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:	7347
Job title:	Research Associate – SocialLearn
Reports to:	Associate Director (Technology) KMi
Salary:	Ranging from £29,972 – £35,788
Terms and conditions of service:	Full time Research Staff
Grade:	AC2
Duration of post:	Until 31st July 2012
Working hours:	Full time – 37 hours per week
Location:	Knowledge Media Institute of The Open University
Closing date:	25th August 2011
Type of application form accepted:	Standard form
Number of referees required:	Three
Unit recruitment contact:	**Ortenz Rose**

2. Summary of duties

The Open University's Knowledge Media Institute has an opening for a *Research Associate – SocialLearn*. The *SocialLearn* project is a strategic initiative in the OU [http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/sociallearn]. Your responsibility will be to use your understanding of learning and sensemaking online to improving the SocialLearn platform. You will work closely with the SocialLearn team and report to the Associate Director (Technology) KMi.

The appointment will be made on the Academic Grade 2 Salary Scales for Research Staff, ranging from £29,972 - £35,788 pa depending on qualifications and experience. Appointment as a Research Associate requires a PhD or three years equivalent in quality of achievement.

Job Description

- Apply relevant pedagogical frameworks/theories to help inform SocialLearn's design;

- Define, gather and analyse SocialLearn user data;

- Work with the software team to translate user data into design improvements, for further evaluation;

- Liaise closely with the rest of the SocialLearn team;

- Liaise with other technical and non-technical audiences within the Open University;

- Disseminate results to the Web 2.0 educator community, and international research community, as per reviewed publications, presentations, and via blogs and screencasts;

- Track potential funding opportunities and take the lead in drafting proposals for external grants.

Other duties

- You will be required to attend project meetings and contribute appropriately.

3. Person specification

Essential Skills

- Relevant PhD or equivalent, e.g. in learning sciences, e-learning, sensemaking, human-computer interactions, social networking;
- Experience in evaluating collaboration technologies to clarify the experience and needs of users/learners;
- Qualitative and/or quantitative data analysis skills;
- Ability to clearly communicate complex information using a range of media, evidence from end-user activity in order to motivate design implications;
- National/international research profile appropriate to your qualifications and experience;
- A team player, working with a mix of colleagues, able to give and receive constructive feedback;
- Evidence of continuing professional development.

Desirable Skills

This skill will be an added advantage, but is not essential:

- Experience in mocking up lo-fi user interface designs.

Personal Skills

- Excellent interpersonal, visual, oral and written communication skills;
- Team-working and networking skills;
- Initiative and ability to work independently, managing your own research and administrative activities;
- Time management skills;
- Ability to work accurately, methodically and speedily.

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 European research and development, particularly in semantic web technologies, multimedia and information systems, new media systems, and scholarly hypermedia. The style, impact and content of our work are described in detail in our Web pages 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 Dr Simon Buckingham Shum by email s.buckingham.shum@open.ac.uk; or Tel: +44 (0)770 212 5734.

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. The application process and where to send completed applications

Please ensure that your application reaches the University by: **25 August 2011**

Post it to:

Name/Job title: Ortenz Rose – Senior Staffing Coordinator

Department/Unit: Knowledge Media Institute

Address: The Open University
                     Walton Hall
                     MILTON KEYNES
                     Bucks

Post Code: MK7 6AA

<u>Or</u> e-mail your application to: kmi-recruitment@open.ac.uk

8. Selection process and date of interview

The interview panel will be chaired by Dr Simon Buckingham Shum. Other members of the interview panel will include members of the SocialLearn project team. Interviews will be arranged as soon after the close date as is possible.

<u>NB</u>: There will be a requirement for you to present a portfolio of recent project work at the interview.

The selection process for this post will be by review of applications by the head and selected members of the interview panel. There may be a telephone interview before a formal interview.

We will let you know as soon as possible after the closing date whether you have been shortlisted for interview, together with details of the interview format.

Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.