Job Related Information

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

1. Role Details

Vacancy reference	15247
Job title:	Front-end Web Developer and UX Designer
Reports to:	Senior Research Fellow in Text and Data Mining
Salary:	Ranging from £33,199 to £39,609
Terms and conditions:	Full time Academic Related Staff
Grade	GR7
Duration of post:	Up to 20 months
Working hours:	37 hours per week (full time, Monday to Friday)
Location:	Open University's main campus, Milton Keynes
Closing date:	23 November 2018 at 5pm
Type of application form accepted:	Standard or Accessible version (plus covering letter)
Number of referees required:	Three
Unit recruitment contact:	Ortenz Rose

2. Summary of duties

The team at the OU runs the world's largest aggregator of research papers called CORE (core.ac.uk), with about 1.5 million monthly active users, and a set of projects promoting principles of Open Science, such as FOSTER (fosteropenscience.eu). CORE provides free access to millions of Open Access research papers as well as a number of information services for researchers, organisations and businesses. These include services enabling text & data mining, recommender systems, content management services for libraries as well as analytical services to support business intelligence for research.

We are currently looking for a Front-end Developer and UX specialist to join our team.

The appointment will be made on the Grade 7 of the Salary Scale for Academic Related and Support Staff, ranging from £33,199 to £39,609 pa depending on qualification and experience.

JOB DESCRIPTION

You will work as part of a team of developer and research on improving the front-end UI/UX experience of CORE users. Additionally, you will be involved in improving our e-learning platform delivering training materials and courses on Open Science. You will work in the team at the Knowledge Media Institute, Open University.

Specific Tasks:
- Develop new user-facing features;
- Improving the UI/UX of a range of web applications;
- Ensure the technical feasibility of UI/UX designs;
- Performing user testing and daily operation of existing web applications;
- Extending the functionality of existing web applications;
- Collaborate with other team members, such as backend developers, researchers, graphical designer) and stakeholders (project manager, customers).

3. Person specification

Requirements   (E = Essential/ D = Desirable)

Education, qualifications and training

- At least 3 years' experience with web development (E);
- Bachelor degree in Computer Science or related field (E)

	Knowledge, work and other relevant experience
Essential:	• Proficient understanding of web markup, including HTML5 and CSS3; • Working knowledge of client-side scripting and JavaScript frameworks, including jQuery; • Good understanding of asynchronous request handling, partial page updates, and AJAX; • Good understanding of SEO principles and ensuring that application will adhere to them; • Ability to design and deliver functional and visually appealing user interfaces; • Ability to work in collaboration with a team developing backend services; • Working knowledge of MySQL or other databases; • Working knowledge of the Linux environment; • Good skills in PHP applied to web development.
Desirable:	• Knowledge of image authoring tools, to be able to crop, resize, or perform small adjustments on an image. Familiarity with tools such as Gimp or Photoshop is a plus; • Experience with developing APIs; • Experience with code sharing, issue tracking (JIRA, GIT), software testing; • Experience working with web frameworks and/or CMS.

	Personal abilities and qualities
Essential:	• Ability to quickly demonstrate understanding of the project aims and specific tasks as requested; • Willingness to follow an agile development process according to Scrum; • Fluency in English; • Ability to write technical reports and document code; • Team player; • Hard worker; • Good communicator; • Ability to work to challenging targets.
Desirable:	n/a

4. Role specific requirements e.g. Shift working

n/a

5. About the unit/department

Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

The Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is comprised:

- School of Computing & Communications
- School of Environment, Earth & Ecosystem Sciences
- School of Engineering & Innovation
- School of Life, Health & Chemical Sciences
- School of Mathematics & Statistics
- School of Physical Sciences
- Knowledge Media Institute (a distinct research institute)
- Deanery including teams supporting Curriculum, Research and Enterprise, Laboratory Infrastructure and Faculty Administration

"We aspire to be world leaders in inclusive, innovative and high impact STEM teaching and research, equipping learners, employers and society with the capabilities to meet tomorrow's challenges"

The Faculty of STEM consists of 700 staff and 1,800 Associate Lecturers. The Faculty delivers over 185 modules across undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, supporting nearly 19,000 students (full time equivalents) which is 29% of the OU total.

The Faculty generates more research income (circa £17M) than any other Faculty in the University, supported by a comprehensive laboratory infrastructure.

We are proud of our distinctive values and capabilities underpinning our aspiration:

We are inclusive:
- We transform people's lives, ensuring STEM education is openly accessible to many thousands of students from diverse backgrounds – our students express high satisfaction with their study experience;
- We engage the public in exciting citizen science and engineering, including through free open educational resources, multi-platform broadcasting, outreach to inspire the next generation and with programmes to encourage more women into STEM.

We are highly innovative:
- We are at the forefront of innovative developments in teaching practical science and engineering at a distance, through simulated and remote access laboratories and practical experimentation;
- Our high quality teaching and curriculum are informed by world-leading research, strong links with professional bodies and communities of practitioners, as well as by scholarship focused on continuously improving our STEM pedagogy.

We deliver significant social and economic impact:
- We provide STEM higher education at a scale and reach unsurpassed in the UK, with a sizeable international reach and further growth potential;
- We inject transferable STEM skills and knowledge direct into the workplace for immediate employee and employer benefit, as students combine study while working;

- The employability value of our courses is underpinned by accreditation from leading STEM Professional Bodies and Learned Societies, as well as partnerships and sponsorship with leading employers;
- Our high quality, applied and academically relevant teaching and research addresses real-world issues, delivering impact for industry and society, including addressing pressing STEM skill-shortages across the UK.

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 Technologies, Human Computer Interaction, New Media and Information Retrieval. The style, impact and content of our work can be seen at http://kmi.open.ac.uk/. Information on careers in KMi can be found at: http://kmi.open.ac.uk/careers/

"Our lab values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity. We would particularly welcome applications from women, since women are, and have historically been, underrepresented on our academic staff."

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 Dr Petr Knoth on +44 (0)1908 654548 or email: petr.knoth@open.ac.uk

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

7. The application process and where to send completed applications

Your application should contain:	a) A completed OU jobs application for employment form; and b) Covering letter. Please ensure you complete all relevant sections of the application form. You may also include a curriculum vitae; however note that **any CVs submitted <u>without</u> a completed application for employment form <u>will not</u> be accepted**. Your covering letter should describe how you skills make you a suitable candidate for the post.
Please ensure that your application reaches the University by:	23 November 2018 at 5pm
E-mail your application to:	kmi-recruitment@open.ac.uk
Or post it to Name/Job title:	Ortenz Rose / KMi Senior Co-ordinator – Staffing & Recruitment
Department/Unit:	The Knowledge Media Institute (STEM)
Address:	The Open University Walton Hall MILTON KEYNES Bucks MK7 6AA

8. Selection process and date of interview

The interview panel will be chaired by:	Dr Petr Knoth
The other members of the interview panel will be:	To be advised To be advised
The interviews will take place on:	Date to be advised
The selection process for this post will include:	• A review of applications by the interview panel; • A formal interview

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 date will not be accepted.