

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Data Science, CoSTAR National R&D Lab
Department / Unit:	StoryFutures
Job type	Full time, Permanent
Grade:	RHUL ₇
Accountable to:	Head of Business Futures
Accountable for:	N/A

Purpose of the Post

The postholder will be responsible for developing and managing CoSTAR National Lab data science-oriented research, delivering, and effectively communicating insights from data. Located in the StoryFutures Strategic Business Unit, the post will work across the CoSTAR National Lab and a range of other strategic priorities of the Unit.

Specific responsibilities include data analysis (descriptive, predictive, diagnostic, and prescriptive), and to provide structure to – and gaining insights from – data captured through CRMs and engagement activities of National Lab staff through to data captured during innovation projects, such as creative industries business data, interview/social media data, inclusion data, and environmental sustainability data.

Based in the 'Business Futures' team of the National Lab, the role will triangulate with the 'User Futures' team and the 'Operations Team' to ensure that research and monitoring and evaluation data are all coherently collected and analysed.

Working in a cross-functional role across teams in a busy and dynamic environment, the postholder will also work across a broad range of technologies and projects and across the partner institutions of the CoSTAR National Lab. As part of that, the postholder will be required to collaborate on development and delivery of National Lab KPIs.

Key Tasks

Research:

 Working with Head of Business Futures and CoSTAR/Strategic Business Unit management/core team members to identify problems that can be resolved using data science techniques.

- Extracting data from multiple (and potentially heterogeneous) sources.
- Cleaning, organising, processing, and archiving large datasets as necessary/appropriate to the task.
- Using advanced programming and visualisation techniques, statistical models, and machine learning (inc. sentiment analysis/NLP techniques) to identify trends within data and derive insight from that data – developing appropriate (and innovative) models where necessary.
- Applying business acumen to develop feasible (data-based) recommendations that will address organisational problems in an appropriate/innovative manner.
- Communicating findings and recommendations in a manner appropriate and effective to the intended audience.
- Provide data input/participate in completing funder reporting requirements.

Leadership, Enhancement, External Engagement, and Impact:

- Support and enable an inclusive and sustainability-aware culture of active staff engagement within StoryFutures and the CoSTAR National Lab, including effective representation of staff research and development capabilities and interest in programme design.
- Use the Performance Development Review process to actively develop and review objectives and measurable outcomes over time, defining and addressing developmental needs as part of that (linked to StoryFutures and University strategy).
- Work with colleagues across StoryFutures and the CoSTAR National Lab to develop a culture of excellence, promoting innovation, team-working, and collaboration.
- Provide continuous engagement with relevant creative industries partners, helping develop new partnerships and impact activities.

Other Duties

The duties listed are not exhaustive and may be varied from time to time as dictated by the changing needs of the CoSTAR National Lab / University. The post holder will be expected to undertake other duties as appropriate and as requested by their manager.

The post holder may be required to work at any of the locations at which the business of CoSTAR National Lab / Royal Holloway is conducted. We currently have a flexible working pattern with a mixture of days in the office and working from home. There is the potential for out-of-hours support for key CoSTAR National Lab events as required.

Internal and external relationships

The following list is not exhaustive, but the post holder will be required to liaise with:

Internal:

- Capability Team Leads.
- Director and Heads in StoryFutures .
- Individual members of academic staff.

- Heads of Departments.
- Executive Deans.
- Members of the Research & Innovation Team.

External:

- CoSTAR consortium partners, including University of Surrey, Abertay University, National Film & Television School, disguise, BT, and Pinewood.
- UKRI (UK Research and Innovation) and its research councils.
- External clients.
- External Project Partners Other universities and private sector partners.
- Innovate UK.
- Industrial parties.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Details on the qualifications, experience, skills, knowledge, and abilities that are needed to fulfil this role are set out below.

Job Title: CoSTAR National R&D Data Scientist Department: StoryFutures

	Essential	Desirable	Tested by Application Form/Interview/ Test
Knowledge, Education, Qualifications and Training			
Educated to PhD level in a relevant field (or evidence of equivalent applied R&D experience)	E		Application Form
Strong knowledge of the state-of-the-art in data science and of innovation in the discipline.	E		Interview
Skills and Abilities			
Strong organisational skills and ability to multitask on a wide range of projects and ongoing deadlines. Able to effectively manage own workload.	E		Interview
Demonstrable ability to extract, process and cleanse data from a variety of (heterogeneous) sources.	E		Application Form/ Interview
Use of advanced programming & visualisation techniques, statistical models, and machine learning to identity trends within data and derive insight from that data.	E		Application Form/ Interview
Excellent written and oral communication skills.	Е		Interview
Ability to apply business acumen to the outcomes of business analysis to provide recommendations that address organisational problems in an appropriate/innovative manner.	E		Application Form/ Interview
Experience			
Experience of delivering (insight-based) reports and findings to industry with demonstrable impact.	E		Application form
Experience of developing effective machine-learning models.	E		Interview
Experience of UK creative industries' current creative and business challenges and opportunities.		D	Interview

Other requirements			
Excellent interpersonal skills, including team-working, proactive approach, willing to experiment, creative thinker and ability to interpret requirements (e.g., KPIs) and opportunities for where data analysis can make a difference.	E		Interview
A commitment to continuous personal development related to pursuing the state-of-the-art in data science.	E		Interview
A keen interest in emerging technologies, research, and innovation e.g. XR (Mixed Reality), VR (Virtual Reality), AR (Augmented Reality), Realtime technologies (Virtual Production), AI (Artificial Intelligence).		D	Application Form/ Interview
Commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion, and sustainability in the workplace	E		Interview