

**Research Associate, Open Justice**

The Open Justice Centre located within the Faculty of Business & Law (FBL), is inviting applications for a Research Associate role to support the development of the Centre and its work on AI, Law and Legal Training. The Centre is leading on an [UKRI Responsible AI](https://rai.ac.uk/research/skills-project/) project that focuses on Responsible AI skills and brings together a multidisciplinary team from The Open University and Lincoln University in collaboration with Citizens Advice to co-produce research informed resources that will enhance knowledge, awareness, confidence of, and use of Generative AI (GenAI) for understanding legal processes and accessing legal information. The project will educate and empower the public, legal advice organisations, small and medium law firms, students, and academics by explaining GenAI, its application, implications, and ethical use in legal contexts. It will empower learners through the provision of free, open access and engaging online courses hosted on The Open University’s award-winning platform Open Learn to provide ethical and responsible knowledge of, and skills to use GenAI.

**The role**

The Open Justice Centre is led by Francine Ryan as the Director and supported by a small team of dedicated academics and support personnel, with the Faculty of Business and Law (FBL).

The post holder will help support the AI, Law and Legal Training project. In doing so, the post-holder will work with the Open Justice team, academic colleagues across The OU and beyond, and with partners in the legal community.

This will include supporting the AI, Law and Legal Training project in collaboration the team activities that support and strengthen a potential impact case study. The post holder will require strong interpersonal, stakeholder management and communication skills, in addition to research experience and skills. They will report to the Open Justice Director. The post holder can work remotely dependent on their location or situation, but some travel will be expected.

**Key Responsibilities**

**Identifying, managing, and delivering research**

* Carry out collaborative projects with colleagues in research groups and support capability building within Open Justice.
* Manage own research, administrative activity, and support wider project coordination and management.
* Carry out data collection and evidence building to gather relevant data, testimonials, case studies, and other supporting materials to demonstrate research impact.
* Carry out policy analysis and application to understand policy landscapes and assess how research findings will inform and shape policy decisions.
* Develop impact planning and strategy plan and ideas for generating further research income.

**Collaborative and partnership working**

* Manage stakeholder engagement to identify and work with key stakeholders to engage with Open Justice.
* Prepare and author research for publication and disseminate work using new and creative ways to communicate ideas to different audiences.
* Design and facilitate workshops, roundtables, and events with a range of stakeholders.
* Support the awareness raising of Open Justice work among policy makers, academics, policy organisations and research networks.

**Skills and Experience**

**Essential criteria:**

* EdD or PhD in related subject area.
* Experience conducting research, including evidence of design, implementation, and dissemination.
* Experience of data analysis, including comparative research literacy and systematic reviews.
* A proven ability of engaging with public policy and work collaboratively with practitioners and policy makers.
* Ability to develop and maintain excellent relationships with external stakeholders including law firms, advice organisations, civil servants, researchers, opinion formers and others.
* Ability to communicate effectively and persuasively – in writing and in person – with a diverse range of expert and non-expert stakeholders including policymakers.
* Computer literacy and ICT competence.
* Ability to quickly build contextual competence in unfamiliar topics or policy areas.
* Evidence of an ability to work at pace, producing work to an agreed quality within tight deadlines
* Capable of taking responsibility for own elements of work within a team framework.
* Capable of building internal contacts and participating in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
* A strong record of research and/or knowledge exchange that is commensurate to the position.
* A commitment to, and understanding of, equal opportunities policies and practices.

**Desirable:**

* Experience of working in multi-disciplinary environment.
* Experience of managing and collaborating on joint projects with academic peers and/or colleagues.

The Open University is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion which is reflected in our mission to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. We aim to foster a diverse and inclusive environment so that all in our OU community can reach their potential.  We recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and culture, and that this difference brings great strength.  We strive to recruit, retain and develop the careers of a diverse pool of students and staff, and particularly encourage applications from all underrepresented groups. We also aspire to make The Open University a supportive workplace for all through our policies, services and staff networks.

