



Candidate Information Pack

PRINCIPAL DATA SCIENTIST
EXECUTIVE LEVEL 2

Position details

Title	Principal Data Scientist
Classification	Executive Level 2
Location	Canberra, Adelaide
Salary Range	\$177,328 - \$209,246
Contact	Recruitment Phone: (02) 6261 1849
Closing Date and Time	Please refer to date on website

About ASIS

The Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) is Australia's overseas intelligence collection agency. We are Australia's experts at collecting highly sensitive information – secret intelligence – from sources overseas to keep Australia and our region safe and prosperous.

Our work spans continents and cultures. As a tech-powered and data-driven organisation, we use covert techniques and cutting-edge technology to put us in the right rooms, next to the right people, with the right access to the intelligence we need. We are tasked to collect intelligence – it might be political, military or economic information – deliberately withheld from the Australian Government that might present threats to or opportunities for Australia.

From graduates to career changers, we come from every corner of the country and all walks of life, with backgrounds from all around the world.

Regardless of our ethnicity, experiences and education, we're bound by a shared commitment to something bigger: building a better future for those who come after us. We seek to reflect the community we serve, and welcome applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, people with a disability, neurodiverse, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and those who identify as LGBTQIA+.

It's a mission owned by everyone, with opportunities for all.

The role

We are seeking highly skilled and experienced individuals to fill Principal Data Scientist roles within the ASIS Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Section. Data Scientists in ASIS work directly with client areas to make the best use of ASIS's unique data assets and achieve operational impact. They implement complex analytics and train and deploy machine learning models on premises and at the edge to enrich data and find the right information as quickly as possible. A genuinely agile approach combined with strong governance has made ASIS a leader in the adoption and development of artificial intelligence and data analytics. Principal Data Scientists will work with the Director of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence to provide technical leadership and ensure that ASIS maintains its position in this field.

ASIS leverages the wide world of open-weight and proprietary AI models together with open-source software. We supplement this with our own research & development to deliver the bespoke tools required for the ASIS mission. Among our core languages are Python, Scala, Rust and TypeScript. Our toolset includes PyTorch, Tensorflow, MLFlow, Transformers, uv, Podman, FastAPI, Apache Spark, Apache Hadoop, Apache Solr, and Git. We leverage structured and unstructured data, including geospatial and multilingual data sets of varying quality. Ideal candidates will be extraordinarily innovative, self-motivated and keen to use these toolsets to craft new systems that are simply not found in any other organisation.

Role responsibilities

An **EL2 Principal Data Scientist** is expected to have substantial experience and **industry leading technical expertise** in one or more data science or machine learning domains. They occupy positions of **technical leadership**, which may include management responsibilities, within the Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Section.

As member of the Data Science and Artificial Intelligence leadership team you will:

- Take a leading role in the development and implementation of the Data Science and AI strategy in alignment with ASIS's mission and priorities.
- Provide leadership within a growing Data Science and AI team; setting research and development priorities and leading their development, providing technical guidance, mentoring your colleagues and building solutions.
- Engage with customers to identify potential operational benefits from the application of data science, including identifying relevant data and analytic opportunities and then taking ownership of the implementation of work to realise operational impact.
- Collaborate with other technologists to build and maintain best practices for ML model training, storage, and deployment.
- Represent ASIS in external fora and collaboration related to data science and artificial intelligence.
- Act as a leader to foster a data driven culture across the organisation and support business areas to achieve operational outcomes.

Core skills

We encourage applicants with the following skills and attributes to apply:

- Extensive practical experience and research in one or more of the following fields; complex data analytics, computer vision, natural language processing, large language models (LLMs) and other transformer based deep learning architectures, statistical modelling, probabilistic record linkage, distributed computing, graph/network analysis, orchestration and deployment of AI & ML models on GPU infrastructure at scale.
- A Principal Data Scientist is expected to demonstrate industry leading subject matter expertise in at least one of the fields above.
- Proficiency in relevant programming languages such as Python, R, Scala, or Rust, especially Python.
- Strong leadership, mentoring, communication, and stakeholder management skills.

