Further Particulars

The Project: This project centres on the major AI challenge of dealing with Financial Text: identifying, extracting and analysing in (semi-)automated fashion relevant information from huge collections of the very large and various documents generated by different forms of corporate communication such as annual financial reports, press releases, conference calls, and so on. Difficulties which must be dealt with here include differences in regulatory context (UK vs. US); the need for stable extraction methods capable of handling variation in document structure; and so on. Two primary research goals are to establish means for (a) Extraction of quantitative information from narrative disclosures; and (b) Comparison of content/messaging between different information channels. This will involve computational analytic methods from corpus linguistics and natural language processing, including but not limited to text mining, text reuse analysis, sentiment analysis, data visualization for quantitative information from texts; and so on.

The role of the Innovation Fellow is to undertake, with mentoring and advice from senior colleagues within CASS, to develop and carry out this research project; to generate high-quality academic outputs including conference presentations and journal articles (both individually and in collaboration); and to carry out a programme of impact and knowledge exchange activities from the outset of the Fellowship, with partners in industry (primarily KPMG) and in the public policy / regulation sector. This will involve working closely with these partners throughout the three years of the Fellowship.

The project team: The researcher appointed to the RCUK Innovation Fellowship will be part of an interdisciplinary team that includes academics from the ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science, the Department of Accounting and Finance, the Department of Linguistics and English Language, and the School of Computing and Communications.

The University: Lancaster University has a world-class reputation as a centre for excellence in teaching, scholarship and research. Currently ranked as a top 10 UK University and in the top one per cent of universities in global rankings, Lancaster continues to sustain its reputation for teaching and research excellence both nationally and internationally.

The University is set near to the Lune Valley and the Forest of Bowland – areas of outstanding natural beauty – and on the edge of the Lake District. £50m has been invested into the estate since 2002, transforming the campus. Key developments include: new academic centres of excellence, student social facilities, improved teaching spaces and one of the largest student residences projects in the UK: www.lancaster.ac.uk

The City: The campus is located a short distance from the vibrant and historic city of Lancaster, which has excellent schools. Lancaster is a city of about 55,000 people, with a largely Georgian and Victorian core of sandstone buildings, overlooked by a medieval castle and priory church. It has independent shops, an alternative cinema and theatre, lively markets on Wednesday and Saturday, and easy access to the surrounding countryside on paths, bikeways, and canals. Lancaster is easily accessible by road (M6 Junction 33) and rail (west coast mainline). It is approximately an hour to Manchester International Airport, and about 2.5 hours by train to London.

Contact: For more information about CASS, see our website at http://cass.lancs.ac.uk. If you want to discuss the post, please e-mail Prof Steven Young, Fellowship project advisor, at s.young@lancaster.ac.uk.