Data Scientist

Sheffield, UK


The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) plays a meaningful role in delivering the Department for Education’s (DfE) key objective of striving for world-class education, training, care for everyone whatever your background.

The Data Science division of the ESFA focus on collecting data from users and using this for a variety of purposes, including disseminating analysis of that data both internally and externally.

We are a fast-paced Data Service providing data services including capture, governance, visualisation and analytics. Supporting funding, payments, performance monitoring and policy development. Building online data collecting web pages to meet business needs, developing complex validation rules or funding calculations, developing business requirements and using an array of digital tools to progress project delivery. As an organisation, we are committed to developing our people and the next generation of data and technology leaders.

Main responsibilities of the role:

- Owning specific ‘projects’ (e.g. experiments or new capability) that support policy development and operational delivery across the DfE which includes identifying specific business needs and then determining the best tools, data and techniques to address it
- Engaging and providing advice to users and stakeholders going beyond routine questioning to elicit the underlying causes of problems or inefficiencies
- Developing rapid prototypes of creative solutions that test hypotheses with end users
- Disseminating and communicating key findings to a range of stakeholders in a powerful manner exploiting interactive visualisation techniques
- Actively participating in the wider capability development of Data Science in DfE through aspects such as code sharing or ‘show and tells’ (via collaboration tools or presentations)
- Keeping abreast of the wider Data Science landscape and emerging technologies across Government and industry in order to help make DfE a leader in the field
- Executing the strategy for Data Science and helping realise the Department’s goals
• Working well with a variety of individuals to build community, capability and credibility

Essential Skills

• Academic background in Maths, Statistics, Computer Science or similar experience and aptitude.
• Practical experience delivering innovative, data driven solutions and building models on large or complex data sets including gathering disparate data, extensive data manipulation, and application of analytical techniques and visualisation of the results.
• Must have R, Python and/or Spark (or similar query-based or high level programming experience) to an intermediate level.
• Good written and verbal communication skills with the ability to present complex ideas simply to technical and non-technical audiences.

Essential skills from the Digital, Data and Technology profession that relevant for this role are

Practitioner level skills for:

• Applied maths, statistics, and scientific practices
• Data science innovation
• Developing data science capability
• Programming and build (data science)
• Understanding analysis across the life cycle (data science)

More details can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/... Skills

• Experience of using analytics for risk scoring, recommender solutions or other machine learning applications.
• Experience of creating automated reporting solutions or bespoke data visualisations with embedded analytics including UI design best practices.
• Good understanding of data handling, security and privacy best practices.
• Strong stakeholder management skills and experience, working with suppliers and stakeholders across all grades and working with internal/external stakeholders to deliver results.
• Experience of defining and/ or maintaining best practices or reusable capabilities.
• Comfortable with Agile methodology and ability to manage teams

No professional qualifications are essential but,

• A degree in a numeric subject is desirable
• Membership of the Government Statistical Society (GSS) or the Government Operational Research Society is desirable.

**Behaviours**

We'll assess you against these behaviours during the selection process:

• Changing and Improving
• Delivering at Pace
• Managing a Quality Service

**Benefits**

**Pensions**

Civil Service pension schemes may be available for successful candidates.

**Closing date: 15 May 2019**