Software Developer (KMi, RIST)

Permanent contract - Full time
Grade 6
Walton Hall, Milton Keynes

The Role

The Research and Innovation Software team develop software for a range of research projects and University courses. With this role we are looking for someone who can be a software developer in the team. The exact software skillset required can vary depending on the nature of the research. Therefore, the role holder will be required to be self-motivated in learning new skills as and when required, with support given from senior developers and the team manager.

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 requested to liaise with.

Key Duties

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

- Contributing to the creation of software research tools and demonstrators;
- Creating documentation to support software research tools and demonstrators;
- Developing new software skills to support the creation of research tools and demonstrators.
- Engaging with collaborators inside and outside the university.
- Participating actively in team meetings

Other responsibilities of the role are:

- 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 software development.
- Experience of learning new skills in short timeframes.
- Willingness to learn new capabilities and skills;
- 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;
- Ability work well as part of a team, both within the unit and externally;
- Good written and oral communication skills.

**Desirable:**
- Experience with web development;
- Experience with Node.js and or PHP;
- Experience with MySQL or other databases;
- Experience with the Linux environment.
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.