# **Job Description** – Senior Lecturer in Computing & Communications

**About the Role**

We are seeking a candidate to take a leadership role in the development of our apprenticeship curriculum as we introduce two new qualifications in software engineering (level 4) and digital and technology solutions professional (level 6)

We aim to appoint inspiring and innovative teachers and scholars, who enjoy developing novel approaches to teaching and research, and is effective in working collaboratively with colleagues.

Since its inception, The Open University (OU) has focused on innovation in teaching and learning, with a track record of providing inspiring, world-leading programmes of higher education for students who learn at a distance. Building on award-winning initiatives such as the OpenSTEM Labs and the Institute of Coding, the University is committed to delivering the highest quality teaching, together with excellent research. We provide rewarding academic career paths that are focused on world-class teaching, research, and knowledge exchange.

We welcome applicants from a range of backgrounds, including professionals from academia and industry. Applicants will be considered based on their track record in research, teaching and academic leadership. In line with our commitment to the Athena SWAN initiative and the Race Equality Charter, we welcome and support all applicants equally.

**Key Responsibilities**

**Teaching**

* Actively contribute to the design and teaching of a high-quality distance learning apprenticeship curriculum at levels 4 and 6.
* Be an active member of the School of Computing & Communications to help deliver academic excellence by:
	+ developing innovative and effective teaching approaches, drawing upon educational scholarship and industry best practice as appropriate
	+ developing novel models for assessing practical competencies as well as domain knowledge
	+ promoting employability and career progression for our students.

**Research, scholarship and knowledge exchange**

* Pursue high quality research and/or scholarship in a relevant area (including potentially supervising research students)
* Enhance our links with industry to enable teaching and research collaborations and knowledge exchange in the apprenticeship area
* Attract external income to the School
* Contribute to the vibrant scholarship environment in the School.

**General**

* Act as an ambassador, both internally and externally, for the academic excellence of the School, Faculty and University.
* Take responsibility for administrative and/or other academic duties as required by the Head of School.
* Contribute to the outreach activities of the School, Faculty and University.

**Skills and Experience**

**Essential:**

* A PhD, or substantial experience, in a relevant area
* Ability to contribute to the distance teaching of the two apprenticeship qualifications.
* Expertise in the subject areas of the apprenticeships and in delivering them to apprentices, with a good understanding of recent developments (commensurate with career stage).
* Ability to undertake high quality research and produce research/scholarly publications in a relevant subject (commensurate with career stage).
* An understanding of the educational and study needs of students, particularly those studying apprenticeships part-time at a distance (commensurate with career stage).
* Evidence of, or the potential to deliver, innovative teaching.
* Excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to collaborate effectively in multidisciplinary teams, both internally and externally, including with employers and professional bodies.
* Excellent written and spoken English skills, together with the ability to offer and receive constructive criticism.
* Ability to plan, organise and complete work to agreed deadlines.
* Commitment to the aims, ethos and values of the Open University.
* A strong commitment to excellence in inclusive learning and teaching for a diverse student population.

**Desirable:**

* Experience of producing distance/online learning and assessment materials for apprentices
* Experience of supporting students in a distance/online learning setting.
* Evidence of successful research student supervision.
* Relevant professional qualifications.
* Fellowship (or higher) of the UK Higher Education Academy, or equivalent teaching experience/standing in the UK or in another country (commensurate with career stage).
* Ability to develop new collaborative partnerships within the University and with external organisations and employers (commensurate with career stage).
* Successful experience of gaining external funding (commensurate with career stage).

*The Open University is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion which is reflected in our mission to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. We aim to foster a diverse and inclusive environment so that all in our OU community can reach their potential.  We recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and culture, and that this difference brings great strength.  We strive to recruit, retain and develop the careers of a diverse pool of students and staff, and particularly encourage applications from all underrepresented groups. We also aspire to make The Open University a supportive workplace for all through our policies, services and staff networks.*

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