

User Experience/User Interface Designer – KTP Associate

Job Ref: REQ16643

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

School/Department summary

This KTP is between Loughborough University and SE Controls, and we seek an Associate for a 2 year post as a User Experience/User Interface Designer. Extensive personal development training and a generous training budget is available to enhance the career profile of the successful candidate.

The KTP Associate will be employed by Loughborough University but be based at the Company premises in Fradley near Lichfield.

A KTP (Knowledge Transfer Partnership) is a collaboration between a university and a company, jointly funded by the Company and Innovate UK. KTPs aim to help businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills that reside within the UK Knowledge Base. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships also aim to develop the business leaders of the future.

Company Partner: SE Controls

SE Controls is a progressive and fast growing market leader specialising in smoke and natural ventilation systems, providing adaptive and tailored ventilation strategies for all types of new and refurbished buildings.

Knowledge Base Partner: Loughborough University

The Associate will be jointly supported by experts from the Design School and the School of Civil and Building Engineering at Loughborough University. These two schools regularly work together on building energy projects, exploring, for example, heating control design, use of energy within the home, uptake of energy efficiency measures etc. A particular interest is in cross-disciplinary working, bringing together both technical and occupant understanding to create solutions that meet all needs. Both schools undertake world-class research in this area, supporting excellent teaching and enterprise activities. Our websites provide further information about our activities: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/design-school/> and <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/civil-building/>.

Project Outline

Buildings have increasingly sophisticated management systems to provide the optimum environment for their occupants. However, these tend to focus on the technical performance of the system rather than the user interaction. This project seeks to develop an enhanced user experience in smart buildings through the understanding of user behaviour and the development and prototyping of an innovative user interface. The project aims to provide a better understanding of how occupants want to interact with buildings to improve their comfort, in order to develop and implement an intuitive and interactive device providing feedback on occupant comfort and building energy.

This is an excellent opportunity for a candidate with a background in design, human factors, systems engineering or related subject. The successful candidate will be employed as a KTP Associate by Loughborough University and will be based at SE Controls, Fradley near Lichfield. As part of the KTP role, a structured training and business development programme will be provided, together with support from both Loughborough University and SE Controls, which will enable the successful candidate to develop skills and expertise that are sought after within industry leadership.

The work will involve regular travel between the company and Loughborough University (45 minutes by car or 2

hours by public transport). The successful applicant will also need to travel to collect data as part of the project and to management training/courses as required.

Job Description

Job Purpose

The KTP Associate will:

- Review the latest best practice, industry knowledge base and currently available research into smart buildings and user control
- Conduct a stakeholder analysis for specific building types
- Identify user requirements regarding environmental conditions and desired control interaction
- Analyse relevant existing legislation and building regulations and define the operating parameters of the control system
- Create personas to represent the likely user types
- Develop a user requirements specification
- Design and evaluate low and high fidelity prototype interfaces
- Prepare written reports as per the project plan
- Work closely as part of a team within SE Controls, supported by Loughborough University

Challenges:

- To be immersed fully in a commercial R&D environment and support the company in meeting their technical development challenges
- To gain an understanding of quality assurance and the importance of end user requirements
- To combine technical and human factors expertise in a commercial project
- To be motivated, organised and self-reliant, but able to operate in and manage a team

Opportunities:

- To work with and learn from an academic team with many years' experience in the field and contribute directly to commercial research and development
- To apply research and academic expertise in a real-time commercial context
- To enhance their professional development and develop skills in project management.
- To become an expert in a very specialised field of engineering/design

Job Duties

- Carry out the KTP project tasks and deliver the outcomes as outlined in the project plan.
- Manage the project and disseminate the findings to the project team.
- Undertake KTP management training, as well as other courses as deemed necessary.
- Write R&D reports, and present these at the Local Management Committee (LMC) meetings, as well as at national conferences and symposia with other members of the project team.
- Prepare research papers for publication in highly acclaimed learned journals, in line with the expected scholarly activities of the University Research Staff, but in accordance to the commercial sensitivity of collaborating companies.
- Travel to Company clientele and to various other locations within the UK, and possibly overseas, as required.
- To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Points To Note

The purpose of this job description is to indicate the general level of duties and responsibility of the post. The detailed duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character or level of responsibility entailed.

Special Conditions

All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy & Procedures.

All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equality & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Respecting Diversity and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility

Reports to the JOB TITLE.

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed with respect to meeting the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Your application will be reviewed against the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly state and evidence how they meet each of the essential (and desirable) criteria in their application. Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Application
- 2 – Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
- 3 – Interview

Essential Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of one or more of the following: -Ergonomics -Human Factors -User Interface Design -Qualitative data gathering	1, 3
Skills and abilities	User centred thinking	1, 3
	Excellent written communication skills, ability to produce professional standard reports	1, 3
	Excellent personal, interpersonal and presentational skills	1, 3
	Excellent research skills and ability to handle qualitative data	1, 3
	Excellent time management skills	1, 3
	Ability to be flexible and adapt to changes in the work programme	1, 3
	Ability to organise meetings and liaise with multiple stakeholders	1, 3
	Excellent computer skills including Word processing, spreadsheets, databases and presentation software	1, 3
Qualifications	BSc/BA/BEng degree (2.1 or equivalent) in Ergonomics, Human Factors, Design, Systems Engineering or closely related subject	1
	Good GCSE or equivalent in English, maths and science	1
Other	To observe the University Equal Opportunities policies at all times	1, 3
	Flexibility in working conditions and hours	1, 3
	Committed to learning aspects of building physics to support the role	1, 3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of iterative design of a user interface	1, 3
	Experience of team and project working in a multi-disciplinary environment	1, 3
	Experience of carrying out stakeholder identification and developing a user requirements specification	1, 3
Skills and abilities	Use of prototyping software such as Axure RP	1, 3
Qualifications	Masters degree in Ergonomics, Human Factors, Design, Systems Engineering or closely related subject	1

	A degree which included modules on user interface design / user experience design as well as user research methods	1
	Good A-levels or equivalent in maths and/or science subjects	1

Conditions of Service

The position is FULL TIME and FIXED TERM for 24 months'. Salary will £22,000 - £26,000 per annum, at a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment. **The successful candidate will be based at S E Controls in Fradley, near Lichfield.**

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Academic and Related staff/Operational and Administrative staff, details of which can be found [here](#).

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which are available at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/family-leave-policy-and-procedure---page.html>.

We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/childcare-information---page.html>)

In addition, the University is supportive, wherever possible, of flexible working arrangements. We also strive to create a culture that supports equality and celebrates diversity throughout the campus. The University holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their academic career. For further information on Athena SWAN see <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/>

Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries should be made to Prof Malcolm Cook by email at Malcolm.Cook@lboro.ac.uk or by telephone on +44 (0)1509 222816 or Dr Victoria Haines by email at V.J.Haines@lboro.ac.uk or by telephone on +44 (0)1509 226915.

Applications

The closing date for receipt of applications is **17 October 2016**.