

# Senior AI Research Engineer

University Information Services

Closing Date: 23 September 2024

Job Reference: VC43087



# Senior AI Research Engineer

**Salary:**

£45,585 - £57,696

This position is eligible for a market pay supplement of up to £9,573

**Contract:**

Permanent

**Location:**

Cambridge

**Division:**

Information Services

**Responsible to:**

Principal AI Research Engineer

**Working Pattern:**

Full Time

**Purpose of the role**

The Cambridge AI Research Resource (CAIRR) is part of a major national initiative to place the UK at the forefront of AI. The CAIRR includes a team of highly skilled individuals working on developing, scaling and optimising scientific workflow to better exploit current and upcoming state-of-the-art AI technologies.

The Senior AI Research Engineer is a key member of team of research software engineers that develop and improve complex scientific workflows that the university's and the wider UK research community employs. The role holder will:

- Plan and lead development on sets of related projects.
- Have an understanding of the whole system they manage.
- Work with other disciplines and stakeholders to understand and define needs.

- With the approval and guidance of the Head of Research Software Engineering to establish new customer engagements and initiate new short/medium term projects that bring additional value to new or existing customers.
- Find ways to improve software performance, functionality and stability using state of the art methodologies and techniques.
- Provide key user support skills in the field of software engineering and performance optimization applied to computational disciplines.
- Supervise and mentor the work of junior colleagues, ensuring projects are delivered to time and to quality.

The role holder supports both internal and external software development activities in partnership with University members and external customers.



## Key responsibilities

### Machine learning

Designs, implements, tests and improves machine learning architectures and systems. Selects techniques based on a breadth of knowledge of the strengths, weaknesses and expected performance of different approaches. Establishes good practice in the development, evaluation, monitoring and deployment of machine learning systems.

### Data science

Plans and drives all stages of the development of data science and analytics solutions. Provides expert advice to evaluate the problems to be solved and the need for data science solutions. Identifies what data sources to use or acquire. Specifies and applies appropriate data science techniques and specialised programming languages. Reviews the benefits and value of data science techniques and tools and recommends improvements. Contributes to developing policy, standards and guidelines for developing, evaluating, monitoring and deploying data science solutions.

### Programming/software development

Takes technical responsibility across all stages and iterations of software development. Plans and drives software construction activities. Adopts and adapts appropriate software development methods, tools and techniques selecting appropriately from predictive (plan-driven) approaches or adaptive (iterative/agile) approaches. Measures and monitors applications of project/team standards for software construction including software security. Contributes to the development of organisational policies, standards, and guidelines for software development.

### Software Design

Selects, adopts and adapts appropriate software design methods, tools and techniques, selecting

appropriately from predictive (plan-driven) approaches or adaptive (iterative/agile) approaches. Specifies and designs large or complex software components. Undertakes impact analysis on major design options, makes recommendations and assesses and manages associated risks. Specifies prototypes/simulations to enable informed decision making. Evaluates the quality of others' systems designs to ensure adherence to standards and identifies corrective action, if needed. Ensures that the system design balances functional, quality, security and systems management requirements. Contributes to development of organisational software design and architecture policies and standards.

### Solution architecture

Leads the development of solution architectures in specific business, infrastructure or functional areas. Ensures that appropriate tools and methods are available, understood and employed in architecture development. Within a change programme, leads the preparation of technical plans and, in liaison with business assurance and project staff, ensures that appropriate technical resources are made available. Provides advice on technical aspects of solution development and integration (including requests for changes, deviations from specifications, etc.) and ensures that relevant technical strategies, policies, standards and practices (including security) are applied correctly.





**Key responsibilities...continued****Specialist advice**

Actively maintains recognised expert level knowledge in one or more identifiable specialisms. Provides definitive and expert advice in their specialist area(s). Oversees the provision of specialist advice by others, consolidates expertise from multiple sources, including third party experts, to provide coherent advice to further organisational objectives. Supports and promotes the development and sharing of specialist knowledge within the organisation.

