

Technical Lead Data Scientist

Basic information

Band: D

Job family: Analysis and Insights

Terms: Permanent

Location: Cheltenham

Reports to: Lead Data Scientist

Team: Infrastructure

Business unit: Analysis and Insights



Role purpose:

UCAS is the UK's centralised higher education admissions service – we track choices and decisions across millions of applications for higher education, and half of all young people pass through our systems. This generates big, deep, and rich operational data. Buried in this data are key insights about going to university.

The Analysis and Insights Team shares higher education insights and trends with key internal and external stakeholders, maintaining a suite of commercially available data products, and delivering additional value to UCAS and UCAS Media through new, data-driven product development. Within Analysis and Insights, the Infrastructure Team is responsible for creating high quality datasets from UCAS' operational data, and maintains the analysis platform which underpins the unit's work.

To succeed in this role, you'll need to have a detailed knowledge of the SAS platform and instrumental data the Analysis and Insights uses in its delivery, and contribute as a senior professional to the standing and development of the Analysis and Insights Team.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Assist with managing the data and SAS platform used by the unit and use technical expertise to implement changes and efficiencies.
- Evaluate new technologies and data sources, making these accessible to the business unit.
- Participate in discussions across the business on existing systems, and the planning of new systems and structures.
- Use knowledge of the Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation to implement best practice in the unit.
- Act as a role model to the business unit and organisation, upholding the Analysis and Insights' culture and standards, and demonstrating the UCAS values.

Accountabilities:

- Provide relevant training and mentoring to colleagues in Analysis and Insights.
- Be accountable for the running of Analysis and Insights data estate, as part of a small team of data scientists.
- Represent the Analysis and Insights business unit at internal and external meetings where required.

Person specification:

- Advanced knowledge of SAS software and programming expertise across analysis methods, data creation, data linking, and analytical reporting.
- Strong professional judgement in choosing methods that give rapid, high quality, actionable results.
- Ability to embrace change, with a proactive attitude.
- Knowledge of Bitbucket, Git, PowerShell and data warehousing. Advanced knowledge of other data science platforms would be an advantage.

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

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

Customer-focused – We understand who our customers are and how best to engage with them.

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

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

Service excellence – We spot opportunities, take the initiative and have an entrepreneurial approach to making things better.