

# Data Solution Architect

## Basic information

**Terms:** Full-time, permanent

**Location:** Cheltenham

**Reports to:** Enterprise Data & Application Architect

**Team:** Enterprise Architecture

**Business unit:** Technology



## Role purpose:

We are undertaking a major transformation programme that will provide the capabilities and services to support UCAS' Corporate Strategy into 2020 and onwards.

Data is at the heart of UCAS. It allows us to operate our admissions processes, but also powers a number of other activities related to providing marketing services for education providers, support for schools and learners, and data products and services for the sector, and commercial clients.

Just as importantly, our transformation programme puts customers at the heart of what we do, by using a flexible ecosystem of capabilities, including the **data and algorithm** platform that supports many types of data insight, data science, and machine learning.

The Data Solution Architect will support this work, being a leader in all aspects of data, with a focus on the data and algorithm platform.

## Key duties and responsibilities:

- Understand and model the flows of data through UCAS.
- Contribute to the development and evolution of the overall approach to data in UCAS.
- Lead the thinking on how data solutions are architected, and communicate that to stakeholders including product owners, technical specialists, and developers.

- Create solution architecture collateral, and present at the Architecture Review Board for approval.
- Lead data solution architecture work in the data platform scrum team – be the expert on how UCAS can use its data technologies to deliver insight.
- Ensure what is developed aligns with solution architecture, providing early visibility on any issues.

#### **Accountabilities:**

- Ownership, communication, and advocacy of data solution architectures that align with the overall vision for data, and deliver the outcomes required by the transformation programme.
- Produce work to defined timescales and quality.
- Alignment of solutions with IT strategy and principles.

#### **Person specification:**

- Deep subject matter expertise in all aspects of data architecture, in a mixed technical environment.
- Authoritative, credible, and collaborative when dealing with any type of stakeholder.
- Resilient and confident.
- Inquisitive and proactive.
- Experience of working in an agile development environment.
- Experienced in defining and sharing best practice regarding data and analytics.
- Able to support other colleagues in increasing skills in data, and use of data technologies.
- Able to take ownership of initiatives that identify solution architectures to meet business needs.
- Experienced in working with other solution architects and enterprise architects.
- Practical experience of the implementation of data stewardship, including master data management, metadata, and data quality.
- Hands on experience of Microsoft MDS or similar.
- Practical experience of working with ETL tools and analytical environments, such as Matillion ETL, AWS S3, and Redshift.
- Exposure to/familiarity with BI tools such as Tableau, Oracle BI, and SAS.
- Exposure to/familiarity with SOA and integration solutions, such as Mulesoft ESB.
- Experience of working with web analytics data and system APIs generally.

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** – We always look through the customer lens. The logic of the customer is the logic of UCAS.

**Commitment** – When we commit, we deliver on time, quality, and budget, or we negotiate changed commitments for good reason. We never leave commitments uncovered.

**Team** – We work collaboratively. When we commit, we commit as an individual and as a team. We strive for and support team success as well as individual success.

**Outcomes** – We plan and do things to achieve outcomes. We define them, aspire to them, and deliver them.

**Agility** – We know we need to be agile when we look through the customer lens, when we make commitments, when we work in teams, and strive for the right outcomes.

**Extraordinary** – We are ambitious for our customers, for UCAS, and for our teams. We want more than ordinary outcomes – we strive to achieve extraordinary outcomes, extraordinary customer focus, and an extraordinary culture of high performance and quality of focus.