Education and qualification requirements

The following education, qualifications and/or experience will be highly regarded:

- Proven experience in a senior data science practitioner or technical director role, with a strong track record of building innovative data capabilities.
- Advanced degree or equivalent experience in data science, computer science, mathematics, statistics, physical sciences or a related field.

Experience in the following would be beneficial, but not essential:

- An understanding of the intelligence cycle and the role of data science in supporting intelligence operations.
- Previous experience in the National Intelligence Community.

Benefits of working at ASIS

ASIS employees enjoy access to generous workplace terms and conditions. Benefits include but are not limited to:

- Competitive salary plus 15.4% superannuation
- A variety of leave options including 22 days paid annual leave per year
- Paid leave between Christmas and New Year
- Domestic Relocation assistance for new staff to Canberra
- Health and wellbeing initiatives
- Salary packaging arrangements
- Learning and development opportunities including access to study assistance
- A variety of support services including but not limited to Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and a Staff and Family Support Office.

Whilst ASIS officers are not able to work from home due to the classified nature of our work, staff have access to a range of flexible working arrangements. These include part time hours, condensed hours and/or flexible start/finish times to support other responsibilities.

ASIS conditions of service are similar to those applying for the Australian Public Service, for a full list of benefits and conditions see asis.gov.au

Eligibility

To be eligible for a role you must:

- Be an Australian citizen
- Be assessed as suitable to hold and maintain a TOP SECRET-Privileged Access security clearance
- For more information on eligibility please see the Protective Security Policy Framework which is publicly accessible at protectivesecurity.gov.au, section 12 provides information on Eligibility and suitability

How to apply

Click on “Apply Now” on our website on the role/s that you are applying for. You will be required to submit the following:

- Response to the following questions:
 - Does your application contain any AI-generated content? If yes, please detail the extent of AI assistance used in your application.
 - 500-word pitch outlining your skills and experience for the role
- A current CV, no more than 2 pages in length, outlining your employment history, academic qualifications and relevant training that you may have undertaken
- Details of two referees, which must include a current supervisor

Applicants are encouraged to consider the Integrated Leadership System (ILS) capabilities when preparing their application. For more information on the ILS, and tips for applying for jobs in Australian Public Service, please visit the APSC website found at www.apsc.gov.au.

All applications for employment with ASIS are handled in the strictest confidence. It is essential you maintain a similar level of confidentiality and that you do not discuss your application with anyone.

Important:

If you are currently living overseas and wish to apply for a role with ASIS, please note that we cannot contact you until you return to Australia. Every part of the recruitment process, including contacting you, must be done while you are in Australia.

If you have no plans to return to Australia in the foreseeable future, we recommend you wait until you return before submitting an application.

Use of AI in recruitment process

We recognise some applicants may use AI technologies to draft applications or prepare for interviews. If you wish to use AI, we recommend doing this only for initial drafts and ensure that your application is personalised and accurately reflects your skills, experiences and capabilities.

Additionally, be aware of the privacy policies of any AI tools you use. Be mindful of the information you are entering into AI tools (personal details, work history, etc) and how using it may link you to potential ASIS employment, noting that you are expected to maintain confidentiality with your application.

If you are invited to attend an interview, the use of AI tools and recording devices during the interview is strictly prohibited. Should AI tools or recording services be detected, your application, and any future applications may not be progressed.

Reasonable adjustments

ASIS is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment for candidates to participate in all stages of the selection process. Please let us know if you require any additional assistance or reasonable adjustments during any stage of the recruitment process and we will work with you to manage this throughout. If you are successful in gaining employment, reasonable adjustments can also be made available to you in performing your role.

Recruitment process – what happens next

We thank all applicants for their interest in a role with ASIS. Please be advised that our selection process is rigorous and extensive and that we do not provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants. **If you progress from application, you will receive an SMS requesting you to complete online testing – please ensure that you complete this testing or your application will not progress further.**

All selection process decisions are merit based and candidates must be prepared to undergo various selection stages throughout the process.

A merit pool will be established for candidates who are suitable for this round and will remain valid for 18 months.