Faculty Position in Computer Systems and Networking

Vacancy Reference Number: 1372754

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The Department of Computer Science at University College London (UCL) invites applications for a faculty position in the areas of Computer Systems and Networking. We seek world-class talent; candidates must have an outstanding research track record.

Areas of interest for this position include operating systems, systems security, distributed systems, networking, and their intersection, with an emphasis on experimental system-building. Appointments will be made at the rank of Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, or Reader (equivalent to Assistant Professor, junior Associate Professor, and senior Associate Professor, respectively, in the US system), commensurate with qualifications.

Candidates must hold an earned Ph.D. in Computer Science or a closely related field by the time they begin their appointment. They will be evaluated chiefly on the significance and novelty of their research to date, and their promise for leading a group in a fruitful program of research. They must also demonstrate a zest for innovative and challenging teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels. A proven record of ability to manage time and evidence of ability to teach and to supervise academic work by undergraduates, masters, and doctoral students are desirable. Our department is a highly collaborative environment, and we seek future colleagues who enjoy working collaboratively. Candidates should further be committed to public communication, and to UCL's policy of equal opportunity, including working harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds.

Since 1973, when UCL CS became the first ARPAnet node outside the United States, the department has been a leading centre for networking research, as demonstrated by its long-standing strong presence in the SIGCOMM conference proceedings.

UCL, the third oldest university in England, and the first to admit students without regard for their race or creed, sits a few blocks from the British Museum in central London, a vibrant metropolis of 8.3 million that offers an ever-renewing panoply of cultural and culinary choices, and is a budget airfare away from all of continental Europe.

The Work

The standard wording in an academic contract is:

> "You will perform such duties as the Head of Department may from time to time require. The work will be so arranged as to leave time to pursue studies and make original investigations; this will be regarded as part of the duties."

Thus, there are teaching (and associated administrative) duties, and research "duties". Considerable freedom is left to individuals in their working practices; staff are expected to be in UCL during term-time, and are also responsible for the supervision of postgraduate students during the summer vacation. It is departmental policy to provide each lecturer with their own room and access to computing equipment and lab space to assist in the performance of these duties.

A mentor - an experienced member of academic staff - is assigned to each new lecturer. There is an appraisal, review and development scheme. As a part of this, staff are expected to attend training courses run by UCL for activities such as lecturing, tutoring, interviewing, writing papers, making grant applications, and project management. Probationary lecturers may supervise research students with an experienced member of staff acting as co-supervisor.

Research

It is difficult to generalise about research activities. However, academics are expected to extend the knowledge base in their area and to aim to become an accepted authority. This is important for career progression of the individual, but also to maintain the international research reputation of the department. We would expect to see growing evidence of an academic's research stature through publications in the best conferences and journals, research grants, and graduated research students during the academic's career. We also look to staff to be actively engaged with the scholarly and professional community.

UCL has a strong reputation for interdisciplinary research. Engagement with UCL research centres is an important component of the way in which research is conducted.

Contact with industry, public institutions, and commerce through collaboration is encouraged, and similarly, we encourage consultancy work. There is a generous provision of time for this work. We are particularly keen on entrepreneurial activities such as startup companies, and our staff have a strong reputation for work in this area.

Teaching

The current posts are for faculty who will be able inter alia to teach core computer science topics, as well as advanced material related to their area of interest. Thus, the successful candidate is likely to have a degree in Computer Science or cognate topics, with practical teaching experience and a demonstrable interest in computer science foundations (and/or their application).

An academic will typically (after some period of 'tapering-in'):

- prepare and deliver two courses, nominally of 30 lecture hours each

- organize and attend any associated practicals and mark coursework, possibly with help from paid demonstrators

- set and mark examinations for the courses taught, and second examine others' courses

- have one or two tutorial groups of 4-8 students, meeting them once per week

- supervise a few undergraduate final year projects

- supervise a few MSc projects during July-September

- supervise some MRes, PhD and/or EngD students

- be available for consultation by students on course-related problems, setting up student projects, and any other problems.

All staff help in the recruitment of students. Also all staff are expected to keep in touch with a few former students.

