University of Edinburgh

Job Description: EPCC Applications Consultant

1 Job Details

Job title: Applications Consultant
School: School of Physics
Unit: EPCC
Line manager: Principal Consultant, Project Manager, Group Manager

2 Job Purpose

To provide scientific, technical and/or programming consultancy, support and training for academic and industrial clients of EPCC (and the University).

3 Main Responsibilities

1. Provide applications consultancy on academic and industrial projects using novel computing techniques - to ensure that key project deliverables are met. 30
2. Employ programming and software engineering techniques on scientific and technical problems to ensure that project requirements are met and deliverables produced on time and within budget. 50
3. Communicate effectively with external contacts and collaborators to disseminate project results and so contribute to the success of EPCC and its various projects. 10
4. Produce technical reports, WWW-based information and training material to enhance the reputation of EPCC and the University. 10

4 Planning and Organising

- Organising personal workload on a weekly basis without significant supervision.
- Respond effectively to queries and problems from external contacts and managers.
- Contribute to the planning of personal workload over 1-2 months, in conjunction with manager.

5 Problem Solving

- Solve technical implementation problems encountered associated with novel projects using leading edge technology.
- Solve technical queries from external clients and users promptly.
- Exercise initiative when providing consultancy to external clients and users.

6 Decision Making

- Take responsibility for making decisions on personal time management and on how to organise personal workload on a weekly basis.
- In collaboration with others, share responsibility for making decisions on how best to achieve specific project deliverables.
• Take direction from their project manager over the longer-term nature and scope of their work.
• Be self-motivated and able to work without significant supervision.

7 Key Contacts/Relationships
• Advise staff and students from across the University on novel technical solutions to computing problems.
• Consult with external clients on novel solutions to problems in technical computing.

8 Knowledge, Skills and Experience Needed for the Job
• Should be able to demonstrate technical or scientific programming skills in at least one of the following languages: C, Fortran, Java or C++.
• Should have a good degree in a relevant discipline.
• Should have experience of research projects and technical development.
• Experience of research and development in an industrial context is beneficial.
• Ability to communicate effectively with clients is vital, as are strong client facing skills.
• Ability to work productively as part of a team.

9 Dimensions
• Communicate effectively with external clients on a project (usually 2-3 people).
• Teach and assess students on postgraduate (MSc) and/or undergraduate programmes (approx 25 students).
• Produce 1-2 major technical documents per annum and interact with a wide range of external technical contacts, possibly through conference presentations, workshop participation or collaborative project meetings.
• Interact with project manager and the project team (approx 2-8 staff).
• Accumulate increasing skills and responsibilities in preparation for career progression. This may include: line management of developers; technical leadership on a project; or managerial responsibility for a project of around £50K per annum.

10 Job Context and any other relevant information
• EPCC operates in a very fast-moving, highly technological field.
• Most of the centre’s funding is self-generated and so projects must operate successfully within tight financial constraints.