University of East London

Pioneering Futures since 1898



# Your *job title:*

# Research Associate

University of East London

Pioneering Futures since 1898

# We're delighted that you're considering joining us on our journey to deliver *Vision 2028*.

**Think all employers are the same? Think Again.**

At the University of East London, we're not just another employer. We're a careers-first, values-driven institution with a bold mission to tackle inequality and prepare for the future. Together, we're building a truly inclusive and future-ready university, one that empowers our students and communities to make a lasting impact.

With a proud 125-year heritage, we've always looked forward, not back. Through Vision 2028, our 10-year strategic plan, we're investing in cutting-edge learning spaces, digital innovation, and exceptional people like you.



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# We are UEL

## Our *institution*

The University of East London is a careers-first university. We prepare our students for the jobs of the future and have been doing this proudly for 125 years.

**40,000** students represent over 160 different nationalities from across the globe.

**1,800+** colleagues who help us realise Vision 2028, our strategic plan.

**5 schools** changing the face of education to match the ongoing fundamental shift in working cultures.

## Our *difference*

**1st** in London for Student Experience (National Student Survey 2024).

**3rd** in London for Teaching Satisfaction (Guardian University Guide 2025).

**1st** in the UK for addressing inequalities and 2nd in the world (the Times Higher Education Global Impact Ranking, 2020).

**92%** of our research is recognised as world-leading, internationally excellent, or internationally recognised (REF 2021).

## Our *transformation*

We're in the midst of an ambitious transformation under our Vision 2028 strategy, evolving from a traditional university into a careers-first, innovation-driven institution. As England's fastest-rising university for career success, we've embedded employability and enterprise at the heart of learning and now rank second in the UK for student entrepreneurship. Our research and enterprise activity now contributes more than £1 billion annually to the UK economy, with graduate-led business survival rates soaring by over 1000% in recent years.

We're redefining how students and staff experience university life by actively evolving, combining social inclusion, innovation, and real-world impact. The role you're applying for will play a key part in shaping the next chapter of that journey.

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# We are UEL

## Working at the University of East London

At the University of East London, we foster a professional, positive, and inclusive work environment built on shared values of Passion, Inclusion, and Courage. Our culture is collaborative and innovative, empowering staff to think differently, make an impact, and contribute to our ambitious Vision 2028 strategy. We are proud to be one of the most diverse universities in the UK, with a strong commitment to staff wellbeing, flexible working, and creating spaces that encourage creativity and growth.

We offer a comprehensive and competitive benefits package through our unique Total Reward Deal, which goes beyond salary to include progressive policies on annual leave, health and wellbeing, career development, and flexible working. Our goal is to ensure every colleague feels valued, supported, and equipped to succeed.

By joining UEL, you'll be part of a dynamic community that shares success, invests in people, and strives to make a real difference in the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

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## Our *Values*

### Passion

We bring energy, pride, and purpose to everything we do. We care deeply about our work, the people we serve, and the impact we make – and we always strive to be better.

### Inclusion

We create an environment where everyone belongs, feels respected, and can contribute fully. Our differences make us better, and fairness guides how we treat one another.

### Courage

We act with integrity and confidence, even when it's difficult. We challenge ourselves to improve, embrace change, and do what's right to build a better future.

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# Job Description

## Research Associate

| | |
|---|---|
| **School/Service:** | School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering |
| **Grade:** | F |
| **Location:** | Docklands Campus |
| **Reporting to:** | Senior Lecturer, Department of Engineering & Construction |
| **Line management for:** | N/A |
| **Key internal relationships** | UEL Staff, UEL Research Support, |
| **Key external relationships** | External Research Partners |
| **Contract type and hours** | 18 month FTC, Full Time |

### BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING

The School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering is an award-winning, multidisciplinary hub that offers a transformational education built on outstanding applied research and supportive stakeholder relationships that shapes the lives of our communities locally and globally. The School has a proud history of offering industry driven and career-focused vocational courses, from architecture, art and design, computing and digital technologies, construction and surveying, to a range of engineering disciplines.

### BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT

This is a 36 month UKRI Research project between UEL and ICL to develop distributed solutions to reliably manage energy use across groups of buildings. We will consider the advantage of dynamically forming coalitions according to the environment's variability and individual real-time energy needs.

Buildings are responsible for about 40% of carbon emissions and consume about 40% of all produced energy in the UK. Transforming how buildings use and produce energy is a fundamental stepping-stone to achieving net-zero carbon emissions and sustainable economic growth. The abundance of data, flexible technologies and advanced control approaches open exciting opportunities to achieve cost-effective system decarbonisation and create places where people love to live for the increased comfort standards.

