

Candidate Information

Position: AI Engineer
School/Department: School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Reference: 26/113612
Closing Date: Monday 19 October 2026
Salary: £42,972 - £51,270 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Friday 6 November 2026
Duration: 2 years

JOB PURPOSE:

The Artificial Intelligence Collaboration Centre (AICC) is a £16.3M investment by InvestNI and the Department for the Economy to support the uptake of AI in Northern Ireland's businesses. Delivered by Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry, the AICC works with companies to develop solutions to real-world problems.

The successful candidate will work on a range of applied AI projects co-developed with companies to address business needs, developing rapid proof-of concept solutions. They will also assist with the development and delivery of AI skills programs and will have opportunities to work with academic researchers to help translate their research into commercial application.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake significant AI software development projects, working in collaboration with industry partners to develop proof-of concept solutions to real-world business problems.
2. Contribute to the development of AI solutions to common business problems that can be rapidly deployed in different projects.
3. Identify links between industry partners and academic research at QUB and UU, and assist with the development of funding proposals to support industry-academic collaborations.
4. Assist AICC staff in the development of funding applications, providing technical input and contributing the specific work packages.
5. Produce high-quality technical reports and deliverables to enable real-world adoption and further development of technical solutions.
6. Contribute to the development and delivery of online and in-person AI training materials.
7. Support the AICC engagement programs by attending and presenting at workshops and roadshow events.
8. Evaluate emerging technologies and sharing findings with AICC staff.
9. Carry out routine administrative tasks to ensure project goals are completed on time and within budget.
10. Any other duties that may reasonably be requested by management.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. 2:1 Honours Degree, or equivalent, in Computer Science, Electrical/Electronic Engineering, or related discipline, or equivalent industry experience.
2. Practical experience of software design and development in a commercial R&D environment.
3. Experience in producing high-quality outputs such as demonstrators, prototypes, technical reports, design specifications and project deliverables which have successfully passed formal quality review procedures within a relevant R&D environment.
4. Experience of current Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning methodologies/tools e.g. agentic patterns, LLM orchestration, vision models etc.
5. Software development skills in languages such as C/C++, Python, Java etc. and related toolsets.
6. Ability to explain complex technical concepts to non-technical stakeholders clearly.
7. Strong presentation skills and ability to prepare clear and concise presentation materials.
8. Evidence of effective team working skills in a multidisciplinary, cross functional setting.
9. Evidence of ability to manage multiple projects.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. MEng, MSc or Ph.D. in a relevant area.
2. Hands-on AWS/Azure/Cloud expertise.
3. Experience with AI tools outside the frontier model space e.g. open-weight models, fine-tuning, Small Language Models, edge models, distillation or similar.
4. Experience of working in high technology start-ups.