**Consultancy**

Takes responsibility for understanding client requirements, collecting data, delivering analysis and problem resolution. Identifies, evaluates and recommends options. Collaborates with, and facilitates stakeholder groups, as part of formal or informal consultancy agreements. Seeks to fully address client needs and implements solutions if required. Enhances the capabilities and effectiveness of clients, by ensuring that proposed solutions are fully understood and appropriately exploited.

Actively contributes to the University and the wider national AI Engineer Community in order to share knowledge, best practice, and technical expertise.

# Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Experience</b>		
Significant experience with Machine Learning Workflows and their development processes.	✓	
Experience designing and solving complex problems by writing simple, effective code.	✓	
Extensive experience of a of working in a large scale computing environment, code benchmarking and performance evaluation.	✓	
Experience writing and applying unit tests.	✓	
Experience writing and collaborating on highly insightful, comprehensive code reviews.		✓
Experience and knowledge in High Performance Computing parallelization (MPI and OpenMP) and optimization (SSE4/AVX2, explicit vectorization, ...)		✓
Experience working in a DevOps environment.		✓
Experience in software development, this includes implementing pipelines, machine learning, data mining or data modelling.		✓
Experience of gathering customer requirements and creating solutions to meet customer and business criteria.		✓
<b>Skills</b>		
Can learn new skills independently and proactively.	✓	
Proficient in one or more programming languages (Python, C++).	✓	
Capable to work in multiple programming languages and frameworks and constantly striving to raise technical excellence.		✓
Knowledge of heterogeneous parallel programming (e.g. CUDA, OpenCL) and many-core architectures.	✓	
Can understand system and software specifications and choose use appropriate designs to meet requirements.	✓	
Ability to prioritise own workload and to work independently.	✓	
Can debug complex problems.	✓	
Can train junior and mid-career developers.	✓	
Excellent communication skills.		✓
Strong user focus and passion for doing the right thing for them.		✓
Pro-active in learning new programming languages and/or new techniques applicable to a different kind of scientific disciplines.		✓
Ability to convince, provide work direction and leadership to colleagues who do not directly report to this role.	✓	
<b>Qualifications and additional requirements</b>		
A Master or PhD degree in Computer Engineering, Computer Science or significant relevant experience Data Science-based discipline.	✓	
Ability to work alone or as part of a team.	✓	
Ability to engage with people of different background and skills set.	✓	
Being results driven with willing attitude of working out of hours to get the job done if necessary.	✓	

# Behavioural Attributes

This section summarises the behavioural attributes (or competencies) that we expect the role holder to be able to demonstrate, at what level and whether this is an essential or desirable requirement.

Full definitions are at: <https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/policies-procedures/behavioural-attributes>.

Please review these and provide specific examples in your application of how you have demonstrated these attributes in your work, education or other experience. It will assist your application if you explain the situation, what you did and what the outcomes were.

Attribute	Level
Valuing Diversity	A
Achieving Results	B
Communication	B
Innovation and Change	B
Negotiating and Influencing	B
People Development	B
Relationship Building	B
Strategic Focus	B

# Professional Services Values

Developed by professional services staff, our values underpin everything we do. By living the values in the work we do, we hope to foster an environment where staff feel empowered. The values encourage staff to; work together and share skills to create a sense of community, act with integrity, take an inclusive and fair approach and develop honest and open relationships that are underpinned by our shared values. We encourage applicants to consider these values within their application.



# University Information Services



## **The UIS provides the digital infrastructure at the heart of the University's world-leading education and research.**

For example, our high performance computing team has developed the UK's fastest academic computer and is supporting groundbreaking medical, engineering and astronomy research. Our networks team runs Europe's biggest privately owned ultra-high speed fibre optic network, connecting researchers, students and other organisations across Cambridge and beyond. And, the University's finance, HR and student administration rely on our business systems.

The University also has a bold ambition to use digitalisation to transform education and research. The UIS's team of developers, designers, testers, analysts and support staff is leading this exciting work. Our work ensures Cambridge continues to be one of the world's top universities.

The University of Cambridge consists of over 100 institutions (Departments, Faculties and Schools) and employs around 12,000 staff. The Director of Information Services leads a University Information Services function which positively adds value to the University. For the delivery of a world – class computing service for all of the relevant stakeholder communities.

