

Research Technologies Service

Job Description and Further Details

<i>Title:</i>	Senior Systems Developer (VRE) – Research Technologies Service
<i>Grade:</i>	RS2
<i>Salary:</i>	
<i>Location:</i>	OUCS, 13 Banbury Road, Oxford
<i>Post No:</i>	
<i>Occupant:</i>	
<i>Reports to:</i>	RTS Co-ordinator [IB VRE within OeSC; Sakai VRE within Middleware group]
<i>Other entitlements:</i>	38 days' annual leave including public holidays and Christmas closure Membership of the University's Pension Scheme

Introduction

OUCS offers facilities, training and advice to members of the University in all aspects of academic computing. The focus is on supporting client computing throughout the University, as well as the basic network infrastructure and various central servers. The offices are situated in a number of converted Victorian houses together with modern air-conditioned rooms for the major computers and most user facilities, including purpose-built lecture rooms. There are currently around 120 members of staff. More about OUCS can be found online at <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/>

Research Technologies Service

The Research Technologies Service, based within Oxford University Computing Services, brings together a number of local, national, and international initiatives focusing on the support of research and utilizing leading-edge technologies. These include the Oxford e-Science Centre; Humbul Humanities Hub; the Oxford Text Archive; the Open Source Software advisory service (OSS Watch); the Digital Certificate Operation in a Complex Environment project (DCOCE); the Shibboleth-aware Portals and Information Environments (SPIE) Project; and the Evaluating Shibboleth for PKI Grids (ESP-Grid) Project. The RTS is a partner in two further JISC-funded projects relating to the development virtual research environments (VRE) – the Integrative Biology VRE project and the Sakai VRE Portal Demonstrator project. Further information about the activities and strategy of the RTS is available at <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/rts/>.

Senior Systems Developer

The post holder will be responsible for the management, development and implementation of technical services within specified services and initiatives hosted within the Research Technologies Service, initially relating to the JISC-funded Integrative Biology and SAKAI VRE Portal Demonstrator projects. Both projects are piloting and evaluating the development of virtual research environment frameworks and tools, in particular the Open Grid Computing Environment (OGCE) and the Sakai open source collaboration and learning environment software. The postholder will also be expected to collaborate with other RTS staff to benefit from the knowledge and outputs from other relevant RTS activities (e.g. access management, portal, grid computing and resource discovery technologies) and to participate in VRE activities within Oxford and elsewhere.

Duties and responsibilities

- Leading the implementation, configuration and maintenance of appropriate portal/VRE framework(s); [30%]
- Developing or customising tools for integration with relevant frameworks (e.g. for access/resource manager; and resource discovery); [30%]
- Managing, or assisting in the management of, dedicated systems for relevant projects; [10%]

- Participating in literature review, evaluation activities, and report writing in close collaboration with other members of the project team; [10%]
- Liaising with other members of the RTS, partners, data-providers and others to ensure delivery of functional requirements and maximum interoperability; [5%]
- Disseminating results from the projects at appropriate events and within suitable publications, and participating in project/programme meetings as necessary; [5%]
- Taking advantage of appropriate training opportunities as these arise, in order to keep up to date with relevant skills and developments; [5%]
- Undertaking other appropriate tasks as may be assigned from time to time.[5%]

Selection Criteria

Candidates will be judged on the basis of the following criteria and their application should address **each point** to show how their experience and skills meet the criteria. Examples of relevant experience and skills may have been gained through paid employment, voluntary/community work, domestic responsibilities, spare time activities or training.

The following criteria are considered *essential* to the post:

- Several years' relevant experience since graduation, including experience of managing a technical development project;
- Postgraduate degree in computer science or a related discipline, or equivalent experience with online systems;
- Demonstrable experience of developing applications for online information systems, including portals, within a Java development environment and a familiarity with standards and protocols such as XML, SOAP, WSRP and JSR 168.
- Deep understanding of emerging open standards and technologies for access management and/or resource discovery systems, e.g. Shibboleth; X.509 PKI; SRW/Z39.50;
- Demonstrable experience of organising a busy and varied workload requiring self motivation and excellent time management skills;
- Ability to negotiate and communicate effectively with technical developers, stakeholders and members of the academic community.

The following criteria are considered to be *desirable* though not essential:

- Familiarity with computation grids and the Globus Toolkit;
- Experience of Linux server administration within a project environment;
- An understanding of the research community's requirements make more effective use of digital technologies to support all aspects of the research process;
- Proven ability to analyse, and to produce reports and evaluations at a high standard or experience of contributing to high quality project reports;
- Willingness to work as part of a team and the flexibility to respond to the needs of the RTS within a changing environment.

Candidates should have a genuine enthusiasm for developing online services for the academic community, and want to join a friendly multidisciplinary team. The post will be of interest to candidates wishing to take a leading role in the investigation and development of technical infrastructure with the potential to support key aspects of the research lifecycle within a world class research-led university.

Oct/04

*Please send completed application form to the Personnel Officer, OUCS, 13 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6NN
(tel: 01865 273200, fax: 01865 273275)*

Completed applications must be received by 4.00 pm on
Interviews will be held

Applicants should note that OUCS will only reimburse full travelling expenses within the British Isles for those candidates selected for interview. Any offer of employment will be subject to the satisfactory completion of a medical questionnaire.