

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Future of Digital Manufacturing Ecosystems

Job Ref: REQ230043

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

The **Made Smarter Innovation (MSI)** challenge is a £147M investment from UKRI which aims to help UK manufacturing become more productive and competitive through the innovation and diffusion of digital technology, and to support manufacturing to achieve Net Zero by 2050. Whilst technology is important, there are many social and economic factors that will be hugely influential in achieving these aims.

InterAct is a £4.4 million MSI funded network launched in November 2021. It is led by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and by the co-directors Professor Jan Godsell (School of Business and Economics, Loughborough University) and Professor Jill MacBryde (Strathclyde Business School), and the core research team is comprised of researchers from Loughborough, Strathclyde and Sheffield Universities.

InterAct will tackle two distinct but interrelated challenges that are central to the delivery of the UK's Manufacturing MSI challenge, and a productive and more innovative UK. The first concerns developing and supporting the creation of an effective digital innovation ecosystem to accelerate the innovation and diffusion of Industrial Digital Technologies. The underpinning research and development required to deliver this aim will be reliant upon interdisciplinary working and effective communication between academia and industry. The second concerns the inclusion of the full range and depth of social and economic science insights across the MSI challenge and wider UK manufacturing sector.

InterAct is a multi-disciplinary academic-led community at the heart of the MSI challenge and will provide academic leadership across sectors. InterAct will organise activities such as workshops, showcase events and conferences, to build sustained engagement and collaboration across business and academic partners and to ensure widespread dissemination and exploitation of the core research outputs. It offers a unique opportunity for academic colleagues from a variety of disciplines to work together on some of the biggest manufacturing challenges the UK faces in collaboration with industrial partners.

Job Description

Job Family & Grade: Specialist & Supporting Academic (Research) Grade 7

Job Purpose: To contribute to and enhance the research activities and support the delivery of the InterAct Core Research Programme, lead the development of research proposals in this area and manage research projects. To provide strategic leadership for one of the three principal work packages which are pivotal to the research element of the InterAct.

Job Duties:

Research Programme:

- Design, conduct, manage and report on research activities within the Future of Digital Manufacturing Ecosystems Work Package.

- To liaise with the funder and manage the research reporting for the Future of Digital Manufacturing Ecosystems Work Package.
- Lead and contribute to the writing of research papers and to publish the outcomes of research in journals of international standing.
- To supervise postgraduate researchers at Masters, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral levels.
- To lead the development of research proposals in the area of the Future of Digital Manufacturing.

Regional Engagement:

- To lead the development of a blueprint for a Future Digital Manufacturing Ecosystem for the Midlands Engine through co-creation with key stakeholders within the Region.
- To lead the implementation of the adoption of two industrial digital technologies within the Region showcasing leading practice in Future Digital Manufacturing Ecosystem design.

Support for InterAct:

- To lead the Early Career Researcher funding stream of the Commissioned Research including organising and chairing funding panels and acting as a mentor for the successful candidates.
- Take a leadership role among the project's researchers to nurture teamwork and create cohort approach to delivering the research programme's aims and objectives.
- Facilitate lines of communication between Work Package leaders & RAs to ensure knowledge exchange at discipline boundaries.
- Take technical lead in liaising with the industrial partners and the Strategic Advisory Board.
- Work closely with the InterAct Network Manager to manage assigned research projects including budgets to ensure efficient use of resources.

Impact:

- To present research findings at seminars and major national and international conferences.
- To contribute to project promotion and public engagement events.
- To work with the Impact Manager to create a range of high impact publicly facing outputs that support the diffusion of ideas from the research to the Midlands region and beyond.

Points to Note:

The purpose of this job description is to indicate the general level of duties and responsibility of the post. The detailed duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character or level of responsibility entailed.

Special Conditions:

All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy & Procedures.

All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equality & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Respecting Diversity and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility:

Reports to the InterAct Co-Director Professor Janet Godsell (Dean of School of Business and Economics)

Person Specification:

Your application will be reviewed with respect to meeting the essential and desirable criteria listed below.

Your application will be reviewed against the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly state and evidence how they meet each of the essential (and desirable) criteria in their application. Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Application
- 2 – Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
- 3 – Interview

ESSENTIAL

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Specialist knowledge and understanding of manufacturing ecosystems	1,2,3
	Experience of involvement with large multi-institutional projects, including stakeholder management	1,3
	Experience of authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1,3
	Experience of project planning and management	1,3
	Extensive experience of selecting and implementing appropriate research methods	1,2,3
	Experience of developing and delivering knowledge exchange activities	1,3
	Experience of gathering and analysing research data using both qualitative and quantitative research methods	1,2,3
	Experience of securing research or enterprise funding	1,3
	Experience of managing research projects	1,3
	Experience of appropriate research reporting, documentation and dissemination activities	1,3
	Experience of conducting research within ethical and regulatory procedures	1,3
	Experience of working with public bodies, professional institutions and stakeholders from industry and other fields	1,3
Skills and abilities	Demonstration of excellent technical ability relevant to the discipline	1,3
	Excellent inter-personal and communication skills - both written and oral	1,2,3
	Excellent team-working and team-motivating skills	3
	Excellent research paper or report writing skills	1,3
	Highly motivated with the ability to set and meet deadlines for themselves and others appropriate to the progress of the projects	1,3
	Able to supervise and teach undergraduate and postgraduate students	1,3
	Strong track record in originating and developing new ideas	1,2,3
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1,3
Qualifications	A PhD in a relevant subject OR extensive equivalent experience in	1

	an intensive advanced research environment, and working towards a PhD in a relevant area	
Other	Evidence a good working knowledge of equal opportunities and understanding of diversity in the workplace	3
	A willingness to travel	3

DESIRABLE

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Line management experience	1,3
	Experience of conducting systematic reviews	1,3
	Experience of engagement with Midlands Engine	1

Conditions of Service

The position is full time (37 hours per week) and fixed term until 31st December 2024. Salary will be on Management and Specialist Grade 7, £43,414 – £51,805 per annum, at a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Academic and Related staff, details of which can be found [here](#).

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which are available at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/family-leave-policy-and-procedure---page.html>.

We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/childcare-information---page.html>)

In addition, the University is supportive, wherever possible, of flexible working arrangements. We also strive to create a culture that supports equality and celebrates diversity throughout the campus. The University holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their academic career. For further information on Athena SWAN see <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/>