As a customer focussed organisation the purpose of UIS is to provide business information services that underpin the critical management processes used across the collegiate University in research, teaching and administration.

The UIS works strategically with Schools, Faculties, Departments, Colleges and other institutions, in planning and delivering the future information service requirements of the University, progressively improving business processes, capabilities and information solutions that meet business needs.

# Terms of Appointment

## Tenure and probation

Appointment will be made on a permanent basis and are subject to satisfactory completion of a 9 month probationary period.

## Hours of Work and Working Pattern

The hours of work for the position are full-time.

We welcome applications from individuals who wish to be considered for part-time working or other flexible working arrangements.

## Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) – a defined benefits pension scheme. For further information please visit: [www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/](http://www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/).

## Annual leave

Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 41 days inclusive of public holidays. For new part-time employees, annual leave will be pro rata'd based on days worked.

## General information

### Pre-employment checks

#### Right to work in the UK

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us.

If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it.

### Health declaration

Once an offer of employment has been made the successful candidate will be required to complete a work health declaration form.

### Qualifications

The person specification for this position lists qualifications that are essential and/or desirable. Please note that if you are offered the post you will be asked to provide your relevant original certificates of these qualifications.

### References

Offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

### Screening Checks

This role requires a basic disclosure (DBS) Check and a security check. Any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon the satisfactory completion of these checks. Whether an outcome is satisfactory will be determined by the University.

### Equality and Diversity

We particularly encourage women and /or candidates from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background to apply for this vacancy as they are

currently under-represented at this level within our department.

### Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to assist them during their employment.

Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact, the Department Administrator, who is responsible for recruitment to this position.



# The University

**The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful universities. We are a renowned centre for research, education, and scholarship that makes a significant contribution to society. The University is consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world. Our affiliates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other University.**

Our sustained pursuit of academic excellence is built on a long history of first-class teaching and research within a distinctive collegiate system. For eight centuries our ideas and innovations have shaped the world. Our principal goal is to remain one of the world's leading universities in an increasingly competitive global higher education sector. Today the University of Cambridge is at the centre of a cluster of over 4,300 businesses employing 58,000 people.

Our capital investment projects include the West Cambridge site, the North West Cambridge development and the growth of the Biomedical Campus in the south of the city. The North West Cambridge development includes the opening of a primary school – the first in the UK to be managed by a University. So we are deeply embedded in, and committed to serving, our local community. These are all conspicuous signs of a University that is not only adapting to new needs, but also anticipating the future.

Our mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Our core values are:

- freedom of thought and expression; and
- freedom from discrimination.



# About Us

**The University is one of the world's leading academic centres. It comprises 150 faculties and departments, together with a central administration and other institutions. Our institutions, museums and collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing one of the country's highest concentrations of internationally important collections.**

The University has an annual income of £2 billion. Research income, won competitively from the UK Research Councils, the European Union (EU), major charities and industry, exceeds £500 million per annum and continues to grow.

The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic staff are invited to join a College as a Teaching Fellow, which provides a further social and intellectual dimension. The Colleges admit students, provide student accommodation and deliver small group teaching.

The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching and conducting research.

Our instinct for seeking out excellence and setting up enduring and mutually beneficial collaborations has led us to establish strategic partnerships across the globe. Whether it is the successful Cambridge-Africa Programme involving universities in Ghana, Uganda and elsewhere on the African continent; or the close association with the government of India to pursue new research in crop science; or the creation, with Germany's Max Planck Institutes, of a Cambridge-based centre for the study of ethics, human economy and social change – international partnerships are now an inextricable part of the University's make-up.

“Cambridge graduates and researchers have made – and continue to make – a colossal contribution to human knowledge and the understanding of the world around us. Their work touches on the lives and livelihoods of everyone from patients diagnosed with life-threatening diseases, to residents of areas critically affected by climate change, to children growing up in conflict zones. It has a lasting impact on our society, our economy and our culture: the world is truly a better place thanks to their efforts.”

