

We have 2 short term Research Assistant / Project Intern roles in summer 2023 in the Fixing the Future project at the University of Edinburgh. Please see details below.

Title and Overview of Role

Research Assistant / Project Intern.

Fixing the Future: Right to Repair Cards

Closing date

Applications must be made before 15th May 2023 and are assessed on an ongoing basis.

Location

Primarily based at University of Edinburgh reporting to overall project Principal Investigator Dr Lachlan Urquhart (Edinburgh) in conjunction with rest of UoE team, namely Dr Christopher Boniface, Prof Melissa Terras, Prof Ewa Luger and Dr Susan Lechelt. Research assistant / project intern will interact with the wider EPSRC Fixing the Future Project (EP/W024780/1) involving Lancaster, Napier, and Nottingham Universities.

Proposed dates

Role is for 12 weeks Full Time or 24 weeks Part Time and are available for successful candidates to start anytime.

Overview

As part of the Fixing the Future work stream on legal, ethical, and social aspects of the right to repair, we are building a deck of ideation cards to help translate between design and legal communities to improve repairability of Internet of Things devices. This builds on prior experience of the team in developing Ideation Cards, such as [here](#) and [here](#).

This exciting new tool will support awareness building and enable creation of strategies to improve the state of internet of things devices to address concerns around security, sustainability, privacy, and equitability. This tool will provide a novel medium to support raising awareness of the issues around repair in practice and provide users with a mechanism to reflect on and reason about how to improve IoT design.

This sits against the wider backdrop of research into ideation cards as a mechanism for acquiring knowledge, translating between disciplines and evaluating systems. We will develop an appealing aesthetic/theme for the cards alongside exploring the process to support developers to understand the rights of users and responsibilities of IoT creators in building for repair.

The aim of this post for the successful candidate is to iteratively develop and evaluate a card deck prototype. By the end of the internship, we need to have created and evaluated a high-fidelity prototype. The project will document the iterative design process, led by user engagement and testing of different iterations of the tool, and we will seek to learn lessons about the ideation card design process, in addition to creating a version of this novel tool. We would look for the intern to also document their work for publication and presentation to the wider team. There are also opportunities to get to know the wider cohort of interns working in the Fixing the Future project.

Who should apply?

An applicant with a background in creative arts, design or HCI would be ideal, particularly familiarity with user experience design, qualitative research, and design. Thus, applicants will ideally have an interest in ethics and governance. Equivalent professional experience will also be considered.

Applicants must outline their area of interest, experience, and skills. Information regarding Fixing the Future, [Dr Urquhart](#) and the wider team see [here](#).

Required skills.

- Experience with domains such as Human Computer Interaction, infographic or graphic design, illustration, design fiction, and/or creative arts.
- Ability to create prototype design artefacts and materials including the cards and process for using them.
- Willingness to engage with source material from other disciplines to translate into the design tool (e.g., from law, ethics).
- Ability to work independently as well as part of an interdisciplinary team.
- Writing skills to create card materials and to support writing of academic publication.

Desirable skills.

- Interest in cybersecurity, sustainability, privacy, and the internet of things.
- Familiarity with iterative design processes and evaluation.

Eligibility and Financial Aspects

These are paid full-time roles at UE05 grade, for up to 12 weeks.

Informal enquiries

Informal enquiries may be made to Lachlan.urquhart@ed.ac.uk

Applications

To apply, please send the following information to Lachlan Urquhart [Lachlan.urquhart@ed.ac.uk] and Law HR [Law.HR@ed.ac.uk] by 15th May 2023.

Please email your CV and a cover letter documenting why you are interested in this role, how your experience makes you relevant, when you could start, eligibility for work (nationality/visa). You can also include any other information e.g., sample writing.

Title and Overview of Role

Research Assistant / Project Intern

Visualising Governance Across the Life Cycle of Internet of Things.

Closing date

Applications must be made before 15th May 2023 and are assessed on an ongoing basis.

Location

Primarily based at University of Edinburgh reporting to overall project PI Dr Lachlan Urquhart (Edinburgh) in conjunction with rest of UoE team Dr Christopher Boniface, Prof Melissa Terras, Prof Ewa Luger and Dr Susan Lechelt. The Research Assistant / Project Intern will interact with the wider EPSRC Fixing the Future Project (EP/W024780/1) involving Lancaster, Napier and Nottingham Universities.

Proposed dates

Role is for 12 weeks Full Time or 24 weeks Part Time and are available for successful candidates to start anytime. Please indicate your availability on the application form, where requested.

Overview

As part of the Fixing the Future work stream on governance, ethical and social aspects of the right to repair, we are looking to explore how legal and ethical issues manifest at different points in the life cycle of IoT devices. Currently these vary significantly from the design process itself through to usage and end of life.

- Before the device comes to market, manufacturers will need to consider how to implement security requirements or data protection by design and default.
- When consumers first unbox the device, there may be legal provisions in shrink-wrap contracts, privacy policies or warranties, which brings contract law to the fore.
- When the device is a few months old, perhaps there will be need to renew consent to data collection.
- When the device breaks down, there may be need to obtain spare parts under EU EcoDesign rules.
- In disposing of broken parts, there could be relevance of reflecting on the legal regime around e-waste.
- And at end of life, there may be need to rely upon the data protection rights such as subject access, portability and erasure.

The goal of this internship is to use creative techniques to contextualise different scenarios of IoT design and use to consider where ethical risks and legal rights and responsibilities exist at various points in the life cycle.

We are keen to visually map the life cycle as infographics, storyboards, and storytelling narratives to explore the issues around IoT use, repair and end of life. The goal is for these creative representations to raise awareness around what rights and responsibilities surround IoT devices, the complexities of realising these, and to foster critical reflection on fitness for purpose of current governance frameworks.

This interdisciplinary internship will involve close collaboration with project researchers at UoE to provide input on challenges and issues that will help the intern researcher generate the visual and creative representations of IoT use.

Who should apply?

An applicant with a background in creative arts, design, or HCI would be ideal, particularly familiarity with user experience design, qualitative research, or design fictions. Applicants will also ideally have an interest in ethical and governance issues of technologies. Equivalent professional experience will also be considered.

Applicants must outline their area of interest, experience, and skills. Information regarding Fixing the Future, [Dr Urquhart](#) and the wider team see [here](#).

Required skills

- Experience with domains such as Human Computer Interaction, infographic or graphic design, illustration, design fiction, and/or creative arts.
- Ability to create prototype design artefacts and materials.
- Willingness to engage with source material from other disciplines to translate visually (e.g., from law, ethics).
- Ability to work independently as well as part of an interdisciplinary team.
- Writing skills to create card materials and to support writing of academic publication.

Desirable skills

- Interest in cybersecurity, sustainability, privacy, and the internet of things.
- Familiarity with iterative design processes and evaluation.

Eligibility and Financial Aspects

These are paid full-time roles at UE05 grade, for up to 12 weeks.

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