



Further Particulars

This document includes information about the role for which you are applying and the information you will need to provide with the application.

1. Role details

Vacancy reference:	6658
Job title:	SL Web Developer
Reports to:	Thanh Le (Leading Technical Developer)
Salary:	Ranging from £29,853 – £35,646
Terms and conditions of service:	Full time Academic-Related Staff
Grade:	Grade 7
Duration of post:	Until 31 st July 2011
Working hours:	Full time – 37 hours per week
Location:	Knowledge Media Institute of The Open University
Closing date:	10 th September 2010
Type of application form accepted:	Standard form; <u>or</u> CV (<i>with</i> short-version of appform)
Number of referees required:	Three
Unit recruitment contact:	Ortenz Rose

2. Summary of duties

The vacancy is for a Web Developer on the SocialLearn Project. The OU SocialLearn project is developing an online learning space for all learners to make sense of the wealth of content/media by:

- developing their understanding with recommendations, feeds and help to construct or follow a 'learning journey' (connections between educational resources);
- personalising their tools/services, rather like an iGoogle dashboard tuned to their learning interests, taking the toolkit with them as they browse the web anywhere;
- connecting with others, building learning connections and communities with peers, mentors and teachers.

The SL Web Developer is responsible for:

Specification and design

- Use structured and methodical investigative methods.
- Understand relevant and accurate information on client's functionality and access needs.
- Adhere to the priority the client assigns to each identified need.
- Contribute to the identification and resolving of any constraints imposed by the client, technical development and organisational requirements.
- Contribute to the analysis of client needs and to the specification of logical data, functionality and capacity requirements.
- Contribute to the production of specifications to meet agreed schedules.
- Contribute to the identification of what software components are required, and their source.
- Contribute to the identification and selection of the resources needed to design, create and integrate the identified software components.
- Contribute to the identification of existing resources that could be reused and/or reversioned.
- Contribute to the identification and selection of the tools, techniques and resources needed to create designs, and to create and integrate the identified software components.

Production, integration and validation of planned products

- Resolve deviations from agreed specifications, designs and standards.
- Communicate progress on developments to clients in liaison with other members of the project team.
- Use designated tools, development environments and support systems in accordance with organisational procedures.
- Share knowledge and expertise with technical staff.
- Produce solutions that correctly match the given specifications and designs, and include all required software components and the intended development environment.
- Identify from given designs, the tasks and dependencies required to complete the creation or integration of software.
- Provide estimates of time required for individual tasks.

- Resolve any shortfalls between required and allocated resources by following organisational procedures.
- Identify and resolve deviations from agreed specifications, designs, standards and schedules.

Roll out and verification

- Contribute to a rollout and handover plan and the provision of documentation for new or improved products and services.
- Undertake or participate in ad-hoc or formal reviews of potential, new and developed new products and services.
- Contribute to ensuring that the created and integrated software components match the agreed designs and achieve the required balance between performance and ease of maintenance.
- Deliver work that is fit for purpose within a quality assured process.
- Create documentation which conforms with organisational requirements and standards.
- Contribute to ensuring that the service team is trained to deliver training to clients.

Teamworking

- Understand the role of other team members in systems development and support, and collaborate effectively to ensure smooth and timely production and roll out.
- Recognise where it is appropriate to take a flexible approach to task boundaries and also where it is necessary to seek the expertise of others.
- Share knowledge and expertise with colleagues to contribute to best practice.
- Appreciate the need to pick up work, where other team members are absent or unavailable, in order to ensure timely completion of a task, or appropriate client contact.
- Take responsibility for own contribution to team performance.
- Collaborate effectively with other members of the wider team and other staff as appropriate.

Other

- Keep abreast of external trends and developments in order to enhance and maintain professional expertise.
- Contribute to, and facilitate, continual process improvement.
- Actively share knowledge and expertise with colleagues to contribute to staff development and best practice.
- Act promptly under direction to help solve problems.
- Communicate effectively.
- Mentor and coach other technical staff.
- Use appropriate tools and techniques.
- Take responsibility for own continuous professional development.

The appointment will be made on the Grade 7 Salary Scales for Academic-Related Staff, ranging from £29,853 – £35,646 pa depending on qualifications and experience.