Every member of staff has one or more administrative academic tasks, such as assisting with examinations liaison, publicity, library, admissions, etc. The department has a strong administrative staff to assist with most of these tasks. There are Teaching Committee meetings which lecturers with commitments to specific programmes attend, and some of the duties involve sitting on other departmental committees. From time to time all staff are involved in preparations for teaching and research assessments and for accreditation by professional bodies.

A large practical course is a heavier responsibility than a small theoretical one. Developing a new course takes much effort (but is fun). Similarly, some administrative tasks are much more time-consuming than others. The department actively manages staff load taking these factors into account.

Staff should be willing to serve on UCL committees if the need arises; this is rarely onerous. Senior staff will usually act as external examiners at other universities.

Informal questions about teaching responsibilities may be directed to Prof. John Shawe-Taylor (Head of Department, j.shawe-taylor@ucl.ac.uk).

Application Procedure

Applications for the position should be made online***** at
https://atsv7.wcn.co.uk/search_engine/jobs.cgi?owner=5041178&ownertype=fair&jcode=1372754

Applicants should submit the following materials, such that all materials arrive on or before the closing date of Friday, 17th January 2014:

- Complete **curriculum vitae**, which must include:
- education history
- details of previous employment
- details of current or most recent employer (name and address of current organization, job title and duties)
- list of publications
- details of membership of any professional organizations

- Details (name, relationship to you, address, e-mail address, telephone number) of three referees who are leading figures in the relevant subject. Letters from these referees should be sent directly to UCL CS at the time of your application.

    If you do not wish to ask your current employer for a reference at this stage, that is fine, so long as we still receive three letters for you, and on the understanding that a reference from your current employer will be required later, if you are the successful applicant. When providing your list of referees as part of your CV it is suggested that you include the name of your current employer referee but clearly state 'not to be contacted unless shortlisted' or write a comment to say that you are happy for us to contact your current employer if you are successful: this will make it clear to the selection committee why a letter from your current employer has not been provided when they are reading your application.

- **Three letters of reference**, **each sent *directly* by the reference writer** to Miss Lynette Hothi (lynette.hothi@ucl.ac.uk) **at the time of your application**

    Please do not ask more than three referees to send letters: we may only look at the first three to arrive.

- Brief (no longer than two sides of A4 paper including any references) **statement of research interests and plans**

- Brief (no longer than two sides of A4) **statement of teaching interests.**

Please note that UCL will **not** request your reference letters; it is your responsibility to ensure that your referees send the letters to UCL Computer Science in time to arrive by the deadline below. This letter submission requirement supersedes content on UCL's HR department's web site, which suggests letters are requested by UCL later.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 17th January 2014.

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Help and Assistance

If you have any difficulty with the application process, please take a look at the Frequently Asked Questions at http://bit.ly/1SH42b
If you cannot find the answer to your question please contact Miss Lynette Hothi, Deputy Departmental Manager by telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 3676 or e-mail: lynette.hothi@ucl.ac.uk
CVs e-mailed to this address will not be accepted unless a prior agreement has been made.

* Any candidates unable to apply online should contact Lynette Hothi to discuss their individual circumstances and the best alternative arrangements to suit their needs: we will do all we can to accommodate any particular requirements or needs related to a disability.

Questions about these posts may be directed to Brad Karp (Head of Systems and Networks Research Group, bkarp@cs.ucl.ac.uk, +44 20 7679 0406), and John Shawe-Taylor (Head of Department, j.shawe-taylor@cs.ucl.ac.uk, +44 20 7679 7680).

Submitting your application

UCL's online recruitment system only allows applicants to upload two files with their application. As we are requesting you send us three documents (your CV, research statement and teaching statement), please be aware that you will either need to collate everything into one PDF file or upload your research and teaching statements as one file. A covering letter is not required but you may include one if you wish.

Please do not upload copies of: research papers you have written, your PhD thesis, your qualification certificates, data on teaching feedback scores, etc. Supplementary documents such as these will not be considered by the selection committee.

