Job Description – Statutory Returns Developer

About the role

The Developer will work with colleagues in Data and Student Analytics to redevelop the systems used to manage the preparation of the University’s statutory returns to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to meet HESA’s new requirements (Data Futures) or to integrate existing returns with new operational systems introduced by the Core Systems replacement project.

HESA Data Futures is a new project to deliver systems to support the move from annual retrospective returns of student data to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to in-year data submissions.

Core Systems Replacement is the OU strategic project to replace the operational student lifecycle, HR and Finance systems.

The Developer will be involved in the design, build, test and implementation phases of the project in accordance with technical and quality standards.

HESA Data Futures and Core Systems Replacement will involve using new technologies required for the new Cloud-based Enterprise Data Hub and SAP system. The role will also involve supporting and enhancing the existing systems built using SAS.

The Returns system team support and develop the systems required to create the student and staff statutory returns to HESA and other UK funding bodies.

It is an exciting time to join Data and Student Analytics. Our vision is to support, align to, and proactively drive the recruitment and student success strategy through continuous innovation in analytics. Statutory returns form a significant and essential part of this strategy.

Key responsibilities

• Contribute to concepts, specifications and designs for the HESA Data Futures project or Core Systems Replacement
• Design, build and test software components in accordance with the HESA Data Futures, or Core Systems Replacement, specifications, designs and standards using a variety of programming languages and tools.
• Provide technical expertise within a small development team.
• Perform unit, integration, system and operational testing.
• Champion common approaches and re-usable code.
• Apply appropriate project management and systems development methodologies.
• Engage with HESA and with other HE providers in the Data Futures pilots to share approaches
• Engage with the Core Systems Replacement project and product owners
• Provide support for existing systems used to create Statutory returns and ensure they are kept in step with changes to external data requirements
• Undertake other duties, as required, within the Data & Student Analytics team.
Skills and experience

Education, qualifications and training

**Essential:**
1. Undergraduate degree (or equivalent) with strong engineering, mathematics or computing elements.

**Desirable:**
1. Programming training or certificate in high level language.

Knowledge, work and other relevant experience

**Essential:**
1. Recent, demonstrable experience of developing in SQL, SAS or other high-level languages.
2. Experience of relational database connectivity (Oracle, SQL Server, etc.) and transaction processing.
3. Experience of object-oriented programming concepts and techniques.
4. Familiarity with rapid prototyping and more structured systems development techniques.
5. Proficient with Microsoft Office tools.

**Desirable:**
1. Knowledge of cloud-based technologies such as Azure Data Factory, U-SQL and EDW SQL.
2. Unix/Linux experience.
3. Knowledge of HE systems and data.

Personal abilities and qualities

**Essential:**
1. A self-starter, being able to rapidly transfer development skills across platforms and programming languages.
2. Aptitude for careful analysis and systems development, striving for highest level of product quality.
3. Work to high personal standards of accuracy, own issues and see them through to resolution.
4. Able to work under pressure to manage competing demands for time and to meet demanding deadlines.
5. Able to communicate appropriately with peers, business colleagues, internal and external stakeholders, and managers.
6. Committed to ongoing learning and personal development.