

Job description and person specification

Post:	Senior Technical Project Manager, DARE UK
Location:	Flexible. Primary base could be anywhere in the UK, but must be willing and able to travel to London and elsewhere (mainly UK) in connection with the role
Salary:	£70,000 - £80,000
Reporting to:	Deputy Director, DARE UK
Contract:	Full time, 5 Months FTC until March 2027

About Health Data Research UK

Health Data Research UK (HDR UK) is accelerating trustworthy use of health data to enable discoveries that improve people's lives. We are the national institute for health data science. Our vision is for large-scale data to benefit every interaction with patients, every clinical trial and every biomedical discovery, and to transform public health.

The UK is in a unique position to realise the potential of health data, thanks to the NHS and its cradle-to-grave records for a population of over 65 million people.

Safe and secure use of this data could improve treatments, deliver better health care and save lives. It could help tackle some of the biggest health challenges worldwide, including cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. However, access to this data for researchers is often a lengthy, fragmented process, meaning the potential for improving healthcare is far from being realised in full.

We work in partnership with the NHS, industry, charities and universities to realise the potential of the UK's health data in life-changing research. Patients and the public are actively involved in shaping HDR UK's work and ensuring it delivers public benefit.

The Institute played a major role in the COVID-19 pandemic, working with the NHS and collaborators internationally to link and coordinate the use of large-scale data. With these resources, scientists and doctors could understand more about this new disease, identify which drugs were effective and provide evidence to allow the NHS and policymakers to respond to the challenge.

Our successes include:

- A Trusted Research Environments (TRE) for England was created early in the pandemic with health data covering >54 million people, thanks to a collaboration between NHS Digital and HDR UK through its British Heart Foundation (BHF) Data Science Centre. TREs are highly secure computing environments that provide remote access to health data.
- During the roll out of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines against Covid-19, it was vital to understand how they performed in the population. A team supported by HDR UK through the BREATHE Health Data Research Hub were able to rapidly show the high protection offered by the vaccines after a single dose, thanks to assembling linked health data for 99% of the Scottish population.

- Nearly half a million people missed out on starting medication to lower their blood pressure during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to research enabled by the BHF Data Science Centre at HDR UK. The research included 1.32 billion records of medications dispensed to 15.8 million people in England, Scotland and Wales between 1 April 2018 and 31 July 2021.
- The Green Algorithms initiative promotes more environmentally sustainable computational science and is run by Loïc Lannelongue and Michael Inouye at HDR UK Cambridge. They have built tools for carbon footprint estimation, raised awareness about the environmental impacts of algorithms and driven change in the computational science community.
- A significant landmark early in 2024 saw the first research study of health records for 67 million people in all four UK nations. It looked at gaps in Covid-19 vaccine coverage and found that between a third and a half of the populations of the four UK nations had not had the recommended number of vaccinations and boosters by summer 2022. The approach could be extended to many other areas of medicine with great potential for new discoveries in the understanding and treatment of disease.

HDR UK is a virtual institute, with staff and partners in all four nations of the UK and an office in central London. We are an independent, registered charity with five years of core funding from nine of the UK's leading medical research funders, including UK Research and Innovation, the Department of Health and Social Care in England and equivalents in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland, and leading medical research charities.

At Health Data Research UK, we employ talented individuals who bring their own unique skills and experience to support the Institute's vision and benefit the whole team. Our values of transparency, optimism, respect, courage and humility guide how we work together within HDR UK, with our partners and other stakeholders.

HDR UK's strategy

Our five-year objectives are to:

1. Accelerate trustworthy data use by sorting the data

- Make it easier and quicker for researchers to find, access and use high-quality, large-scale data
- Fix the technical challenges needed for swift, safe and secure data use, by assembling innovative infrastructure solutions
- Increase health research efficiency and productivity by accelerating adoption of the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reuseable) data principles

2. Improve people's lives by unlocking the power of data

- Deliver cutting-edge research that harnesses large-scale data to change health policy and practice
- Exemplify trustworthy data use to deliver research that was previously impossible
- Test and improve the infrastructure so it serves all researchers

3. Shape the future of health data research

- Connect data, people and organisations to bring about cultural change and realise the UK's potential to be at the forefront of health data innovation

- Develop people and teams with diverse perspectives and skills needed to deliver health data research
- Embed good practice in patient and public engagement and involvement to build confidence in health data research for public benefit by increasing transparency and trustworthiness.

