

Solutions Data Architect

Basic information

Band: B

Job family: Technical

Terms: Permanent

Location: Cheltenham

Reports to: Enterprise Data and Applications Architect

Team: Enterprise Architecture

Business unit: Technology



Role purpose:

The Solutions Data Architect reports to the Enterprise Data Architect with key responsibilities for translating business requirements into data architectures and solutions that align with strategy, standards, and industry best practice.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Owning and maintaining the conceptual and logical data models for the organisation.
- Translating business requirements into data architectures that align with models, strategy, standards and industry best practice.
- Working as an SME for data, working alongside developers and integrators in an agile development environment.
- Contributing to the definition of strategy, standards, policies, and approaches that deliver world-class data outcomes.
- Governing the implementation of data architecture within processes and IT solutions.
- Developing, owning, and managing conceptual, logical, and canonical data models.
- Promoting the use of these models within UCAS.
- Understanding and selling the benefits of data lifecycle management and treating data as an asset.

- Identifying and assessing the data aspects of solution options.
- Scoping and governing data feasibility assessment.
- Assessing effort, risk, costs, and complexity related to data architecture and design.
- Contributing to the data aspects of architecture blueprints.
- Providing implementation oversight and governance from a data perspective.
- Balancing functional, non-functional, and data management requirements.
- Establishing policy and strategy for the way that data is managed within systems and processes.
- Working proactively to maintain a stable, viable data architecture and ensure consistency of design across projects within the programme.
- Providing technical and architectural leadership around data.
- Defining and assessing the impact of non-functional requirements on data.

Key technologies and approaches

- Experience of developing and managing conceptual, logical, and canonical data models.
- Experience of using Data Lifecycle Management tools (data modelling, data quality, metadata)
- Working in both agile and waterfall methodologies.
- Working on the data aspects of large programmes and projects.
- Experience of managing the data aspects of implementing COTS solutions and using integration platforms/SOA.
- Data cleansing, migration, and ETL.
- BI and data visualisation tools.

Accountabilities:

Financial authorities

- No financial authority.

Non-financial authorities

- Authority to represent the company with third party suppliers.

Primary customers/stakeholders

Internal:

- All non-IT business units
- IT
- Enterprise Architecture Team, IT, Business, Security and Process Architects

External:

- Higher education providers
- Sector Bodies
- Third party suppliers

Person specification:

- **Analytical:** Apply an analytical approach with particular attention to detail. Consistently demonstrate problem-solving perspective.
- **Driven:** Personally motivated to deliver. Can work independently to set objectives, quality standards, and deadlines.
- **Resilience:** Work effectively under pressure and develop imaginative solutions and ways of approaching situations.
- **Communication:** Excellent customer-facing, communication, and interpersonal skills. Experience of working with third party suppliers. Consistent ability to communicate effectively, formally and informally, with colleagues.
- **Adaptable:** Agile/change orientated. Demonstrate ability to 'think on your feet' and anticipate future complications.
- **Organisation:** Plans work for self and others, and delegates responsibility to deliver within agreed scope, activities, and deadlines.

Relevant certifications

- ISEB/DAMA data qualifications
- Agile/scrum
- TOGAF/ISEB enterprise and solution architecture

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.