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 leads on the definition of solution data architectures for UCAS. Operating in an agile development environment, they work alongside product owners, scrum teams and other architects to agree and deliver solutions, whilst ensuring what is delivered aligns with agreed enterprise architectures and the technology strategy.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Working as an SME for data in an agile development environment.
- Owning and maintaining domain and solution data models for the organisation.
- Translating business requirements into data architectures which align with models, strategy, standards, and industry best practice.
- Contributing to the definition of strategy, standards, policies and approaches which deliver world class data outcomes.
- Governing the implementation of data architectures.
- Understanding and promoting the benefits of data lifecycle management and data, as an asset.
- Participating in sector-wide activities on behalf of UCAS, and its role in the education landscape.

- 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 data is managed within systems and processes.
- Working proactively to maintain a stable, viable data architecture, and ensuring consistency of design across projects in 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 (reference data management, data modelling, data quality, metadata).
- Working in an agile environment.
- Experience of implementing COTS solutions and using integration platforms/SOA.
- Data cleansing, migration & ETL.
- BI and data visualisation tools.

Accountabilities:

Financial authorities
- No financial authority.

Non-financial authorities
- Represents the Enterprise Data and Applications Architect, as required.
- Authority to represent the Company with third party suppliers.

Primary customers/stakeholders
Internal:
- All non-technology business units.
- Technology.
- Enterprise Architecture Team, IT, Business, Security and Process Architects.

External:
- Learning providers.
- Sector bodies.
- Third party suppliers.

Person specification:

- Leadership: demonstrating positive behaviours around professionalism, integrity and collaboration.
- Analytical: an analytical approach. with particular attention to detail. Consistently demonstrating problem-solving skills.
- Driven: personally motivated to deliver. Can work independently to set objectives, standards and deadlines.
- Resilient: works effectively under pressure, and develops 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. Can demonstrate ability to 'think on feet' and anticipate future issues and opportunities.
- Organised: 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 & 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.