Web Developer (KMi, Development Team)

Temporary contract - Full time  
Grade 7  
Walton Hall, Milton Keynes

The Role

This role is for a web developer on the KMi Development team. The team develop web sites and web applications for a range of research projects using a variety of technologies and programming languages, focusing on cutting edge and innovative design.

The role holder will be required to work on a variety of development projects. They will be required to create, test, deliver and maintain web sites, web applications and associated services under the guidance of the team manager. Occasionally they will be required to direct other team members assigned to assist them with specific deliverables. They will be asked to learn and use a variety of languages and technologies as required by the development work.

The role holder will be required to engage with collaborators outside the immediate team on research and innovation projects. These collaborators can be inside the department, across the University or external to the University. The role holder will need to listen actively, communicate clearly and maintain positive relationships with any collaborative partners they are required to liaise with.

Key Duties

The role holder will work as part of a team of developers that are creating innovative websites for research projects based at the Knowledge Media Institute, Open University. The main responsibilities of the role are:

- Develop, test and maintain websites;
- Plan, organise and deliver website or demonstrators;
- Provide technical support to any users of web services they have produced.
- Create reports and documentation to support web applications and demonstrators.
- Learn new web development skills to support the creation of web-based services and demonstrators.
- Engage with collaborators inside and outside the university.
- Participate actively in team meetings contributing their knowledge and expertise to assist in decision making when planning web application projects.
- Undertake any required research around new technical trends or components that may assist the team in delivering innovative websites or web applications.
Other responsibilities of the role are:

• To occasionally on-board new team members working in the same role or team as themselves.

• To periodically attend conferences and/or workshops to liaise with potential collaborators and promote research their team and the department does.

• To undertake any other duties which may reasonably be required.

• To work flexible hours in order to meet project deadlines.

• To take reasonable care of the Health and Safety of themselves and that of any other person who may be affected by your acts or omissions at work.

• To demonstrate a strong commitment to the principles and practice of equality and diversity
Person Specification

Skills and experience

Essential:

- A degree or equivalent experience in computing;
- Experience of planning, creating, testing and delivering web services;
- Proficiency with PHP, MySQL or another database software, HTML5, CSS3 and JavaScript and experience with frameworks;
- Knowledge and understanding of mainstream web Content Management Systems (CMS);
- Experience and willingness to learn new skills in short timeframes;
- Ability to quickly demonstrate understanding of a project aim’s and specific tasks;
- Ability to document code and write supporting user documentation;
- Ability to work to challenging targets and deadlines;
- Ability work independently to deliver a web service or as part of a team, both within the unit and externally;
- Good written and oral communication skills.

Desirable:

- Experience with Laravel;
- Experience with distributed version controls systems;
- Experience of working in an education or research unit;
- Experience of advanced web server configurations within a Linux environment;
- Experience of web application security hardening;
- Experience of presenting your work, mentoring or training others.
About the Unit

Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

The Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is comprised:

- School of Computing & Communications
- School of Environment, Earth & Ecosystem Sciences
- School of Engineering & Innovation
- School of Life, Health & Chemical Sciences
- School of Mathematics & Statistics
- School of Physical Sciences
- Knowledge Media Institute
- Deanery including teams supporting Curriculum, Research and Enterprise, Laboratory Infrastructure and Faculty Administration

“We aspire to be world leaders in inclusive, innovative and high impact STEM teaching and research, equipping learners, employers and society with the capabilities to meet tomorrow’s challenges”

The Faculty of STEM consists of 2500 staff including 1,800 Associate Lecturers. The Faculty delivers over 185 modules across undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, supporting nearly 19,000 students (full time equivalents) which is 29% of the OU total.

The Faculty generates more research income (circa £17M) than any other Faculty in the University, supported by a comprehensive laboratory infrastructure.

We are proud of our distinctive values and capabilities underpinning our aspiration:

We are inclusive:
- We transform people’s lives, ensuring STEM education is openly accessible to many thousands of students from diverse backgrounds – our students express high satisfaction with their study experience.
- We engage the public in exciting citizen science and engineering, including through free open educational resources, multi-platform broadcasting, outreach to inspire the next generation and with programmes to encourage more women into STEM.

We are highly innovative:
- We are at the forefront of innovative developments in teaching practical science and engineering at a distance, through simulated and remote access laboratories and practical experimentation.
- Our high quality teaching and curriculum are informed by world-leading research, strong links with professional bodies and communities of practitioners, as well as by scholarship focused on continuously improving our STEM pedagogy.

We deliver significant social and economic impact:
- We provide STEM higher education at a scale and reach unsurpassed in the UK, with a sizeable international reach and further growth potential.
- We inject transferable STEM skills and knowledge direct into the workplace for immediate employee and employer benefit, as students combine study while working.
• The employability value of our courses is underpinned by accreditation from leading STEM Professional Bodies and Learned Societies, as well as partnerships and sponsorship with leading employers.

• Our high quality, applied and academically relevant teaching and research addresses real-world issues, delivering impact for industry and society, including addressing pressing STEM skill-shortages across the UK.