UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

happy to talk flexible working

1   Advertisement

Post Title: Solutions Architect
School/department: IT Services
Hours: Full time or part time hours considered up to 1FTE. Requests for <u>flexible working</u> options will be considered (subject to business need).
Contract: 1 year Fixed term
Reference: 7134
Salary: starting at £42,149 to £50,296 per annum, pro rata if part time
Placed on: 21 December 2021
Closing date: 03 February 2022   Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview date: to be confirmed
Expected start date: As soon as possible

University of Sussex has a fantastic opportunity for a Solutions Architect to work across our Education and Students projects as part of the ambitious digital roadmap that will help to prepare the University for the next generation of students.

This is an exciting chance to work across the Education and Students area on technology solutions, primarily the major project for the selection and implementation of a new Student Information System (SIS).

You will be working with people across the University to develop designs and models to migrate and integrate key systems associated with our students teaching and learning, in order to improve outcomes for students and improve data and knowledge around the success of students and teaching at Sussex.

You will have:
- *A strong background in architecture*
- *An excellent ability to design and model solution architectures*
- *A deep understanding of integration and migration from legacy systems to cloud-based architectures*
- *A solid understanding of data security and protection*
- *Strong team working and collaboration skills*

We can offer:
- An interesting and challenging set of projects to work across
- A chance to make a difference to future students and staff
- A part in an ambitious team building a digital future

The University offers a compelling employer proposition including a positive approach to flexible working and significant investment in staff wellbeing, a generous annual leave allowance and access to campus facilities.

University of Sussex is a top UK university, situated on a green campus in the South Downs hills, near the vibrant coastal city of Brighton and Hove. We are highly ranked in the UK league tables and over 75% of our research activity is categorised as world-leading or internationally excellent.

Please contact *Peter Collier, p.collier@sussex.ac.uk* for informal enquiries.

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students, and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

2. The School / Division

IT Services delivers a wide range of central and specialist Technology and Information Services to users across our Campus and beyond. We are organised into four main teams delivering these services through an evolving developing service management and delivery model:

Strategy and Architecture: ensuring our technologies, policies and standards are secure, up to date and that plans to replace, upgrade and improve our technologies and systems are aligned and prioritised around the University's strategic plans and objectives. The team also includes the Cyber Security team.

Operations and Research: work across the research, teaching, professional services and student communities to create strategies and plans, ensuring outstanding service provision across the day-to-day operational activity of ITS.

Projects and Programme Delivery: provides management and delivery of projects and major change programmes and provides assurance through a central IT Project Management Office (PMO).

Business Relations: transforming the relationship between ITS and its stakeholders helping meet its ambition of being a recognised leader in the use of digital technologies in education, research, student services and university administration.

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Solutions Architect

Department: IT Services

Section/Unit/School: Strategy and Architecture

Location: Shawcross, Falmer Campus

Grade: 8

Responsible to: Assistant Director, Strategy and Architecture

Responsible for: Not applicable

Job Description for the post of: Solutions Architect

Section / Unit / School: IT Services
Location: Shawcross, Falmer Campus

Grade: 8

Responsible to: Assistant Director, Strategy and Architecture

Responsible for: -

Purpose of the role:

The *Solutions Architect – SIS* will be responsible for developing creative, robust, scalable and reusable strategies and solutions to meet client requirements and deliver business benefits to the University of Sussex.

The role will define and manage the technical scope of projects, in line with defined principles and standards, across the IT project portfolio.

The Solutions Architect will partner with business and technology development teams, understanding organisational and departmental strategy and assisting in the translation of requirements into a solution vision, high-level business and/or IT system specifications. The role will then lead in designing, specifying and selecting solutions that address requirements of functionality, data, security, integration, infrastructure and performance.

The role will work with Project Managers and Business Analysts to develop high level project schedule resource plans, cost estimates and help prepare business cases for implementation projects.

The role will be required to seek out new industry and technology trends and apply this knowledge to solving business problems.