3. Person specification

Person Specification

Essential

Education/qualifications

- Degree-level (or equivalent experience).

Work and other relevant experience

- Relevant experience in the effective specification, design, development, production or integration of software solutions and systems.
- Experience of web services development and deployment.
- Proficiency in the development of one or more of:
 - Systems software to support multiple media production;
 - Online services such as for communications, assessment and the provision of learning materials;
 - Scalable, generic software solutions to learning and teaching problems;
 - Integration of multiple systems using web services.
- A track record of successful delivery to specification within agreed schedule, resources and standards.

Personal qualities and abilities

- Effective verbal and written communication skills, including:
 - Ability to present, demonstrate and explain solutions to colleagues and the wider University;
 - Ability to give a clear brief to colleagues or suppliers;
 - Ability to negotiate with clients with regard to production constraints.
- Demonstrable organisational, planning and problem-solving skills.
- Team-working capabilities in collaborating with colleagues, managers and staff across the organisation.
- A demonstrable interest in continuing self-development.
- Ability to interpret a brief in order to produce appropriate creative solutions.
- Ability to apply best professional practice to deliver effective solutions that take due regard of technical, budgetary and other project considerations.
- Ability to deliver solutions which involve analysing conceptual/technical requirements.
- Ability to cope with pressure and unforeseen problems, and to offer pragmatic solutions to these.
- Confidence and ability to use initiative within a managed team, prioritising tasks according to deadlines.
- Willingness and ability to embrace new ideas, learn new skills and adapt to changing situations or requirements.
- Up-to-date knowledge of industry developments and trends in terms of tools, technologies, methods, market conditions and quality standards.

Desirable

In addition to core professional experience, some experience or knowledge of the following would be an advantage:

- Interest in the strategic contribution that learning environments and new technologies can make to successful distance education.
- Interest in distance-teaching practices and an awareness of the implications of open access in higher education.
- An understanding of what makes for effective open teaching and learning components and systems for supporting their production.
- Experience of cost-benefit analysis for products or services.
- Working in educational publishing.
- Human Computer Interface (HCI) design.
- Web services architecture, design and implementation.
- Designing and producing solutions that comply with relevant legal and industry standards.
- Working with freelance staff or sub-contractors.

Technical Skills

- Linux administration (for Ubuntu);
- Java/Java EE development;
- XML and related specifications for semantic web (e.g. RDF, Topic Maps, etc.).

4. Role specific requirements e.g. Shift working

n/a

5. About the unit/department

The Knowledge Media Institute (KMi) of the UK's Open University is a highly successful interdisciplinary research centre founded at The Open University in 1995, and located in attractive premises at The Open University's main campus in Milton Keynes, UK. We offer a stimulating environment, widely acknowledged to be at the leading edge of research and development, particularly in semantic Web technologies, multimedia and information systems, knowledge modelling and management, new media for learning and sensemaking. KMi is part of the OU's Centre for Research in Computing, ranked as one of the top 20 research centres in the UK RAE 2008. The style, impact and content of our work can be seen at <http://kmi.open.ac.uk/>

6. How to obtain more information about the role or application process

If you would like to discuss the particulars of this role before making an application please contact Mark Glaister on Tel: +44 (0)1908 332748 or email m.glaister@open.ac.uk

If you have any questions regarding the application process please contact Ortenz Rose on +44 (0)1908 654774 or email o.rose@open.ac.uk

7. Where to send completed applications

Please ensure that your application reaches the University by: **10th September 2010**

Post it to:

Name/Job title: [HR Coordinator](#)

Department/Unit: [Knowledge Media Institute](#)

Address: [The Open University](#)
[Walton Hall](#)
[MILTON KEYNES](#)
[Bucks](#)

Post Code: [MK7 6AA](#)

Or e-mail your application to: kmi-recruitment@open.ac.uk

8. Selection process and date of interview

The interview panel will be chaired by Mark Glaister. Other members of the interview panel will include members of the project team. Interviews will be arranged as soon after the close date as is possible.

We will let you know as soon as possible after the closing date whether you have been shortlisted for interview. Further details on the selection process will also be sent to shortlisted candidates.

Applications received after the closing data will not be accepted.