

Data Solution Architect (contract)

Basic information

Terms: Contractor (three months)

Location: Cheltenham

Reports to: Enterprise Data & Application Architect

Team: Enterprise Architecture

Business unit: Technology



Role purpose:

UCAS is currently undertaking a major transformation programme that will provide the capabilities and services to support UCAS' Corporate Strategy, until 2020.

Data is at the heart of UCAS. It allows us to operate our admissions processes, but also powers a number of other activities related to providing marketing services for education providers, support for schools and learners, and data products and services for the sector, and commercial clients.

Just as importantly, our transformation programme will be putting customers at the heart of what we do, by providing a flexible ecosystem of capabilities with customer relationship management (CRM) at its heart.

The Data Solution Architect will support this work from a solution perspective in the data domain.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Translating the conceptual enterprise data model into data architecture at a solution level.
- Communicating those data models (and the underlying principles) to a number of stakeholders, including product owners, technical specialists, and developers, to both communicate and get buy-in.
- Contributing to the development and evolution of the logical physical data models for UCAS.
- Creating solution architecture collateral and presenting at the Architecture Review Board for approval.
- Supporting other architects in their work, from a data perspective.

- Working with developers to support the development of physical data models for implementation.
- Ensuring what is developed aligns with solution architecture, and providing an early view on levels of alignment.

Accountabilities:

- Definition of data solution architectures that align with the overall vision for data, and deliver the outcomes required by the transformation programme.
- Producing work to defined timescales and quality.
- Alignment of solutions with IT strategy and principles.

Person specification:

- Able to rapidly get up-to-speed with new situations and organisational dynamics.
- Deep subject matter expertise of data architecture in a heterogeneous technical environment.
- Experience of working with other data architects, coordinating activities day-to-day.
- Authoritative and collaborative manner – able to explain data architectures to a wide variety of stakeholders with a variety of motivations and interests.
- Astute and aware of organisational and team motivations.
- Able to adapt ways of working and approach to use a wide range of styles.
- Strong experience of working in an agile development environment and participating in agile ceremonies.
- Practical experience in supporting the establishment and operation of data stewardship, including master data management, metadata management, data quality etc.
- Experience in working in a multi-disciplinary solution architecture group.

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.