

Learning Systems Developer (Moodle)

Section	IS Business Systems (www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/is/)		
Directorate	Information Services (www.strath.ac.uk/is/)		
Staff Category	Administrative and Professional	Reference No	335234
Reports To	Senior Systems Analyst/Developer	Grade:	7
Salary Range:	£32817 - £40322	Contract Type:	Fixed Term (21 months)
FTE	1 (35 hours/week)	Closing Date	06/12/2020
Holidays	31 days + 11 statutory days	On Site Facilities	Car parking, sports
Pensions	Contributory pension scheme made available to all staff which includes a generous employer contribution.		
Training	Professional Development with Organisational and Staff Development Unit (OSDU) and, when required, external training.		
Family Friendly Benefits	Generous maternity, shared parental, paternity and adoption leave, on-campus nursery, holiday purchase scheme.		
Health and Wellbeing	University Sport centre, access to health and wellbeing events, occupational health, cycle to work scheme.		

Job Advert

****DIRECT APPLICATIONS – NO AGENCIES PLEASE****

An exciting opportunity exists across the Information Services & Education Enhancement sections of the University for a Learning Systems Developer . You will join a core IS team to continue the delivery of a wide ranging programme of teaching and learning enhancements within the Myplace Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), a high performance, high availability Moodle service with over 80 custom plugins developed and maintained in-house, based on the popular open source Moodle platform.

You will have extensive PHP, MySQL and web orientated development skills alongside experience of software design, Linux, git and open source technologies. Experience of learning technologies, particularly Moodle, would be an advantage, however full support and orientation will be provided on the specific technologies the team works with.

You will join a motivated and committed team, receiving on the job training with highly experienced and expert senior developers, with over 15 years of Moodle experience.

You must be highly self-motivated, thrive within an environment where there are evolving working practices and be keen to contribute innovative ideas and solutions. You will work well both as part of a team and on your own initiative and in return you will be given the opportunity to contribute to the University's goal for an outstanding education and student experience.

The successful candidate, must be tax resident in the UK and will have extensive technical knowledge and experience in the majority of the following:

- PHP
- HTML5, CSS3, Javascript
- SQL, Database design and data modelling

Desirable to have but not essential:

- Mobile development
- Web Service API design and implementation
- Open source software development

Applicants selected will be asked to undertake a skill test ahead of interview and prepare a short response on one of the following areas:

- Modern Application Architectures for the web
- Meeting Accessibility requirements
- Data protection considerations for developers

In return, you will receive 'on-the-job' training, a generous holiday package and be eligible to subscribe to a variety of schemes associated with being an employee of the University including: generous employer contributions to your pension; a world-class Sport Centre; family friendly policies; and various additional incentives including a Cycle Scheme. The University also has on-site childcare and parking for which you can apply.

Job Description

Brief Outline of Job:

You will work alongside two senior developers, who are responsible for overall design and delivery of the Institution's VLE, Myplace, to around 3,000 staff and over 20,000 students, as well as the support, maintenance and integration of associated teaching & learning systems, at a time where the institution is transitioning to a predominantly online/blended approach in response to COVID-19.

You will play a lead role working across the full suite of components that support a complex teaching & learning environment, providing the hard-technical skills and support required for the team's on-going Myplace development projects and a wider associated programme of work, working with internal systems and external platforms, such as Zoom and MS Teams.

You will be responsible for full-stack, full-systems life-cycle of development, testing, deployment and administration for complicated software solutions within a complex environment. Delivery of solutions in this environment will require you to be able to liaise effectively with the wide range of technical teams that support the delivery of Myplace, including server infrastructure, Integration Hub API service, mobile app and student records, as well as the University's IT Help Desk.

Duties will include providing technical end-user support and resolution as required by Myplace Support, providing in-depth technical knowledge and developing solutions to helpdesk cases affecting the VLE service

You will be instrumental in ensuring the stability and performance of the platform and the response to any critical service issues that may arise and supporting incident management teams to resolve any issues.

You will enjoy working with clients to explore their requirements and to inform the design of an appropriate solution and be a core contributor to our User Group. You must have excellent customer relations skills, be able to work collaboratively, have a clear ability to justify your design approach, develop appropriate designs within the limitations of the brief and to produce high quality code. In addition to these pre-requisites you should also demonstrate a knowledge of various user testing approaches, including Unit and Behavioural testing techniques as well as continuous integration processes and dev ops practices.