About ADR UK

Administrative Data Research UK (ADR UK) is a partnership of government and academic groups, led by a team within UKRI's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), working with UK government departments and devolved administrations to create linked research datasets from administrative sources, then making these available to researchers via the ADR UK Trusted Research Environment (TRE) network.

Good government policy – policy that solves social and economic problems and improves lives – needs good evidence. But good quality evidence is expensive and time-consuming to produce, and evidence from academic research can also have a different focus from what government needs most to make policy decisions and deliver effective services.

ADR UK's mission is to solve both these problems by transforming the way researchers access the UK's wealth of public sector data. By joining up the abundance of administrative data already being created by government and public bodies across the UK and making it available to approved researchers in a safe and secure way, we are enabling vital research that has the potential to lead to better informed policy decisions and more effective public services, in areas from improving education and healthcare to tackling crime.

ADR UK's work plays an important role in bridging the gap between government and academia, enabling government policy to be informed by the best evidence available, and putting us on the path to a future in which the true potential of administrative data to improve society is realised.

About UKRI

Launched in April 2018, UKRI is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

UKRI brings together the seven disciplinary research councils, Research England, which support research and knowledge exchange at higher education institutions in England, and the UK's innovation agency, Innovate UK, to create an independent organisation with a strong voice for research and innovation, and a vision to ensure the UK maintains its world-leading position in research and innovation. More information can be found at www.ukri.org.

About the DARE UK Programme

The [DARE UK](#) (Data and Analytics Research Environments UK) programme is co-led by HDR UK and ADR UK and funded by UKRI. The DARE UK central team are employed by HDR UK.

DARE UK was established with the vision for all research and innovation to benefit from seamless, secure use of diverse sensitive data at a pace, efficiency and scale that revolutionises research productivity and accelerates research to deliver public good. DARE UK's mission is to put the UK at the forefront of sensitive

data research and innovation by assembling the tools, technologies and standards needed to streamline secure data linkage and use.

DARE UK is doing this by delivering:

- A mature, robust set of TRE capabilities in the areas of federation, semi-automation of export processes, training and export of AI models, and common TRE-to-TRE interoperability standards.
- A cohort of TRE partners that have tested and adopted these capabilities.
- A cohort of real-world research exemplars that have demonstrated the utility of these capabilities.
- A set of priority TRE capability prototypes, ready to be matured and adopted in future phases.
- A cohort of community groups that underpin the adoption and ongoing development of all the above.

DARE UK's scope is pan-UKRI, and includes all data infrastructures that support access to large scale sensitive datasets, including social, biological, medical and environmental science. The programme is in its second 'Build, Test and Establish' phase, securing >£20 million over 2.5 years to enhance the UK's capacity to conduct safer, more efficient, and collaborative research using sensitive data.

The current phase is focusing on creating a connected national network of secure data infrastructures to benefit UKRI funded communities of practice. These secure digital environments will allow researchers and innovators to access and analyse sensitive datasets across various fields, such as health, education, and public services, in a way that protects privacy while generating valuable insights for public benefit. Plans for phase 3 of the programme (post March 2027) are underway.

Purpose and responsibilities of the post

Purpose of the role

The postholder will be responsible for technical project management within DARE UK's newly established security programme.

The postholder will need strong project management skills and a solid technical grounding in software security. Their responsibilities will include managing projects, understanding and articulating detailed security requirements, supporting procurement processes, tracking progress and managing project risk.

The role is predominantly focussed on the security of trusted research environments (TREs). Prior knowledge of TREs is helpful, but not essential. More important is an understanding of the implications for running highly secure on-prem services, cloud infrastructure and for securely deploying open-source software.

This is a unique and exciting short-term opportunity to drive projects that enhance the security of the UK's critical research infrastructure.

Main Responsibilities

- Provide project management for delivery of several concurrent security-focussed workstreams.
- Provide technical leadership in developing detailed requirements around software and system security.

