Teaching Assistant

College of Science and Engineering

Department of Engineering

Salary Grade 6 - £25,504 to £29,541 per annum

Fixed term contract from 1 June 2013 to 31 May 2014 (** see below for contract information)

Ref: SEN00347

At Leicester we’re going places. Ranked in the top 20 universities in Britain our aim is to climb further. A commitment to high quality fused with an inclusive academic culture is our hallmark and led the Times Higher Education to describe us as “elite without being elitist”.

You will undertake teaching, and technical support for the Department of Engineering on the Reliable Embedded Systems MSc Programme.

Funding for this position is initially available until 31 May 2014 and an application has been made to extend this for a further 6 months.

The University

There’s never been a more exciting time to join us. At the University of Leicester we are enjoying research success on a world stage and gathering the awards and plaudits to match.

We are described as “elite without being elitist”. We are proud to be elite. But we are at least as proud to be an inclusive and progressive university. This commitment to high quality, an inclusive academic culture and belief in the synergy of teaching and research are our hallmarks. We believe that teaching is inspirational when delivered by passionate scholars engaged in world-changing research that is delivered in an academic community that includes postgraduate as well as undergraduate students.

Our approach to research yields great rewards. Our research impact, measured by citations per academic, is ranked in the UK top 10. Our success in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise saw Quality Related research income rise by 18% placing us firmly amongst Britain’s top 20 research universities by this measure. The RAE also revealed that Leicester is home to Britain’s top-rated research department – Museum Studies – which has the highest concentration of world class research of any department of any discipline in the UK.

We believe that teaching and research are synergistic, and the National Student Survey demonstrates that the quality of our teaching is amongst the highest in the country. Since the launch of the survey in 2005, Leicester has consistently featured amongst the top-10 universities in England for student satisfaction. The Sunday Times described Leicester as "top... amongst mainstream multi-faculty universities for student satisfaction".

Currently a University of 23,000 students, with a turnover in excess of £260m and 3,300 colleagues, our future is bright. Our Strategic Vision describes our plans to invest a billion pounds in our estate as
we transform our campus. Already consistently ranked in the top-20 universities in Britain, by 2015 we aim to rise further to become top-10.

Leicester is the most inclusive of Britain’s top-20 universities with the greatest proportions of students from under-represented groups.

As a group of talented individuals we are more diverse than ever and stronger for it. At Leicester we are proud of our distinct approach, our achievements and our ambitious plans. If you share our approach join us.

Please see http://www2.le.ac.uk/about/facts for more information about the University.

We are proud holders of the Athena Swan Bronze Award which recognises and celebrates good practice for employment in science, engineering and technology (SET) in higher education and research. The award reflects our commitment to the advancement and promotion of diversity and equality. We are actively seeking Silver and Gold awards. http://www.athenason.org.uk/html/athena-swan/

College of Science and Engineering

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of College: Professor Martin Barstow, BA PhD CSci CPhys F.InstP FRAS

The College comprises seven research-led departments: Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Geography, Geology, Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy. Together, these departments teach approximately 20% of campus-based undergraduate students, undertaking diverse programmes of study, from human geography through a range of laboratory-based subjects to engineering. They also generate more than a third of the University’s research income.

Although each department has a distinct identity, there are a number of major interdisciplinary research activities, typified by centres in Space Research, Climate Change Research, Mathematical/Computational Modelling and Advanced Microscopy. Researchers within the College have international reputations and collaborations with researchers throughout the world, making it an exciting environment for both research and teaching.

Our students benefit from following best practice, working alongside leaders in their fields. Approximately a quarter of our undergraduates go on to study for a higher degree. Our graduates are much sought after by employers - either by going directly into employment in the broad area of their degree subject or pursuing successful careers in diverse areas such as education, commerce, IT and the public sector.