If you have existing commits in the Moodle codebase, or in open source Moodle plugins, please include links to these in your application. Otherwise, links to any PHP source code you have written (e.g. on Github) would be helpful for your application

Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1.	Design, develop and implement complex software products to support teaching & learning, using: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moodle APIs• PHP / MySQL• HTML / Javascript (including toolsets such as Ionic, AMD, jQuery, YUI) / CSS / JSON• Web Services
2.	Administration, support and development of the Myplace virtual learning environment and all associated teaching & learning systems, which is a critical IT component of the University's learning & teaching infrastructure. This will include integrating other teaching, learning & administrative systems as required, for example Zoom, MS Teams, timetabling systems, video platforms.
3.	Work with Senior Developers to understand business needs and to deliver appropriate solutions to support teaching and learning activities

4.	Provide expert and timely technical advice, guidance and support, including investigating critical incidents and providing support to senior colleagues and incident management teams.
5.	Conforming to the appropriate coding and development and ITIL standards. This includes but is not limited to: issue tracking systems (Currently JIRA), source code control systems (git, subversion), software release procedures (release engineering, continuous integration), Helpdesk systems (Currently LANDesk). Leading the production of robust systems documentation (technical specifications, unit testing, system testing) in addition to development and delivery of training to other team members and external teams for products delivered.
6.	Ensure the quality and consistency of content and design comply with technical specifications, institutional guidelines, legal compliance and established best practice, ensuring quality, security, navigational ease, consistency, and information architecture for the service.
7.	Work collaboratively with stakeholders across a wide range of disciplines and experience to research and understand required functionality and features.
8.	To undertake duties in line with departmental safety, health and wellbeing arrangements and to attend appropriate safety, health and wellbeing training associated with your respective area of work activity
9.	Undertake other duties and responsibilities commensurate with the post and grade, or as directed by the line manager.

Person Specification

Educational and/or Professional Qualifications

(E=Essential, i.e. a candidate must meet all essential criteria to be considered for selection, D=Desirable)

E1 Qualified to degree level or equivalent (e.g. significant relevant work experience)

D1 Qualified in a relevant discipline (e.g. computer science, information technology, software engineering)

Experience

E2 Significant experience in building modern web applications using typical open source development stacks

E3 Experience developing in HTML 5, CSS, and Javascript

E4 Experience of gathering requirements for design briefs and working with clients

D2 Experience of development for the Moodle platform

Job Related Skills and Achievements

E5 Understanding of web standards and requirements, e.g. modern application architectures, accessibility requirements

E6 Thorough understanding of modern programming practices, including responsive design, single-page web-applications, progressive web applications

D3 Demonstratable experience in UX design, UI design

D4 Knowledge of / experience in working in an agile development environment and relevant techniques, approaches and processes (e.g. Scrum, Kanban, User Stories, Backlogs, Estimation)

D5 Experience using git, subversion or other revision control system

D6 Experience using JIRA or other issue tracking system

D7 Contributions to Moodle core codebase

D8 Awareness of legal obligations relevant to application design, e.g. data protection principles, accessibility, cybersecurity and discrimination.

Personal Attributes

E7 Customer-focused communications skills; oral and written

E8 Ability to work as part of a team and independently

E9 Ability to work under pressure and complete work within tight deadlines

E10 Ability to think creatively and develop innovative solutions

E11 Excellent attention to detail and ability to organise data

Application Procedure

Applicants are required to complete an application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted before interview without further permission, unless you indicate that you would prefer otherwise. Applicants should also submit a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter detailing the knowledge, skills and experience you think make you the right candidate for the job. Applicants should also complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

Other Information

Further information on the application process and working at Strathclyde can be found on our website (<http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr/workforus>).

Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Michael Aherne, Senior Systems Analyst/Developer (michael.aherne@strath.ac.uk).

Conditions of Employment

Conditions of employment relating to the Administrative and Professional staff category can be found at: [Conditions of Employment](#).

Rewards and Benefits

Our staff have access to a wide range of outstanding benefits that include financial rewards, family friendly and wellbeing benefits and career development opportunities, details of which can be found [here](#).

Probation

Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 9 month probationary period.

Pension

The successful applicant will be eligible to join the Universities' Superannuation Scheme. Further information regarding this scheme is available from [Payroll and Pensions](#).

Relocation

Where applicable, the University offers a relocation package to support new employees who meet the eligibility criteria. The relocation package is offered as a contribution towards costs incurred, and is designed to be flexible, allowing staff to use the financial support available in the way that will be most helpful to them. Further details are outlined in the Relocation Policy.

Interviews

Formal interviews for this post will be held on 08/01/2021. Candidates shortlisting for interview will be required to undertake a scenario based skills test.

Equality and Diversity

We value diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

The University currently holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award, recognising our commitment to advancing women's careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) employment in academia.

University Values

The University's Values capture what we're all about: who we are, what we believe in and what we stand for. [Our Values](#) have been derived from how we act and how we expect to be treated as part of Strathclyde.

