**Data Architect – Learning and Information Services – Grade J**

Job Description

**Purpose**

The Data Architect is a pivotal member of the Architecture and Strategy Team and the wider IT Leadership Team. The role holder is responsible for leading and supporting the development, management, and governance of enterprise data architecture activities. This includes designing and delivering robust data solutions across projects, products, systems (including applications, technologies, processes, and information), shared infrastructure services, and shared application services.

Working in close collaboration with business stakeholders, product teams, and other IT leaders, the Data Architect provides strategic leadership, roadmaps, standards, and vision to ensure data solutions meet business needs and adhere to the University's architectural governance and standards.

The Data Architect plays a key role in implementing the University's strategy for information and technology, enabling modern, scalable, and secure integrated data platforms to support university business, including blended learning, teaching, research, administration, estate operations, and commercial activity.

**Duties**

1. Translate business priorities into data architecture designs and change requirements to achieve business outcomes, providing technical consultancy and driving service improvements through continuous improvement and timely delivery of work requests.
2. Lead the evaluation, design, and analysis for the implementation of data architecture across business applications and technologies, based on university strategy, business capabilities, and architecture standards.
3. Identify and document key deliverables, such as data models, reference architectures, and data governance frameworks, to assist the architecture review board in assessing the impact of new and ongoing data-related technology investments.
4. Act as a technical consultant on a broad range of data technologies, platforms, and vendor offerings to drive targeted business outcomes.

5. Communicate complex and detailed specialist information clearly and accurately to senior decision-makers, team members, non-specialist stakeholders, and external suppliers.

6. Provide strategic advice for future investment in data systems and processes to support business objectives.

7. Work with platform and product managers to develop a roadmap for the evolution of the data architecture portfolio from future to current state.

8. Collaborate with key stakeholders to measure and prioritise technical debt reduction related to data assets and infrastructure.

9. Ensure knowledge, skills, and resources are shared across IT teams in support of strategic institutional priorities.

10. Monitor trends and provide direction on emerging data technologies and practices and how they could/should be incorporated into university products and services.

11. Drive service improvements in data management through a structured approach to continuous improvement, measuring impact and sharing results.

12. Support career progression and development of team members, helping them realise their potential.

13. Professionally represent the department to internal and external stakeholders.

14. Lead and contribute to stand-ups, team meetings, and other relevant forums as required.

15. Demonstrate flexibility and commitment to the University strategic plan, policies, and development plans.

16. Observe, monitor, and comply with all relevant University policies and procedures in the performance of duties, particularly in relation to System and Information Security, Data Protection, and Data Governance.

17. Support the University's commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion by fostering an inclusive culture through the recruitment, development, and retention of talent.

18. Actively contribute to and support the improvement of the student experience through the effective management of data systems.

19. Undertake other relevant duties and responsibilities appropriate to the grade of the post.

**Knowledge, Skills, and Behaviours (Essential)**

- Proven experience in enterprise-wide data architecture, delivering strategies, blueprints, and roadmaps to meet complex objectives. (Application/Interview)
- Broad knowledge of data platforms, tools, and vendor solutions, with ability to advise and drive business outcomes. (Application/Interview)
- Skilled in adopting emerging data technologies to enhance current and future capabilities. (Application/Interview)
- Strong understanding of ITSM, ITIL, and data governance frameworks. (Application/Interview)
- Ability to align data architecture with organisational strategies, ensuring scalable and secure systems. (Application/Interview)
- Experience producing architectural deliverables such as reference models and design standards. (Application/Interview)
- Relevant degree or equivalent experience, plus recognised architecture qualification (e.g., TOGAF, DAMA). (Application)
- Proficiency with architecture tools (e.g., LeanIX, BiZZdesign). (Application/Interview)
- Excellent communication and influencing skills, able to lead workshops and discussions. (Application/Interview)
- Strong analytical, planning, and organisational skills, with ability to balance short- and long-term priorities. (Application/Interview)
- Leadership and collaboration skills, fostering knowledge-sharing and professional development. (Application/Interview)
- Ability to manage change programmes, assess training needs, and implement service improvements. (Application/Interview)

**Knowledge, Skills, and Behaviours (Desirable)**

- Experience of working in IT leadership within the UK education sector (Application/Interview).
- Understanding of various system development life cycle methodologies (such as waterfall, agile, and DevOps), including application development, middleware, database management, cloud development, technical or infrastructure architecture (Application/Interview).
- Familiarity with higher education systems (e.g. student records, VLEs, research systems) (Application/Interview).
- Membership of a relevant industry body (e.g. BCS) (Application).