Junior Data Scientist

Basic information

Band: F
Job family: Analysis
Terms: Permanent
Location: Cheltenham

Reports to: Data Scientist
Team: TBC
Business unit: Analysis and Insights

Role purpose:

UCAS is the UK's centralised higher education admissions service. Our data gives us a unique view of the UK's higher education sector, and we are always looking for talented data scientists to help uncover valuable insights from our data.

We track choices and decisions across millions of higher education applications – half of all young people pass through our systems. This generates big, deep, and rich operational data. Buried in this data are the key insights and understanding about going to university, which support our mission of connecting people to higher education.

We have a talented and diverse team of more than 40 data scientists working in a wide range of areas, such as:
- matching applicants to courses using machine learning algorithms
- modelling untapped pools of potential applicants for optimising student recruitment
- forecasting, text mining, and survey sample design and analysis

We are passionate about using data science for public good and to generate revenue to improve our admission services. We work with a variety of data sources and technologies within a collaborative and stimulating environment that values work-life balance and the professional development of our staff.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- To combine ideas with the ability to deliver analysis and insights through structured code.
- To help others understand our analysis outputs, and how they can be used to inform decisions.
- To engage with other members of the business unit, sharing insights and new analysis across the team.

Person specification:

- Bachelor's degree (or higher) in a numerate discipline, such as mathematics, physics, statistics, computer science, data science, or a related field.
- A high level of numerate, analytical, and logical thinking.
- Potential to learn and apply analytical programming at the highest level.
- Some experience of a programming language (e.g. R or Python) desired, but not essential.
- A collaborative nature ,and the ability to communicate effectively with both technical and non-technical audiences.
- A natural curiosity, and drive to find things out that really matter from data.

This role profile sets out the scope and main duties of the post at the date when it was drawn up. Such details may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or the level of responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot of themselves justify a reconsideration of the level of the post. All UCAS employees are expected to be flexible in undertaking the duties and responsibilities attached to their role and may be asked to perform other duties, which reasonably correspond to the general character of their role and their level of responsibility.

Our values in action

Customer-focused – We understand what our customers want, and we act on their changing needs.

Collaborative – We collectively create an engaging and positive work environment.

Accountable – We take ownership of our individual and organisational performance.

Service excellence – We realise, grow, and maximise our potential.

Trusted – Individuals are trusted to make informed decisions and take appropriate risks.