UNIVERSITY OF
SURREY

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow A

Responsible to:	Head of research group, or principal investigator

Responsible for:	Not applicable

Job Summary and Purpose:

To undertake research in accordance with the specified research project(s) under the supervision of the principal investigator.

Main Responsibilities/Activities

To undertake a range of research activities within a specified research area, assuming responsibility for specific areas of projects and making use of new research techniques and methods, in consultation with the research award holder or supervisor. This may include fieldwork, interviews, laboratory experimentation, critical evaluation and interpretation, computer-based data analysis and evaluation or library research.

Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio. Analysing and interpreting results of own research. Write up results and prepare papers for submission to appropriate journals and conferences, and other outputs as required and/or appropriate. Attend appropriate conferences for the purpose of disseminating research results of personal development. The post holder may also contribute to writing bids for research grants and will contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research.

Continually to update knowledge and develop skills, and translate knowledge of advances in the area into research activity.

To plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others. To carry out administrative tasks associated with specified research funding, for example risk assessment of research activities, organisation of project meetings and documentation. Implementation of procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control.

To contribute to teaching in the Faculty by carrying out student supervision and/or demonstrating within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of departmental academic staff, as appropriate.

The post holder may occasionally be required to supervise more junior research staff.

Research Role Profile

Person Specification

The post holder must have:

A doctoral degree in a relevant discipline (although individuals who have almost completed a doctoral degree may be appointed). Consideration may also be given to individuals who do not hold a doctoral degree but have required skills based on a number of years experience in specified / relevant fields

The post holder will have authority over some aspects of project work and must be capable of providing academic judgement, offering original and creative thoughts and be able to interpret and analyse results.

Relationships and Contacts

Direct responsibility to the principal investigator or academic supervisor. The post holder may be asked to serve on a relevant Faculty committee. There may be additional reporting and liaison responsibilities to external funding bodies or sponsors. The post holder may work on original research tasks with colleagues in other institutions.

Special Requirements

To be available to participate in fieldwork as required by the specified research project

All staff are expected to:

- Positively support equality of opportunity and equity of treatment to colleagues and students in accordance with the University of Surrey Equal Opportunities policy.

- Help maintain a safe working environment by:

  - Attending training in Health and Safety requirements as necessary, both on appointment and as changes in duties and techniques demand

  - Following local codes of safe working practices and the University of Surrey Health and Safety Policy

- Undertake such other duties within the scope of the post as may be requested by your Manager.

Research Role Profile

Addendum to Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow A in adaptive online safety and privacy

Job Summary and Purpose:
This information sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying generic Research RA1A Role Profile and will be used for shortlisting processes. More specifically the post holder will be expected to:

(i)   Design and develop privacy sensitive machine learning techniques to adapt and meet the changing needs of citizens during significant life transitions.

(ii)   Design and develop new privacy enhancing technologies that enable citizens to negotiate their changing privacy needs during life transitions without increasing their attack surface or making them vulnerable to new threats and actors online.

(iii)   Work with psychology and human factors researchers to develop immersive simulation environments that explore and develop a new understanding of how online privacy and safety and can be compromised during life transitions.

(iv)   Collaborate with other staff on the project to develop pilot and proof-of-concept systems for: fundamental new privacy enhancing technologies, privacy sensitive machine learning to personalise automatic online safety responses and immersive simulation environments to explore how safety and can be compromised online during life transitions.

(v)   Work with other researchers on the project to facilitate reproducible research and public engagement.

(vi)   Contribute to participative research engagement events and activities with stakeholders.

(vii)   Meet on a weekly basis with project staff, and attend project meetings and present results at other sites as required;

(viii) Publish and present research in high-quality international journals and conferences.

(ix)   Pro-actively organise and manage own time and research-related activities.

(x)   Report orally and prepare papers reporting progress and delivery of project outcomes, and be able to communicate at both technical and high-level for example with project research partners.

(xi)   Perform any other duties associated with the project, as deemed appropriate to the grade by the Principal Investigator.

(xii)   Promote the research and activities of the project and the Distributed and Networked Systems (DANS) group and the Surrey Centre for Cyber Security (SCCS) in national and international forums as well as in cohort activities related to the REPHRAIN National Research Centre on Privacy, Harm Reduction and Adversarial Influence Online.

Research Role Profile

Main Responsibilities/Activities

Working with the project investigators and other researchers, develop a research agenda for the AP4L, identifying important online safety and privacy problems experienced by citizens during life transitions and developing innovative privacy-sensitive solutions to address these problems. A detailed public summary of the project is available here: https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewGrant.aspx?GrantRef=EP/W032473/1

Meet on a weekly basis on campus with project staff and wider research groups (DANS and SCCS).

Attend project meetings and present results at other sites as required

Give oral and written reports on project progress and outcomes. Be able to report at both a technical low-level and conceptual high-level to a range of audiences including the public and industry

Continually update knowledge and develop skills

Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with a specified research project, for example risk assessment of research tasks, organisation of project meetings and documentation. This will entail planning own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme, dealing with problems that may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines and implementing procedures required to ensure accurate and timely delivery.

Person Specification

The post holder must have:

Doctoral level research experience in computer science or a related subject;

Significant research experience in a topic such as Online Safety and Privacy, or methods such as data analysis, machine learning and/or deep learning applied to understanding online lives.

Ability to work independently, with strong organisational and time management skills

Software development experience relevant to online safety and privacy, using languages such as Python and JavaScript.

The post holder would ideally have:

Experience developing Privacy Enhancing Technologies and Crypto Software is desirable.

Direct research experience in developing Privacy Enhancing Technologies, Privacy Sensitive Machine Learning or Usable Security and Privacy, including developing new algorithms.

Strong writing skills across different levels of technical audience are desirable

A track record of publishing academic papers, open-source software tools and/or research datasets is desirable

Research Role Profile

Relationships and Contacts

Direct responsibility to Principal Investigator Prof. Nishanth Sastry.

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be directed to Prof Nishanth Sastry,
n.sastry@surrey.ac.uk