Submission of your application is final and you will not be able to amend your application or add additional documents once you have pressed 'Submit', so please only submit when you are happy that your application is complete. *But please don't forget to submit!* Once all elements of your application are checked as completed, make sure you log back in and click on the Submit button before the closing date/time.

The latest time for submission will be 23:59 hours Greenwich Mean Time. Once you have submitted your application you will only be able to amend your personal details, *i.e.,* address, telephone number etc.

Closing date

The closing date for applications is Friday 17th January 2014.

After the closing date

Please check with your referees if you want to be sure that reference letters have been sent to, and received by, us. We will acknowledge all references received within 3 working days of receipt (by e-mail acknowledgement to the referee), except for

references received on the closing date, which will be acknowledged within 5 working days due to the high volume of e-mails received on the closing date.

We regret that due to administration costs we are only able to respond to applicants whom we wish to interview. If you have not heard from us within 6 weeks of the closing date please assume you have been unsuccessful in your application for this post.

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A formal job description and person specification follows below.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Lecturer / Senior Lecturer / Reader
Department: Computer Science
Reports to: Head of Research Group and Head of Department
Grade: 8/9

Main purpose of the job:

To carry out research, teaching and administration within the Department, especially in the areas of Computer Systems and Networking.

Main duties and responsibilities:

1. To teach at undergraduate and graduate level in areas allocated by the Head of Department or Director of Studies and reviewed from time to time by the Head of Department.

2. To carry out research and produce publications, or other research outputs, in line with personal objectives agreed in the Staff review process.

3. To obtain research funding support.

4. To engage with the broader scholarly and professional communities.

5. To supervise or assist with supervision of undergraduate, taught graduate (Masters) or research graduate (MPhil/MRes/PhD/EngD) students.

6. To contribute to the development, planning and implementation of a high quality curriculum.

7. To assist in the development of learning materials, preparing schemes of work and maintaining records to monitor student progress, achievement and attendance.

8. To participate in departmental and faculty seminars aimed at sharing research outcomes and building interdisciplinary collaboration within and outside the department.

9. To participate in the development, administration and marking of exams and other assessments.

10. To provide pastoral care and support to students.

11. To participate in the administration of the department's programmes of study and other activities as requested.

12. To contribute to departmental, faculty, or UCL-wide working groups or committees as requested.

13. To maintain own continuing professional development.

14. To actively follow and promote UCL policies, including Equal Opportunities.

15. To maintain an awareness and observation of fire and health and safety regulations.

16. To carry out any other duties commensurate with the grade and purpose of the post.

All academic staff are expected to demonstrate their on-going commitment to academic excellence; that is, to the conduct of research, publication, teaching, enabling and other forms of knowledge transfer, at the highest levels of international achievement. For more information on UCL standards see: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/excellence/

This job description reflects the present requirements of the post, and as duties and responsibilities change/develop, the job description will be reviewed and be subject to amendment in consultation with the post-holder.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The person appointed is likely to have the skills and experience listed below.

1. **Knowledge**

Essential: A strong knowledge of the subject area (Computer Systems and Networking) combined with a broad subject background enabling contributions to teaching programmes.

2. **Skills**

Essential: Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills.

Proven record of ability to conduct high quality research which is reflected in the authorship of high quality publications, or other research outputs, in the area of computer science.
For a Reader-level appointment: have shown leadership in their field and have a record of attracting funding.

Desirable: Proven record of ability to manage time and work to strict deadlines. Evidence of ability to teach and to supervise academic work by undergraduates, masters and doctoral students.

3. Aptitude

Essential: Ability to work collaboratively

4. Qualifications

Essential: A PhD in Computer Science or a closely related field

Desirable: Membership of a relevant professional organisation

5. Previous Experience

Essential: Research in computer science
For a Senior Lecturer level appointment: experience in developing a new course.

Desirable: Assessment of student work
Curriculum design
Engagement with scholarly/professional community
Pastoral care of students

6. Personal Qualities

Essential: Commitment to academic research
Commitment to high quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment for students
Commitment to continuous professional development
Commitment to public communication
Commitment to UCL's policy of equal opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds.