

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	15690
Job title:	Full-Stack Web Developer
Reports to:	Professor of Knowledge Engineering
Salary:	Ranging from £33,199 to £39,609
Terms and conditions:	Full time Academic Related Staff
Grade	GR7
Duration of post:	Temporary contract until 31st July 2019
Working hours:	37 hours per week (full time, Monday to Friday)
Location:	Milton Keynes Office
Closing date:	6 March 2019 at 5pm
Type of application form accepted:	Standard or Accessible version (plus covering letter)
Number of referees required:	Three
Unit recruitment contact:	Dr Martin Hlosta



2. Summary of duties

The aim of the OU ANALYSE project (<http://analyse.kmi.open.ac.uk>) is to increase the retention rate at the Open University and at the same time to improve the quality of education. Internet technologies enable universities to offer their students educational resources online and, at the same time to collect information about the use of these resources. By analysing students' interactions with the virtual learning environment, it is possible to identify those who might be at risk of failing the course and offer them well-targeted additional support.

Our predictive models use data from the virtual learning environment, student performance during the course, legacy information, and the rules of the course to predict at-risk students as early as possible during the presentation. The analysis aims at identifying students for whom the additional support may help. By applying machine learning algorithms we develop predictive models that identify patterns of behaviour typical for potential failure in the course.

We are currently looking for a Full-Stack Web Developer 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 researchers on designing, prototyping and putting into practice novel scalable solutions helping students with their learning. Your work will involve:

- Develop new user-facing features for OU Analyse;
- Improving the scalability of the existing processes;
- Collaborate with other team members, i.e. researchers, graphical designer and stakeholders (project manager, users);
- moving prototypes into a production environment.

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in programming Java/C++/Python (or any other object-oriented language);• Working knowledge of MySQL or other databases;• Working knowledge of client-side scripting and JavaScript frameworks, including jQuery;• Working knowledge of the Linux environment;• Ability to independently and proactively define solvable solutions to problems;• Deploy and maintain the solution in the production environment;• Ability to work in a team, contribute to code review, knowledge of working with a versioning system (e.g. GIT).
Desirable:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience with designing Data Warehouses and ETL process;• Knowledge of Java server technology;• Experience with unit-testing;• Knowledge of principles of machine learning, data mining and statistics.

Personal abilities and qualities

Essential:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to quickly demonstrate understanding of the project aims and specific tasks as requested;• 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 Martin Hlosta on +44 (0)1908 332292 or email: petr.knoth@open.ac.uk

If you have any questions regarding the application process please contact Resourcing Assistant on +44 (0)1908 655544 or email: Resourcing-Hub@open.ac.uk

7. The application process and where to send completed applications

Your application should contain:	<p>a) A completed OU jobs application for employment form; and b) Covering letter.</p> <p>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 be accepted.</u></p> <p>Your covering letter should describe how your skills make you a suitable candidate for the post.</p>
Please ensure that your application reaches the University by:	6 March 2019 at 5pm
E-mail your application to:	Resourcing-Hub@open.ac.uk
Or post it to Name/Job title:	Resourcing Assistant
Department/Unit:	Resourcing Hub
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:	Professor Zdenek Zdrahal
The other members of the interview panel will be:	Dr Martin Hlosta Jakub Kocvara Dr Miriam Fernandez Dr Trevor Collins
The interviews will take place on:	Date to be advised
The selection process for this post will include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.