- Work directly with senior leaders to report on progress and devise solutions to roadblocks and issues as they arise.
- Work with internal and external partners to coordinate project activities, get stakeholder input, identify and track interdependencies.
- Facilitate project management and technical meetings, ensuring relevant stakeholder contributions and feedback are incorporated.
- Track progress of project outputs, manage project risks, ensure that the project stays within budget and ensure that project outputs are of the required quality.
- Work with the procurement team to manage and drive procurement of project activities.
- Work with senior leaders to shape the next wave of security-focussed project work.

Other responsibilities

- Support development of reference communication materials such as standard presentations and comms decks.
- Be prepared and able to work flexibly to support colleagues as needed, adapting to a rapidly evolving environment and emerging priorities.
- The successful candidate will share our values, work collaboratively, be comfortable working in a changing environment and support professional, high-quality approaches to engagement and delivery.

Key contacts/relationships

The postholder will work as part of the DARE UK team and will be supported by senior colleagues while retaining responsibility for day-to-day delivery of agreed projects.

They will work closely with commercial vendors, university teams and other external partners. It therefore requires high levels of organisational skill and ability to work across organisational boundaries. The postholder will need to effectively plan and deliver their work and be able to respond to changing needs in a fast-paced organisation.

Problem solving

The Senior Technical Project Manager will be expected to use problem solving skills to respond to diverse demands both technical and project management related. As part of a wider team, the post holder will operate with significant independence. The post holder will require confidence and resilience in dealing with enquiries, problem solving, and decision making at a technical level and will be expected to make effective judgements on when to escalate issues to senior colleagues.

Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

- Essential skills and experience
- Experience of concurrently managing several project workstreams with a range of collaborating organisations across tight timelines.

- Good understanding of software security principles, particularly around security threat-modelling and managing security risks and mitigations.
- Broad technical knowledge and understanding of security challenges and mitigations around cloud computing, on-prem software stacks, zero-trust architectures, use of open-source software, vulnerability tracking & management.
- Experience of managing public sector procurement of software professional services.
- Supplier management experience in the delivery of software professional services.
- Experience of collaborating effectively with diverse stakeholders, including facilitating effective remote meetings.
- Experience of autonomous and distributed team working.

Desirable

- PRINCE2 Practitioner or equivalent (or a suitable programme management qualification)
- Technical knowledge of Trusted Research Environments.
- Experience of multidisciplinary team working across the commercial and academic sectors.

Dimensions

- This is a full-time role, on a short-term contract. The latest possible start date is 26th October 2026. It is a 5-month contract lasting through to 31st March 2027, with possible extension depending on future funding.
- Travel in the UK may be required to partner organisations.
- HDR UK is a national institute, and our activities take place across the UK.

Application Process

How to apply: Unless specified, please apply using our online portal. We use a recruitment process that is based on finding out more about the relevant skills and knowledge an applicant has and to help us with this we ask you 3 or 4 skills-based questions as part of the application process.

We will ask you to upload your CV and covering letter, these will be anonymised and will be used if you are shortlisted.

Please contact recruitment@hdruk.ac.uk if you have any queries regarding your application.

Summary of Benefits

- 35 days annual leave inclusive for bank holidays.
- Annual leave purchase scheme
- Medical Cash-Plan and Doctorline
- Wellbeing support, including access to the TogetherAll app
- Generous pension scheme, with 10% employer contributions

Equal Opportunities Policy Statement

Health Data Research UK is an equal opportunities employer, and as such aims to treat all employees, consultants and applicants fairly. It is our policy to provide employment equality to all, irrespective of:

- Gender, including gender reassignment
- Marital or civil partnership status
- Having or not having dependants
- Religion or belief
- Race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins)
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Age

We are opposed to all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. All job applicants and employees who work for us will be treated fairly and will not be unfairly discriminated against on any of the above grounds. Decisions about recruitment and selection, promotion, training or any other benefit will be made objectively and without unlawful discrimination.

Safeguarding

HDR UK is committed to robust safeguarding policies, we expect everyone who works with us to share our commitment to safeguarding.