Data Science Lab

PhD Studentship in Data Science

Understanding human behaviour with online data and machine learning

Data Science Lab, Behavioural Science Group, Warwick Business School

We are seeking to recruit a creative and highly motivated prospective PhD student who is fascinated by the potential to use data from the Internet to better understand real world human behaviour. The student will join the Data Science Lab at Warwick Business School and work towards a PhD supervised by Professor Tobias Preis and Professor Suzy Moat (Behavioural Science, WBS), in collaboration with our colleagues at the UK Office for National Statistics Data Science Campus. Preis and Moat are also Fellows at The Alan Turing Institute, the UK's national institute for data science and artificial intelligence.

Our work so far has investigated how data from Google, Wikipedia, Instagram and Twitter can be used to measure and predict economic behaviour, disease spread, crowd size and more. Our analyses draw on a range of methodologies, including deep learning for image processing, time series analysis and spatial data analysis and visualisation. Our team is highly interdisciplinary and currently comprises researchers with backgrounds spanning computer science, psychology, economics, physics and more. We aim both to push the boundaries of data science for the understanding of human behaviour, and to change the world around us through engagement with the public and policymakers.

We are looking for applicants who have strong programming skills, good knowledge of statistics and machine learning, and excellent writing and communication skills, or otherwise a strong track record in two of these areas and a demonstrable desire to improve in the third. Applicants should also have exciting ideas with which we can develop this research stream, a strong interest in applying their data science research to policy problems, and a good track record in completing interesting projects.

We are very happy to accept applications from a range of disciplinary backgrounds where applicants meet the description above. You will need to hold a Masters degree in your discipline to be admitted to the PhD programme at WBS.

The studentship

The studentship is open to Home/EU and international/overseas students for 4 years from October 2018 and includes:

1) Tuition fees at Home/EU rate (which is estimated as £4,270 for 2018 entry)

Please note that International/Overseas students will be required to find funding to cover the difference between Home/EU fees and international fees.

2) A stipend of circa £14,800 pa for 4 years

How to apply

Candidates must apply through the online applications procedure (http://www.wbs.ac.uk/courses/doctoral/phd/apply/) and provide the following additional documents:

1. A curriculum vitae
2. A covering letter explaining your interest and aptitude for this studentship, in particular
    a. why you are attracted to this particular opportunity
    b. details of your skills in i) programming, ii) statistics and machine learning, iii) engaging writing and communication
    c. highlights of previous successful projects you have completed
3. A 2,000 word research proposal describing the research project you wish to carry out. This should include details of:
    a. Your overarching research question, outlining why this question is interesting and why now is a good time to address it
    b. At least three concrete analyses you wish to carry out, including
        i. a description of the specific question you will address with this analysis,
        ii. how relevant data will be obtained, and
        iii. what statistical methods you would use to answer your question with this data
    c. An envisaged timetable for your work, to illustrate that this is feasible in the time available

For enquiries and details on how to apply please contact:

Doctoral Programme Office

Tel: +44 (0)24 7652 4754

Email phdadmissions@wbs.ac.uk

Please quote DATASCIENCE on your application and submit by 30 June 2018.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview to take place soon after the closing date for applications.