Further information about all departments within the College can be found on the College website at: http://www2.le.ac.uk/colleges/scieng

Department of Engineering

Head of Department: Prof Helen Atkinson

The Department of Engineering has 30 lecturing staff (including 9 Professors) supported by 7 management and administrative staff, about 20 research staff and 30 technical and experimental staff. Engineering is one of the largest departments at Leicester and has approximately 550 undergraduate students, 80 taught postgraduate students, and 80 postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers.

The Department is renowned for its research in the areas of:

- Bioengineering
The department is internationally renowned for the quality of its research. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise the Department submitted over 90% of its academic staff. The quality profile, as judged by the RAE, showed that 90% of the research was internationally recognised, internationally excellent or world leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour. Several research led appointments have been made in recent years, including a number of chairs, and this has resulted in research groups of international standing with strong leadership and a research base of highly talented staff.

In terms of teaching, the Department offers MEng and BEng degrees in:

- Aerospace Engineering
- General Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Communications and Electronic Engineering
- Software and Electronic Engineering

Each course is accredited by the relevant professional institutions. The Department also offers MSc courses in:

- Advanced Control and Dynamics
- Advanced Engineering
- Advanced Mechanical Engineering
- Advanced Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Embedded Systems and Control
- Information and Communications Engineering

The Department is fully committed to teaching excellence. Leicester is one of the highest ranking institutions in the National Student Satisfaction Survey.

The Department has an extensive range of industrial partners including: BAe Systems, Rolls Royce, Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz, Alstom. Many undergraduate and postgraduate projects are carried out in collaboration with industry. The employment record for new graduates is strong.

For additional information see http://www.le.ac.uk/engineering/

Your Role

You will undertake teaching, and technical support for the Department of Engineering on the Reliable Embedded Systems MSc Programme
Principal Accountabilities

- To give seminars, tutorials and classes, as appropriate, in support of the required teaching obligations.
- To mark, assess and supervise student’s work.
- To support students via the Department’s existing teaching and administrative systems.
- To contribute to the system of academic student support within the Department.
- To ensure that student feedback on teaching is sought, through questionnaires and other means, and to respond constructively to such feedback and to advice from peers.
- To undertake other academic and administrative duties required to sustain the delivery of high quality distance learning.
- Develop distance learning course materials
- To support and comply with the University and departmental teaching quality assurance standards and procedures, including the provision of such information as may be required by the Department or the University.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- A degree or equivalent industrial experience in the area of Embedded Systems, and digital logic design. *
- An up-to-date industrial perspective of high reliability embedded systems. *
- Experience of VHDL/Verilog and FPGA technologies*
- Experience of programming and software techniques for embedded systems*

Desirable

- A higher degree or equivalent industrial experience in the area of Embedded Systems, and digital logic design. *
- Experience of teaching and interacting with a highly motivated student body*
- Constructing course material using Blackboard
- Prior teaching experience *

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Ability to teach undergraduate and Master’s level students in tutorials, seminars and other classes
- High standard of written communication skills*
- Good effective written and oral communication skills, presentation and training skills*
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently as well as part of a team on research and teaching related activities
- High level of proficiency in English, sufficient to undertake research, teaching and administrative activities utilising English Language materials and to communicate effectively with staff and students

Desirable
- Ability to prioritise and work to tight deadlines
- A high degree of initiative and self-motivation
- Willingness to work proactively with minimal supervision

(* Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview)

** Contract Information

The appointment will be from 1 June 2013 to 31 May 2014 on a fixed term basis as the particular/specialist expertise is required for this time.

Your appointment will cease on the end date without further notice.

You will be able to access all University vacancies on the web site in order to seek alternative opportunities. For further information or help you can contact the Recruitment team on 0116 252 5639 or recruitment@le.ac.uk.

Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be made to Dr Alistair McEwen on aam19@le.ac.uk or 0116 252 2672.

Applications

For further information and to apply on-line, please visit our website: www.le.ac.uk/joinus

The closing date for this post is midnight on 20 May 2013.

Candidates short-listed for interview will be contacted by the University. If you do not receive a communication from the University within 4 weeks of the closing date, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.