Junior Drupal/PHP Developer

Basic information

Band: E
Job family: Technical
Terms: Fixed term (18 months)
Location: Cheltenham

Reports to: Digital Media Manager
Team: Digital Media
Business unit: External Relations

Role purpose:

- As part of a self-managing agile team in the Marketing Team, you'll use PHP, Drupal, and other technologies to drive developments which enhance the user experience for over one million students looking to go into further and higher education every year.
- Support a proactive approach to the production and development of features and functionality on the ucas.com estate, as well as identifying and resolving issues, working closely with customers and stakeholders.
- Be passionate about the production of high quality, reusable, and extensible code, and hold yourself and others to high development standards and practices.
- Take an active interest of all technologies in use at UCAS, and how they can be used to improve the customer experience and effectiveness of the team.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Work with product owners in UCAS to support the creation of stories and technical sub-tasks in relation to developments using Drupal 7/8, PHP, and other technologies in use at UCAS.

- Maintain and enhance the UCAS websites through testing processes, PHP, new modules, unit testing functionality, and deploying updates.
- Ensure UCAS' standards for web design, UI, HTML5, and JavaScript are met, and meet other relevant international standards and protocols where appropriate and agreed.
- Evaluate, make recommendations, and deploy new software/hardware as necessary, to support the usability and functionality of the websites.
- Assist with management of the internal and external server infrastructure that supports prime activities of web development and software application development.
- Administer and carry out configuration management for new support tools/software as necessary.
- Produce documentation appropriate to each project to track the online customer experience, and ensure team members and key stakeholders are kept informed.
- Apply knowledge of industry trends and developments to improve service to our customers.

Accountabilities:

- Decision-making on technical solutions within the constraints of internal processes.
- Adherence to agreed processes and standards for development and deployment of code.
- Production of documentation supporting development where required.

Person specification:

- Graduate-level qualification in an IT programming discipline, or two years' PHP experience in a commercial environment.
- Ability to extract and translate user/stakeholder requirements into suitable documentation, and to communicate with colleagues clearly and without unnecessary jargon.
- Understanding of functional requirements, frameworks, and concepts, with good analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Comfortable working in a dynamic, large scale, agile change initiative, with multiple technologies.
- A fan of, a genuine interest in, and a willingness to learn and develop skills in new technology outside of your direct role.
- Drupal experience is not required for this role, provided the candidate possesses strong PHP skills. Training will be provided.

Knowledge of the following would be an advantage, but support will be given to develop working with the following technologies:

- PHP 5 and PHP 7
- Object-orientated MVC development patterns
- JavaScript
- HTML 5
- Drupal 7, Drupal 8, drush, Drupal coding standards

- Composer package management
- git, git flow, git merge, git subtree
- JIRA, Bitbucket, Confluence, Bamboo
- Acquia Dev Desktop
- Apache configuration and administration
- Apache SOLR
- MySQL
- PhpUnit, Behat
- PHP_CodeSniffer, ESLint, stylelint
- Jetbrains PhpStorm
- xdebug step debugging

Other useful areas of knowledge as a 'nice to have':

- Google Analytics, Google Tag Manager
- SCSS, Compass, Ruby gems
- API documentation using RAML

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.