

Job Description

Job Title:	Solution Architect
Department:	IDG
Grade:	FA8
Responsible to:	Head of Development (Interim) & Head of Portfolio

Job Purpose:

Solution Architects define solutions to complex business problems using a wide range of artefacts, methods and tools and uses expertise and knowledge to drive the transformational change of applications. They maintain a view of business and technical capabilities and applications within a specialist domain, ensuring technical integrity and alignment with business requirements and the ongoing support of applications, in alignment with non-functional requirements.

The role will work across a range of programmes within the University, enabling and guiding the design and development of integrated solutions that meet current and future business needs. The post will ensure that existing and planned solution components are compatible with relevant architectures, strategies, policies, principles, standards, and practices, working in tandem with the technology delivery teams and business change teams.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1) Solution Architecture Design

- Leads the development of solution architectures in specific business or functional areas, ensures consistency with agreed requirements and conforms with relevant architectures, policies, principles, standards, and practices.
- Identifies and evaluates alternative architectures and the trade-offs in cost, performance, and scalability. Determines and documents architecturally significant decisions.
- Defines solutions to complex business problems using a wide range of artefacts, methods and tools and uses expertise and knowledge within a specific business domain to drive the transformational change of applications.
- Produces specifications of cloud-based or on-premises components, tiers, and interfaces, for translation into detailed designs using selected services and products.
- Work effectively with the Product/Delivery Managers to support the development of project plans, helping to devise the implementation approach, reviewing estimates and schedules, and identifying risks.

- Exploit the existing technology platform, identifying areas where technology can provide an enhanced service.
- Provide expertise in driving forward solutions for applications, ensuring alignment with the business and technical strategic vision and goals.

2) Solution Architecture Advice & Guidance

- Provides guidance and risk-based governance to support solution implementation including managing requests for changes and deviations from specifications.
- Assists with the production of strategic roadmaps showing how the delivery of projects are contributing to the realisation of the future state architecture.
- Provide an assurance role, ensuring that all architecture activities and deliverables (in-house and outsourced) are produced to a high quality and are consistent with existing standards, policies, and strategies.
- Collaborate through a trusted business partnering approach, proactively leveraging key relationships to ensure business, information and technology domain architecture is strategically aligned.

Person Specification

Requirements The post holder must be able to demonstrate:	Essential (E) or Desirable (D) requirements
Degree or equivalent experience in IT or a related discipline	E
Advantageous to have certifications in any of the following: TOGAF, Archimate, Azure, AWS, BCS	D
Production of Solution Architecture designs, with a preference for any of the following: Enterprise Resource Planning systems, Customer Relationship Management systems, Azure Cloud or Amazon Web Services Cloud, University/HE systems such as Student Record systems, Teaching and Learning systems, Web Content Management systems	E
Awareness of designing for cloud-based resilience & security, such as the Azure or the AWS well-architected frameworks	E
Some knowledge or an awareness of IT service management frameworks, e.g. ITIL	E
Good understanding of Information Security management principles and compliance with legislation, regulation, and relevant standards	E
Implementation and design of data integration platforms	D
Selection/procurement of technology and suppliers; use of non-functional requirements	E
Demonstrable experience in technology and operations, involving infrastructure or applications development and support.	E
Demonstrable experience of stakeholder management at a senior level in a complex organisation(s)	D

Experience of long-term strategic planning	D
Experience in working in higher education	D
Excellent customer relationship/service management skills	E
Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written	E
Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written	E
Ability to recognise priorities and guide others towards the accomplishment of strategic business goals and objectives	E
Ability to work with business analysts and business requirements	E
Solution implementation skills would be advantageous	D