Lead Data Scientist – Analytical Product Development

Job purpose:

The Lead Data Scientist will be part of a team responsible for providing data science capabilities to support UCAS' data product development. Working across both data and digital products, you will be part of a multidisciplinary team providing data science skills, knowledge and experience to build first-class products for our customers and leverage UCAS' valuable data asset.

Led by the Data Product Specialist and the Principal Data Scientists you will support the delivery of UCAS data products to time, cost and quality. You will champion excellence and professionalism in data science and have the customer focus and drive to use data in ways which support wider audience understanding and use of UCAS' data.

Key accountabilities:

- Contribute to the development of UCAS' data products and data science capability by leading on the creation of solutions to data science problems, ensuring appropriate use of methodology and approach, and collaborating with other data scientists through peer review. Embrace scrum methodology and work effectively in a self-organising team of data scientists.
- Identify and implement areas of improvement with regards to automation and efficiency in the generation and delivery of analytical products.
- Lead in the adoption of new processes or technologies, when appropriate, to improve product development.

- Develop and maintain a close relationship between Digital and Data teams, Sales & Marketing, and other internal stakeholders, to ensure high quality products are being developed that meet customer requirements.
- Engage with Data Scientists across UCAS, sharing knowledge and best practice.
- Take part in developing relevant training and mentoring to colleagues across the organisation, to maximise value created from data.

Skills, qualifications, and experience:

- Experience with the development, testing, and deployment of machine-learning models.
- Experience with unsupervised clustering algorithms is desirable.
- Bachelor's degree (or higher) in a numerate discipline, such as mathematics, statistics, computer science, operational research, data science, or a related field.
- Significant experience of programming in Python and/or R, and the ability to write readable, efficient code using version control software.
- The ability to explain data science techniques to a non-technical audience.
- Strong professional judgement in choosing methods that give rapid, high quality, actionable results.
- A collaborative nature, and the ability to communicate effectively with both technical and non-technical audiences.
- A natural curiosity and drive to find out the things that really matter from data.
- Commercially aware and user-focused.
- A high level of numerate, analytical, and logical thinking.
- Experience of data visualisation tools is desirable.
- A passion to help people understand and progress to higher education.
- Experience of software design and development methods, such as object-oriented design and test-driven development, is desirable.

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.