

We're proud to be Modern University of the Year



Harper Adams
University

Job Description

Title of the post: Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Agri Data Analytics

Department: Crops and Environmental Sciences

The Crop and Environment Sciences Department

This new post will be based with the Crop and Environment Sciences (CES) Department, but involve work across the University. The Department consists of 34 academic members of staff providing high quality teaching to undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Department also delivers several short courses, such as BASIS Crop Protection, FACTS Fertilisers and Agricultural Awareness, for continuing professional development of the industry.

The Department is actively involved in research, with 5 Professors and a total of 23 staff publishing peer-reviewed papers. The Crop and Environment Research Centre (CERC) provides dedicated facilities and the technical expertise required to conduct the wide range of research projects and commercial crop trials undertaken by University staff. The main areas of research include producing food and non-food crops by sustainable methods (including IPM) and the conservation of biodiversity.

Most of the undergraduate teaching supported by the Department is delivered to FdSc and BSc Agriculture (& routes), FdSc and BSc Countryside Management, BSc Countryside and Environmental Management, BSc Geography and Environmental Management and BSc Wildlife Conservation with Natural Resource Management courses. The CES Department also delivers modules for a range of Masters courses including MSc Entomology, MSc Integrated Pest Management and MSc Agriculture Undergraduate courses have a work placement providing strong links with commerce, industry and the professions. The post-holder will have a cross-University role and will support other Departments

Staff are encouraged to contribute to the development and delivery of the Workforce Development agenda through Short Courses and CVE programmes, to seek research grants/awards and to conduct research leading to peer-reviewed academic journal articles, conference papers and articles of professional and industry-related interest.

In addition, the post-holder may have unique access to large datasets generated by a consortium of agri-businesses focused on precision agriculture. Specific areas of interest to this consortium include:

- data analytics; leverage of datasets and combination with complimentary data; management of unqualified data; identification of the importance of datasets; working with industry partners to clarify needs.
- Connectivity; connections between data sources (FMIS, weather, satellite/UAV, machinery, trials etc); provision of data to organisations who currently have no access, but could benefit.

The Appointment

The person appointed will be responsible to the Head of the Crop and Environment Sciences Department for the discharge of his/her duties which, appropriate to experience and background, will include:

- Contributing to the successful teaching, assessment and management of a suite of undergraduate and postgraduate modules within the subject area of data analysis and statistics
- Providing input to the University's strategy for the delivery of teaching in statistical and data analysis techniques to undergraduate and postgraduate students
- Providing professional advice on statistical analysis and experimental design to a wide range of students and users engaged in research activity
- Developing the University's capability to analyse Big Data and effectively communicate findings
- Managing, undertaking and supporting research and consultancy.
- Participating in the development, organisation and delivery of internal and external short courses and training activities relating to agri-statistics and data analysis
- Maintaining and developing relationships with key individuals and organisations within the sector
- Working with an industry consortium to develop data analytics and connectivity solutions in precision agriculture
- Participating in the organisation and supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate student dissertations, projects and vocational placements.
- Attending conferences and meetings and delivering lectures and presentations to outside organisations.
- Contributing to the broader academic life of the University and performing such other duties as may reasonably be requested by the Head of Crop and Environment Sciences Department

The Person

For Harper Adams to be a premier provider of higher education for the land based industries, it is essential to have expertise to underpin our provision within this sector. This appointment is a new initiative designed to address the increase in complex research projects undertaken by the University and the opportunities created by the availability and analysis of Big Data within the agriculture and land use sector.

Suitable candidates will have a good first degree in a relevant subject area and a relevant higher degree, typically a PhD. We will also consider applicants with appropriate postgraduate level technical knowledge and expertise relevant to the post. Candidates should have a strong interest in the application of statistical and data analysis techniques to support research within the agriculture and land use sector.

It would be advantageous if candidates had some direct experience of analysing agricultural data. Applications from individuals with an established academic record demonstrating research experience and a portfolio of publications would be welcome. All candidates should have an active interest in research, teaching and knowledge exchange.

The University has a positive policy on staff development and the appointee will be encouraged to gain additional experience and/or qualifications relevant to the post.

Person Specification

This is a lecturing position demanding a responsive and committed approach to the role. The post will involve working outside of normal office hours and require travelling within the UK and overseas.

Applicants should have;

- a) A suitable degree qualification and a PhD, or equivalent postgraduate experience within a relevant discipline and evidence of excellent written English and communication skills (Essential)
- b) Experience of development and application of statistical analysis and modelling techniques of relevance to agriculture, forestry, environment and/or bioscience (Essential)
- c) Experience of analysis and presentation of Big Data relevant to the agricultural sector and the ability to develop data analytics for precision agriculture (Desirable)
- d) Evidence of the ability to effectively use a range of statistical computer packages for example R, Genstat and SPSS (Essential)
- e) An established or developing profile and esteem within the sector (Essential)
- f) Evidence of an interest in research and a proven ability to apply research findings to practical situations (Essential)
- g) Ability to contribute to the successful teaching, assessment and management of undergraduate and postgraduate modules (including undergraduate and postgraduate supervision) that include data analysis and statistics (Essential)
- h) Experience of advising other scientists or students on data analysis and statistics (Desirable)

- i) A full UK driving licence and no legal restrictions on overseas travel other than standard visa and immigration requirements (Essential)

Conditions of Service

Salary The commencing salary will be within the range £32,958 - £48,327 per annum. The point of entry will be dependent upon relevant qualifications and experience. Salaries are paid monthly, in arrears, by credit transfer.

Pension The person appointed will be entitled to participate in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) subject to its terms and conditions from time to time in force, unless election is made to make private pension arrangements or to participate in the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS).

Contract of Employment The Contract of Employment will be that agreed between PCEF and the unions recognised at national level (the Polytechnics and Universities National Negotiating Committee Lecturers' Common Interest Group) on 5 December 1990, revised to comply with the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993 and the provisions of the National Framework Agreement for the modernisation of pay structures. The main features are:

- participation in staff appraisal schemes;
- exclusivity of contract;
- clauses relating to patents and inventions, copyright, confidential information, pensions, sickness and maternity benefits.

A full copy of the Contract of Employment and associated conditions will be available for inspection by candidates shortlisted for interview.

Removal Expenses The lowest of three tenders for removal expenses within the United Kingdom will be refunded. If the successful candidate terminates the engagement within six months of commencement the removal expenses must be repaid to the University.

Probationary Period The appointment is subject to satisfactory completion of a twelve month probationary period.

Criminal Convictions The post involves the opportunity for access to children and young persons under the age of 18. For this reason the University is entitled to take into account any criminal convictions, cautions or impending case(s) that it considers to be relevant to this post.

The post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This means that applicants are not entitled to withhold information about convictions which for other purposes are "spent" under the provisions of the Act.

Applicants must therefore complete the part of the application form declaring any criminal convictions and cautions from any court or police authority. The successful applicant will have to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check before an appointment can be made.

References

Candidates should ensure that they provide full details of the name and postal address of their referees. Please include e-mail addresses and telephone numbers wherever possible.

Referees should include your present, or most recent, employer. References will normally be taken up immediately in respect of candidates shortlisted for interview. **If you do not wish any reference to be taken up at this stage, please enter an 'X' in the relevant box provided on the application form.**

Application Procedure

All applications should be completed and submitted using the Harper Adams e-Recruitment programme at <https://jobs.harper-adams.ac.uk>

to arrive no later than Wednesday 9 November 2016