*Stephen Toope, Vice Chancellor 2019*





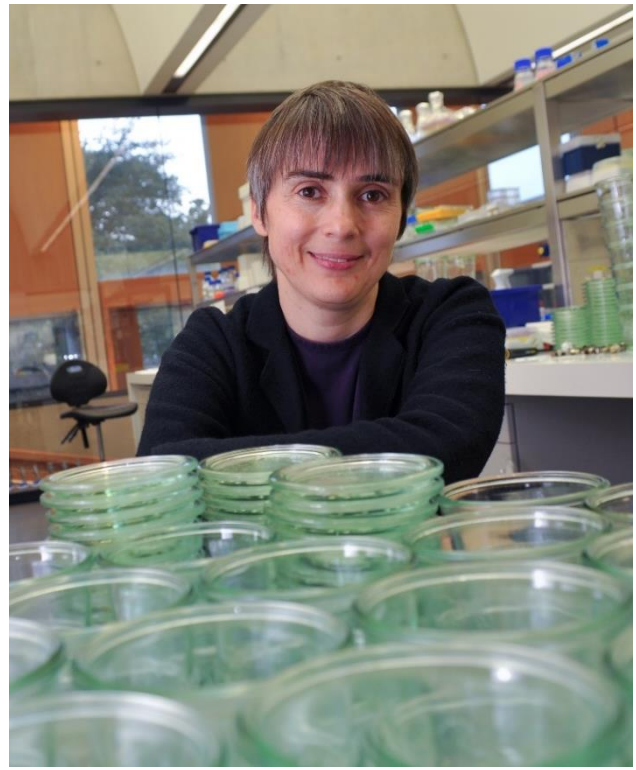
# Working at the University

**Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 18,000 students and over 16,000 staff from all walks of life and corners of the world.**

The University continually explores strategies to attract and retain the best people. It is committed to supporting its staff to achieve their best. We are a fair, diverse and inclusive society and we believe our staff are our greatest asset. There is strong commitment to developing institutional leadership and supporting and encouraging staff development at all levels.

We offer a variety of roles including academic, research, professional, managerial and support roles. We also offer extensive benefits and excellent learning opportunities within a stimulating working environment.

The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a new science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is now expanding further to the north west of Cambridge including investing in affordable homes for University key workers and community facilities. Even with our continued development, the University remains within walking or cycling distance across the campus. The University is a major partner on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and we continue to redevelop our historic city centre sites demonstrating our determination to ensure that we can offer the best facilities and opportunities for our staff and students.



## Equality & diversity

The University has built its excellence on the diversity of its staff and student community. We aim to be a leader in fostering equality and inclusion, and in promoting respect and a sense of belonging for all. We encourage applications from all sections of society. All appointments are made on the basis of merit. We have an Equal Opportunities Policy, along with a range of diversity networks for women, black and minority ethnic and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff. More details are available here: <http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The University has a bronze Race Equality Charter award, with framework for improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education. Furthermore, the University's Athena SWAN award recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women.

# Living in Cambridge

**Cambridge is rich in cultural diversity. From beautiful University and College buildings, museums and art galleries, quaint gardens and punts on the River Cam, to a vibrant restaurant and café scene, our employees are surrounded by the wonderful features of this unique city.**

You can find a wide-range of high street shops and 3 shopping centres, with independent alternatives at the historic market and nestled within the passageways in the city centre. You will find a cinema, bowling alley, a nightclub and various live performances. At the Cambridge Leisure Park, with further entertainment options at the Corn Exchange, Arts Theatre and the ADC Theatre. Further information can be found on the Visit Cambridge website.

If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45-minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away. The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races and various wildlife parks and stately homes. Cambridge is also within easy reach of the beautiful Broads and coastlines of Norfolk and Suffolk.

## Relocation Support

The University recognises the importance of helping individuals to move and settle into a new area. We provide support and guidance to those relocating internationally or domestically to take up a post at the University of Cambridge, liaising with other University offices and selected partners to ensure comprehensive relocation support is available. This includes: accommodation, childcare, schools, banking, immigration and transport. If you would like further information, please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/relocation>. The Shared Equity Scheme and the Reimbursement of Relocation Expenses Scheme provide financial assistance to qualifying new members of staff with the costs of relocating to Cambridge.

