Lead Data Scientist
Cheltenham, United Kingdom

We have a number of opportunities to suit data scientists with a track record of achievement looking to step up to a more challenging role, and also for senior data science professionals who know how to make a landmark contribution in one of the highest potential data science settings in the UK.

Salary: £36,000 – £60,000 depending on experience

Location: Cheltenham

Closing date: 23rd April 2016

Full-time

Department: Analysis and Research

About us
We’re the organisation responsible for managing over three million applications to higher education courses in the UK, for some 700,000 prospective students across the UK and beyond every year. We are a firmly established group of professionals from diverse backgrounds who believe in going that extra mile to help learners achieve their goals and higher education providers attract and recruit the students they want. We also run several specialist services, including research, consultancy, and advisory work for schools, colleges, careers services, professional bodies and commercial businesses.

About the role
As the charity that runs the world’s largest centralised HE admissions service, helping over half a million people find a place at universities and colleges each year, we are a unique part of the UK’s national data infrastructure.

Universities and colleges admissions are undergoing rapid change, and using data to better understand and connect people to education is becoming central to what we do.

The centralised admission system lets us create more and more data each year about how applicants interact with our services. We can now digitally inform and guide applicants individually and we have real-time data links to universities and colleges. Over the past five years we’ve built on these innate strengths by creating a highly regarded data science function with a dual role: an expert public voice on university admissions, and an innovator in digital data services for universities and other organisations.

We’re now looking for talented people for a range of Lead Data Scientist roles across these two areas. In these influential roles you will take responsibility for key projects, typically by leading and developing your dedicated team of data scientists. You will be a creative and technically capable expert who deeply understands how to create value from all types of data. The focus on results and
methodological diversity of data science will seem natural to you. Strong outcomes are a given, but you will have the autonomy and scope to realise these in a way that develops your own distinctive professional approach. You will be joining a strong senior professional team and will lead highly capable data scientists, many of whom are graduates from our own data science internship programme, which trains a dozen data scientists each year.

We’ve got a range of Lead Data Scientist roles across our product and services, data and research sections. Each role has its own distinctive area, for example:

- leading on defining and creating new data from our increasing wide admissions services to support our work now and in the future
- using our latest research work to show the way with prototypes of new services that solve customer problems
- turning a set of prototypes into a fully operational new data service that helps universities and others take better data-led operational decisions
- combining system data and survey data to build predictive segmentations of our customers to better support them in getting into university

**Package**

£36,000 – £60,000 (depending on experience) with a minimum of 25 days annual leave, voluntary flexible benefits, paid volunteering days, and a contributory stakeholder pension. It’s not just about the financial benefits that UCAS offers – on-site you can also benefit from our restaurant, affordable gym membership, free parking, unlimited tea and coffee and many other perks. You’ll enjoy an exciting, agile working environment, with a vibrant culture and flexible approach to work, all of which reflects our teamwork and innovative spirit.

**How to apply**

Please send your CV, along with a cover letter outlining why you consider yourself to be suitable for the role, to the Recruitment Team at careers@ucas.ac.uk A member of the team will respond to your interest within two working days.

All information you send to us will be kept in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. UCAS is committed to equality and values diversity in our workforce. We welcome and encourage applications from all candidates in line with the Equality Act 2010.

We reserve the right to close this job vacancy prior to the advertised closing date, if we feel we have found a suitable candidate.