The role will also help to update, review and maintain the enterprise architecture models and knowledge base, ensuring any changes to the IT environment are captured and documented to a high quality.

Key Duties & Responsibilities:

1. Technically lead in designing, specifying and selecting appropriate solutions, considering functionality, data, security, integration, infrastructure and performance.

2. Partner with key stakeholders to understand organisation-wide and departmental strategies and agree information systems solutions to meet those needs.

3. Understand, advocate and support the University's business and IT strategies.

4. Identify and analyse business drivers that derive enterprise business, information, technical and solution architecture requirements.

5. Consult with programme and project teams to fit solutions to architecture across all viewpoints.

6. Ensure technical designs and models align with and adhere to the strategic Enterprise Architecture and best practice.

7. Support and direct the technical teams and third-party supplier in the building and deployment of solutions.

8. Work with Integration and development leads to ensure correct data handling and integration.

9. Develop and maintain supporting documentation within the requirement of the Enterprise Architecture Framework, including submitting designs and required papers to the Architecture Review Board.

10. To do detailed design for the re-use of technology components.

11. Research, identify and evaluate new technology solutions to meet business requirements.

12. Analysing industry, technology and market trends to determine their potential impacts on the University.

13. Provide expert guidance and mentoring to project team members where required.

14. Continuously review and impact assess technical deliverables and plans, providing quality control according to agreed standards and principles.

15. Support other Architects and technical team members in their roles where appropriate.

16. Engage and liaise with 3rd party suppliers, business partners and external vendors.

17. Assist in the development and maintenance of the model of current and future enterprise architecture.

18. To work effectively, collaboratively, and strategically with project and business teams to ensure excellent outcomes and success of University activities.

19. To identify risks and issues and address or raise them with others as necessary.

20. To keep up to date with latest data-related requirements and technology.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date: October 2021

4.   Person Specification

SKILLS / ABILITIES

	Essential	Desirable
Excellent, demonstrable working knowledge of design patterns and modelling concepts and principles including: • Integrations and data exchange patterns • High-level and low-level solution designs • Capability modelling • Use of modelling and mark-up languages such as Archimate and UML • Relational database design and structures	X	

	Essential	Desirable
• Identity and security designs • Viewpoint analysis and development • TOGAF ADM or equivalent frameworks		
Demonstrable understanding of architecture practice and approach	X	
General understanding of IT systems and their relationship with data	X	
Familiarity with HE Business Processes and systems		X

KNOWLEDGE

	Essential	Desirable
Extensive knowledge of technology solutions across all technology domains (client, applications, infrastructure, networking, etc.)	X	
Knowledge of Enterprise Architecture methodologies such as TOGAF or the equivalent	X	
Knowledge of cyber security principles and best practice	X	
Familiar with the UK Data Protection legislation	X	
Broad knowledge of general enterprise technology solutions	X	
Knowledge of cloud-based architectures	X	
Knowledge of student information lifecycles and business processes		X

EXPERIENCE

	Essential	Desirable
Minimum 3yrs experience in an architecture role	X	
Considerable experience in software development or engineering	X	
Experience of development of high- and low-level solution designs, principles, standards and models	X	
Experience of solution migration planning	X	
Experience of best practice integration patterns	X	
Experience of working with 3rd party suppliers and integrators	X	
Experience of technical leadership within mid- to large-size projects	X	

QUALIFICATIONS

	Essential	Desirable
Certification of Enterprise Architecture methodologies such as TOGAF or the equivalent	X	
Archimate modelling language		X

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

	Essential	Desirable
Capable of engaging with and advising senior stakeholders	X	
Capable of developing and maintaining strong, collaborative working relationships within the organisation and third-party suppliers	X	
Strong communication and interpersonal skills as well as the ability to relay technical issues to a non-technical audience in an engaging and informative manner	X	
Able to manage time effectively and work proactively across multiple projects and initiatives	X	
Written and verbal skills to enable communication of complex data and information problems and solutions	X	