## Accommodation Service

The University Accommodation Service helps staff, students and visiting scholars who are affiliated to the University in their search for suitable accommodation in Cambridge. The dedicated accommodation team can provide access to a wide range of University-owned furnished and unfurnished properties, and has a database of private sector accommodation available for short and long-term lets. For further information and to register with this free service please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>





# What Cambridge can offer

**We offer a comprehensive reward package to attract, motivate and retain high performing staff at all levels and in all areas of work.**

The University offers a wide range of competitive benefits, from family leave entitlement, to shopping and travel discount schemes. Our generous annual leave package contributes to the positive wellbeing of our University employees. Sabbatical leave enables academics to focus on research and scholarship, whilst still maintaining their full salary. The University also has a [career break scheme for academic and academic-related staff](#), with additional flexible working policies for all other staff.

## Pay and benefits

The University salary structure includes automatic service-related pay progression in many of its grades and an annual cost of living increase. In addition to this, employees are rewarded for outstanding contribution through a number of regular pay progression schemes. The University offers attractive pensions schemes for employees, with an additional benefit of a salary exchange arrangement providing tax and national insurance savings. Payroll giving is also a simple, tax-efficient way for employees to make monthly donations to charity.



## CAMbens employee benefits

We offer a CAMbens scheme for University employees, providing access to online and in-store shopping discounts and cashback. With more than 2,000 participating retailers, employees can save money on a wide range of household expenses, from groceries and clothes, to holidays and insurance and much more. A range of local discounts are also available, helping employees to save money whilst also supporting local Cambridge businesses and a CAMbens Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme is also available, which enables employees to save money on transport costs. A 10% discount rate on the [purchase of train season tickets, bulk buy tickets](#) and an interest free travel to work loan are also available for staff of the University.



# What Cambridge can offer

## Family-friendly policies

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff. We have a range of family-friendly policies to aid employees' work-life balance including a generous maternity, adoption and shared parental leave entitlement of 18 weeks full pay and emergency family care support via My Family Care.

Other family-friendly support includes:

Our highly regarded workplace nurseries, a childcare salary exchange scheme and a high quality holiday Playscheme may be available to help support University employees with caring responsibilities (subject to demand and qualifying criteria). Further childcare information can be found here:

<https://www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group is an organisation within the University run by volunteers whose aim is to help newly arrived wives, husbands, partners and families of Visiting Scholars and members of the University to settle in Cambridge and give them an opportunity to meet local people. The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs supports the postdoctoral community within Cambridge. Further details are available here: <https://www.opda.cam.ac.uk/>

## Your wellbeing

The University's Sport Centre, Counselling Services and Occupational Health are just some of the support services available to University employees to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. There are many societies in Cambridge catering for almost every taste and interest. Whether you want to take part in a sport, participate in music or drama, pursue a hobby, or join a political group, you will almost certainly find that a society exists for this purpose. The University also hosts the [Cambridge Science Festival](#) and [Cambridge Festival of Ideas](#), as well as [Open Cambridge](#) weekend, which together attract over 50,000 visitors per year. The festivals are a great opportunity to get your first taste of public engagement, through volunteering, supporting hands-on activities or proposing a talk.

## Development opportunities

We support new employees to settle in through various activities. The encouragement of career development for all staff is one of the University's values and we put this into practice through various services and initiatives. Our Personal and Professional Development Department provides development opportunities and courses for all University employees. These include face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. Employees may also apply for financial support to undertake training that will lead to a qualification. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions. The CareerStart@Cam programme also supports employees in assistant staff roles who do not hold higher education qualifications to develop their skills, experience and qualifications.





# How to apply

Applications should be submitted online via the University of Cambridge jobs page [www.jobs.cam.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk) by clicking “Apply online” in the job advert. You will need an email address to register for our online system.

Conversations about flexible working are encouraged at the University of Cambridge. Please feel free to discuss flexibility prior to applying (using the contact information below) or at interview if your application is successful.

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to [recruitment@uis.cam.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@uis.cam.ac.uk) in the first instance, quoting reference number VC43087

The closing date for applications is 23 September 2024.