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:	10900 and 10901
Job title:	Research Assistant – Cloud Computing/Data Science
Reports to:	Research Fellow
Salary:	Ranging from £28,695 – £30,434
Terms and conditions of service:	Full time Research Staff
Grade:	Academic Grade 1 (AC1)
Duration of posts:	1 x temporary contract for 6 months (Ref: 10900); 1 x temporary contract up to 12 months, until 31 January 2016 (Ref: 10901)
Working hours:	37 hours per week (full time Monday to Friday)
Location:	Knowledge Media Institute of The Open University
Closing date:	Noon 2nd January 2015
Type of application form accepted:	Standard / long version (plus covering letter)
Number of referees required:	Minimum of two (up to three)
Unit recruitment contact:	kmi-recruitment@open.ac.uk

2. Summary of duties

The recent years have witnessed a substantial push towards shared, reliable, scalable, highly available and elastic solutions to big data management. The need for solutions with these characteristics, which are often referred to as *cloud computing*, comes from the ever-increasing amount of data and our reliance on it. While cloud computing technologies are today used by many organisations to create efficiencies as well as increase the scale of their impact, cloud computing also provides new opportunities for analysing and exploiting large amounts of data in new ways, thereby creating new possibilities for *data science*.

The Europeana Cloud (eCloud) project is a €4 million European Commission funded project designed to establish a shared cloud-based storage and compute infrastructure for European aggregators. The Open University (OU) is one of five European partners directly involved in the implementation of the eCloud infrastructure. The other partners include the European Library, Europeana, Poznan Supercomputing & Networking Center and the Italian National Research Council. Additionally, the team at the OU is tasked with analysing the content stored in eCloud to discover links between semantically related materials.

The team at the OU also runs an aggregator called CORE (http://core.kmi.open.ac.uk). CORE provides access to millions of Open Access research papers harvested from repositories located across the world. Our goal is to integrate the CORE aggregator with the eCloud infrastructure by the end of the project.

We are currently looking for two Research Assistants to work on this project. This is a not to be missed opportunity to become an expert in two emerging areas of Computer Science – Cloud Computing & Data Science.

Each appointment will be made on the Academic Grade 1 Salary Scale for Research Staff, ranging from £28,695 – £30,434 pa depending on qualifications and experience. Each appointment requires a Master degree in Computer Science or similar.

Job Description

You will work as part of an international team of developers and researchers on the design and development of the eCloud infrastructure as well as on the CORE aggregator. Your work will include working with large quantities of data and there will also be opportunities for analysing the data. Overall, this is a great chance to become an expert in working with some of the key technologies in one of the most growing areas of Computer Science. You will work in the team at the Knowledge Media Institute, Open University.

3. Person specification

Essential Skills

- Excellent programming skills in Java SE, EE and experience with Web development;
- Experience with developing APIs;
- Database management skills (both SQL and NoSQL) and a proven ability to write quick optimised database queries;
- Experience with processing large quantities of data;
- Very good knowledge of the Linux environment (deployment, essential scripting, configuration, logging, etc.);
- Ability to design software solutions.

- Ability to work in a team, experience with code sharing, issue tracking (JIRA, GIT), testing;
- 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.

Desirable Skills

- Knowledge of the Cloud Computing environment (Amazon AWS, Microsoft Azure, Google App Engine or similar;
- Working knowledge of at least some of the following technologies: Cassandra, SOLR/ Elasticsearch, Hadoop, Storm, Kafka, ZooKeeper, OpenStack Swift;
- The Spring framework.

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 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/

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

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

7. The application process and where to send completed applications

Please ensure that your application reaches the University by: **noon 2ⁿᵈ January 2015**

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

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 Petr Knoth. Other members of the interview panel will include members of the project team. The interviews will take place as soon as possible after the closing date.

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

a) Please ensure you complete all relevant sections of the application form. You are welcome to also include your curriculum vitae; however **CVs will not be accepted on their own**.

b) You are also asked to provide a covering letter describing how your skills make you a suitable candidate for the post.

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 be sent to shortlisted candidates.

Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted!