

JOB DESCRIPTION			
Job title	Visiting Senior Researcher, Algorithmic Auditing	Department	Ada Lovelace Institute
Job holder	Vacant	Reports to	Senior Researcher, Ethics & Accountability in Practice
Job type	Fixed term, 2 years	Date created	November 2022
Job aim	To design and deliver research into on-the-ground algorithmic accountability practices (primarily, social media audits and methods for regulatory inspection), with a focus on understanding practice needs, convening technical expertise, civil society and impacted communities, and translating findings to policymakers and regulators (particularly around the Digital Services Act, Online Safety Bill and emerging social media regulation).		
Key responsibilities: Including but not limited to			
1. Research, analysis and recommendation development			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Research design and delivery on methods for regulatory inspection and audit of social media platforms, the data ethics of these approaches, and ecosystem needs to support these approaches, to inform wider policy and practice discussion, particularly on the EU Digital Services Act and UK Online Safety Bill.▪ Identify, engage with and convene key stakeholders and experts in the field, including civil society and impacted communities, to seek their guidance and feedback.▪ Use a range of research methodologies that can address your research questions, which could include stakeholder interviews, focus groups, workshops, surveys, tool development, participant observation.▪ Where possible, co-develop recommendations for governments, regulators and industry on actions they can take to translate the findings of your research into practice.▪ Contribute to scoping of further work on audit and regulatory inspection▪ Contribute to wider program thinking and research projects on on-the-ground algorithmic accountability practices		
2. Writing and communications			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Responsibility for the ongoing drafting and editing of papers, reports, blogs, media comments and other resources.▪ With support from colleagues, to undertake occasional public speaking.▪ Co-developing and organisation of workshops and/or events in order to raise the profile of Ada’s research.		

3. Impact	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying opportunities for impact in the EU, UK and internationally with different stakeholders, including but not limited to policymakers, regulators, industry practitioners, AI/ML researchers, public-sector organisations, hardware and software developers, and others. Craft impact and dissemination plans that identifies key stakeholders and opportunities to influence their practice. For more information on how Ada thinks about impact, see page 21 of our 2021-2024 strategy. Inform and feed into Ada's longer-term strategy to develop and test methods for ensuring more accountable and ethical AI and data practices.
4. Other	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The above list of key responsibilities (and associated activities) is not exhaustive. It may be necessary to carry out other work within the scope of the role, as reasonably requested, including supporting other researchers

Person specification	Essential (E), Highly Desirable (HD) or Desirable (D)
Experience	
Experience of research at the intersection of technology and society (through academic training or professional experience).	E
Experience of conducting/researching social science, technical or sociotechnical audits or assessments of social media platforms	HD
Experience of analysis and writing on complex or technical topics for different audiences	HD
Experience of working in or with the tech sector; or working in a public, academic or industry environment, such as international organisations, government agencies, think tanks	D
Knowledge and Skills	

A keen and demonstrable interest in issues of AI and data ethics, responsible research/development and innovation	E
Ability to work with a diverse range of stakeholders	E
Technical fluency – either from direct software engineering or data science experience or working closely with technical teams and products	E
Ability to understand technical data science and computer science concepts relating to auditing and translate them into concepts a lay-person could understand	E
Ability to analyse information and present it clearly in writing and in conversations/presentations	E
Ability to organise workshops/events	D
Personal Qualities	
A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion	E
A collaborative approach to research and thinking	E
Creative and flexible, able to innovate and suggest new ideas	E

A day in the life of an Ada Researcher

You will start your day whenever you like – most of the team are online by 9.30am, but some prefer to start early and finish early, or have a later day. We do not believe in strict adherence to working hours and prioritise productivity over clock-watching. We generally start the day by checking in on Microsoft Teams and letting our colleagues know what the day ahead holds.

Every day will be different, and you will probably spend about half of your day in meetings or on calls – doing outreach and sharing information with stakeholders such as DCMS, peer organisations like Algorithm Watch, or academics and researchers; coordinating external consultants, commissioned researchers or working groups; interviewing data scientists or policy people for research, or speaking to the occasional journalist.

You will find team updates and chats on our Teams Channels, and meeting notes and how-to guides in our Notion page. Depending on the day, you might join a team-wide meeting to hear project updates or discuss organisational policies. Also depending on the day, you might have a regular 1:1 meeting with your manager to check in on your wellbeing, raise any challenges or obstacles with your project, and discuss career advancement and growth opportunities. You'll have regular interactions with our Communications team, keeping them abreast of work underway, collaborating on influencing strategy for a forthcoming output, or working together on an output.

The other half of your day you'll spend reading and writing. It might be that you're undertaking in-depth research on a topic, co-facilitating a public deliberation on acceptable use of data, editing a draft, or undertaking some responsive commentary. You might have projects that are highly outward-facing, convening experts around project, or you might have a week offline to write a



report. You'll spend some time reading recent news articles, dipping into Twitter and catching up on important policy literature and commentary in our field.

You might wrap up the day by doing some thinking about new initiatives Ada should engage with, new projects Ada should conceive, or some writing based on your findings that week.