THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Innovation Placement Research Assistant (funded by STFC)

1 The University invites applications for the above post which is tenable for 6 months
2 Salary will be set at the level of mid-Grade 5 (£29,515 per annum) and will be pro rata
3 Informal inquiries may be made to Prof Keith Grainge; keith.grainge@manchester.ac.uk
4 Your CV and the completed application document should be sent via email to Linzi Stirrup; linzi.stirrup@manchester.ac.uk
5 The University of Manchester values a diverse workforce and welcomes applications from all sections of the community
Job title: Research Assistant

Salary: Grade 5

Start/duration: 6 months

Probation period: 1 month

Based at: The University of Manchester / Associated industrial partners

Responsible to: Prof Keith Grainge

BACKGROUND

STFC have awarded several Innovation Placements to the University of Manchester’s SKA project. Placements will be 6 months in length and will allow students (who are either about to complete their PhDs or who have recently completed) to gain invaluable experience in the commercial sector.

Overall Purpose of the Job

The role entails working at the offices of industry partners with links to the SKA project. Successful applicants will gain a range of skills, knowledge and industry contacts working in an exciting field with much potential for career development.

Placements may include tasks such developing software products; assessing the impact of environmental conditions on astronomical observation; testing algorithms; preparing telescope commissioning scripts or deep analysis of test data. A small amount of funding may be available for travel and/or consumables if needed. Please see individual descriptions for full details of each placement.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties

The range of duties will include:

- Undertaking research (for example preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcome of experiments and field work, the development of questionnaires and conducting surveys etc)
- Conducting literature and database searches
- Writing up the results of own research
- Contributing to the production of research reports and publications
- Contributing to the planning of research projects
- Presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research
- Preparing papers for steering groups and other bodies
- Liaising with research colleagues and support staff on routine matters
- Making internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and forming relationships for future collaboration
- Providing guidance as required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with the research
- Actively participating as a member of a research team
- Attending and contributing to relevant meetings
- Making use of standard research techniques and methods
Dealing with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines

Contributing to decisions affecting the work of the team

Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes

Planning own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme

Co-ordinating own work with that of others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort

Continuing to update own knowledge and develop skills

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**Essential:**

- PhD in Physics or Engineering
- Experience in research methods and techniques
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent time management and organisational skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Strong IT skills and good presentational abilities
- Ability to liaise confidently and effectively with a range of individuals
- Flexible approach to dealing with research problems as they arise
- Willingness to learn and develop
- Ability to present in both written and oral publications
- Ability to meet deadlines
- The ability to evaluate complex data

**Desirable:**

- Specialist knowledge in the discipline of radio astrophysics
- Experience in radio frequency techniques