meet tight deadlines.
13. An interest in staying with the Company. (Associates are normally invited to apply for permanent positions).
14. Ability to take part in Associate management courses (requiring two one-week periods in England).
15. Willing/able to travel throughout the UK and Ireland and abroad, as necessary.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Hold, or be about to obtain, a higher degree in a relevant area.
2. 1 years relevant work experience.
3. Experience in advanced statistical modelling techniques.
4. Experience in AI/ML and/or chemometric modelling.*
5. Published research papers in a relevant field.
6. Ability to deliver training and follow-up support to operatives.
7. Ability to influence people effectively.
8. Tenacious and committed to achieving goals.

*May be demonstrated through the completion of a module, student project or placement.