

Test Engineer

Basic information

Scale: 2.1

Job family: Digital, Data, and Technology Services

Terms: Permanent

Location: Cheltenham

Reports to: Technical Team Lead

Direct Reports: N/A

Team: Product Engineering

Business unit: Technology

Date reviewed: January 2020



Job purpose:

A UCAS Test Engineer is an important role, embedded within one or more of the product development teams delivering value quickly and often to our customers. They are accountable for the analysis, creation and execution of manual and automated functional and non-functional tests within an Agile testing methodology. The Test Engineer is responsible for maintaining a technical understanding of relevant UCAS products, delivering technical testing expertise throughout iterative development lifecycles and at times provide a level of flex capacity to other product development teams as required. There is an emphasis placed upon test automation orchestrated by the CI/CD pipeline, namely to drive a consistent and efficient approach to the technical assurance of UCAS' products and services, but also supplemented with manual and exploratory testing. The tech stack varies across each of the product development teams, with key technologies including .Net, AWS, Java, Angular, Salesforce, and React Native.

Key accountabilities:

- An active member of one or more product development teams, responsible for quality throughout the Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC), not afraid to challenge requirements to ensure the team have not only built it right, but that they have also built the right thing.
- Working closely with the team's Product Owner and Software Engineers to identify appropriate entry and exit criteria at each stage of the SDLC.
- Analyse feature acceptance criteria and create high level test approaches which align to the overarching QA Strategy and will ensure the Definition of Done is met.
- A key contributor at Agile ceremonies (e.g. 3 Amigos, Sprint Planning) asking the right questions to drive out the detail required to ensure the team are delivering value and quality to our customers.

- Design test cases, prepare automated test scripts, analyse test results and report defects - all aligned to UCAS' Acceptance Test Driven Development test methodology.
- Seek out and highlight issues and risks identified during the SDLC, escalating where appropriate and in a timely manner to the Scrum Master or Product Engineering technical leadership.
- Prioritise own workload within the boundaries set by the Scrum Master.
- Track and analyse quality metrics as defined in the overarching QA Strategy.
- Review technical collateral related to the development of product(s) aligned to your team, with a specific focus on quality to ensure right outcomes are delivered.
- Continually assess current test processes; Identify and own improvement initiatives, collaborating with other Test Engineers, product teams and key stakeholders.
- As a testing SME, provide support and guidance on software testing best practice across your product team.
- Ensure team output is compliant with the QA Strategy and other quality standards.
- Collaborate with UCAS' 3rd party technology partners when delivering technical solutions.
- Plan and scope non-functional testing phases and where required agree and schedule testing with internal and/or external QA SMEs (e.g. Performance Test Engineer, 3rd party Pen Test consultancies).

Skills, qualifications, and experience:

- 2+ years industry experience, with at least 1 years' experience in an Agile development environment.
- Experience of testing at component, integration, system and acceptance test levels.
- Experience of preparing automated test scripts for Java or C# .Net systems.
- Experience of UI testing – including cross browser, accessibility and usability testing.
- Knowledge of performance and security testing approaches.
- Clear and concise communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Able to discuss technical issues with the software development team and business.
- Knowledge of Cloud Computing (e.g AWS).
- Knowledge of API testing techniques.
- Knowledge of mobile app testing techniques.

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.