A radical transformation of the building sector is possible using real-time monitoring, learning capabilities, advanced control strategies, distributed optimisation and coordination. The challenges that arise from the inherent complexity, reliability, and performance issues require a multidisciplinary approach to develop novel optimisation-based adaptive control methods and distributed architectures

to achieve the desired trade-off between societal and individual objectives. The project will benefit of the collaboration with UK Power Networks and SSE Energy Solutions, who will bring real-life experience to the project as a low-carbon investor, developer and supplier on requirements to scale and de-risk investments to validate innovative concepts.

## JOB PURPOSE

The Department of Engineering and Construction within the School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering (ACE) at the University of East London is seeking an outstanding Research Associate to carry out research in energy systems and develop data-driven distributed solutions to operate aggregates of buildings robustly and support grid operation. The role will allow you to contribute to climate change mitigation, one of this century's grand challenges. The primary function of the role is to work on the UKRI-funded research project 'Behavioural data-driven coalitional control for buildings'. Prof Eric C Kerrigan at Imperial College London (ICL) is leading the project, which is co-led by Dr Paola Falugi (University of East London) and Professor Goran Strbac (Imperial College London).

We seek an associate with a strong background in distributed optimisation and data-driven approaches.

The post is based at UEL, and the project involves regular meetings at ICL, as well as travel to other stakeholder sites as appropriate.

## KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Carry out the project tasks and deliver the outcomes as outlined in the project plan.
- Disseminate the findings to the project team.
- Undertake necessary training.
- Write reports, and present these at meetings, as well as at national conferences and symposia with other members of the project team.
- Prepare research papers for publication in high impact journals, in line with the expected scholarly activities of the University Research staff, but in accordance with the commercial sensitivity of collaborating companies.
- Travel to various other locations within the UK, and possibly overseas, as required.
- To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

The duties and responsibilities outlined provide a general overview of the range of tasks that this role may be required to perform; however, it isn’t exhaustive. You may occasionally be asked to take on other duties in line with your grade as we continue to grow and evolve.

We’re proud of our diverse and inclusive community, and we ask all colleagues to uphold all UEL policies and regulations. Employees should actively demonstrate our values and contribute to UEL’s positive, forward-looking culture.

**PERSONAL SPECIFICATION**

The University's Core Values are **Passion, Inclusion, and Courage**, and they are at the root of everything we do, and everyone in our community is expected to demonstrate them.

At the University of East London, our values of Passion, Inclusion, and Courage guide our actions, from strategic decisions to day-to-day interactions with students and each other. Our values are rooted in our history, heritage, and character, and they help to ensure the University is a rewarding, welcoming, and inspiring place to work.

The table below outlines the essential and desirable criteria required to perform the role effectively. Candidates will be shortlisted based on how closely they meet these criteria.

| Category | Essential Criteria | Desirable Criteria |
|---|---|---|
| **Education & Qualifications** | • PhD in an area involving optimization and data-driven methodologies. | • **N/A** |
| **Experience & Knowledge** | • Experience in developing optimization algorithms and distributed optimization strategies.<br>• Background and experience in control engineering and predictive control strategies under uncertainty.<br>• Strong programming skills.<br>• Experience in data-driven methodologies. | • Knowledge of building modelling techniques<br>• Experience in energy systems modelling.<br>• Experience in applying machine learning approaches. |
| **Skills & Abilities** | • Ability to communicate with a wide range of academic and industrial personnel.<br>• Ability to publish excellent articles that both deliver high impact and deep analysis.<br>• Excellent problem-solving skills and the ability to work independently without supervision and as part of a team. | • Effective communication skills, including the ability to convey technical information to non-technical stakeholders.<br>• Experience of working using own initiative and in a multidisciplinary team within a varying environment. |
| **Other Competencies** | • Able to demonstrate an understanding of equality and diversity and its practical application. | • N/A |

## FURTHER INFORMATION

UEL is an inclusive equal opportunities employer and is proud of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity achievements.

We expect all our employees to adhere to all UEL policies and procedures, including our Safeguarding Policies, demonstrating a commitment to safeguarding matters and understanding of the needs of our diverse and multicultural organisation.

We're a disability confident employer and value all applications. Please let us know if you require any reasonable accommodations throughout the recruitment process.

## DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS)

Some roles at UEL may require a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Exceptions Order) 1975. Where this applies, candidates will be informed during the recruitment process.

Last Update: 25/11/2026

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# Join us on our *journey*

