

An exciting opportunity for a Scientific Software Developer

Lhasa Limited is a successful not-for-profit company and educational charity, with an enviable reputation for collaborative scientific development. Our world-leading software and database systems are used globally in the pharmaceutical, cosmetics, chemical, agrochemical and other sectors for the prediction of toxicity, metabolism and degradation. Our continued success means that we now are seeking additional people to work with us in our prestigious head office in the heart of Leeds.

Scientific Software Developer

Full-Time, Permanent

Circa £42,000+ 34 Days Holiday + Generous Pension

What is the role?

There is an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated person with a passion for technological innovation to join our science team in Leeds on a full-time basis. You will be developing and implementing cheminformatics and machine learning methodologies for life science applications, making use of your excellent knowledge of Java programming.

Who are we looking for

Applicants will be ideally educated to postgraduate level or have equivalent experience in computer science, software engineering, cheminformatics or machine learning. The science team is highly collaborative, so there is a strong expectation that you will be working as part of a multi-skilled team to achieve common, often challenging goals. Utilising technologies such as Java, JavaFX, eclipse / IntelliJ, and build tools such as gradle or maven, you will have the desire to build a career in software development for use within life science research. Knowledge of toxicology, metabolism or the use of in silico methodologies would be advantageous.

What do we offer?

Based in our modern office environment and working collegiately alongside exceptionally talented developers and scientists, the role provides the opportunity to help bring to market safe, life-enhancing products, and to make a positive contribution to a reduction in animal testing.

Our charitable status enables us to make altruistic decisions for the public benefit and to work with some of the world leading companies and to make a significant contribution to scientific development.

Lhasa's collaborative approach is widely trusted by our members and ensures that we are able to access confidential information that improves our software and that helps our people to gain the job satisfaction that arises from working on something that has tangible public benefit.

We offer a competitive salary and are rightfully proud of our generous benefits package. This includes a generous pension scheme, 34 days (pro-rata) personal holiday allowance (plus statutory holidays), flexible working hours and a broad range of family friendly and wellbeing focused benefits.



shared knowledge • shared progress

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Scientific Software Developer Job Description

Grade 7

Summary of the Role

This is a permanent software developer post in the Molecular Informatics Team to support the development of life science applications, model building and knowledge discovery. This role is focused on the development and implementation of cheminformatics and machine learning methodologies; it assumes an excellent knowledge of Java programming and a strong affinity for life sciences in general.

Main Responsibilities

- Design, implement and maintain cheminformatics software tools and applications that support model building and knowledge discovery in the domain of life science.
- Design and implement innovative algorithms and methods to address challenges faced during the conception of new solutions for our members.
- Help to write and maintain suitable tests
- Maintain a high standard of code and documentation.
- Liaise with the scientists to understand their needs and collect new requirements for the cheminformatics platform.
- Assist other members of the research group with the construction of innovative tools to facilitate the realisation of scientific solutions.
- Work collaboratively with others to produce proof of concept software (for internal use) and prototypes (for external use);
- Where required, demonstrate software to user representatives and other project stakeholders.

Communication

- Routinely present knowledge and progress internally. Present externally, for example on member sites, at conferences, or through webinars. Lhasa supports and encourages the external publication of work in scientific journals and at conferences;
- Provide technical and scientific advice and support to other Lhasa employees;
- Work closely with other groups within Lhasa to support the development of *in silico* predictive systems.

Other

- Undertake additional tasks and responsibilities which may be reasonably expected of the role as necessary to achieve the objectives of the Research Group and company goals.

Policies and procedures

- To comply with all relevant company policies and procedures.
- To complete all documents and records as required by the company policies and procedures.

Scientific Software Developer Candidate Profile

Grade 7

Education and Qualifications

- Degree level or equivalent in computer science, software engineering, cheminformatics or machine learning. Essential
- Postgraduate level or equivalent experience Essential

Skills and Knowledge

- Design and implementation of desktop applications Essential
- Database design and implementation Essential
- Design and implementation of user interfaces Essential
- Maintenance of a continuous integration system Essential
- Understanding of chemistry Desirable
- Practical knowledge of cheminformatics tools Desirable
- Understanding of Machine Learning techniques Desirable

Abilities

- Work in team and liaise with colleagues Essential
- Work independently on self-contained projects Essential
- Implementing new algorithms Essential
- Well-developed analytical and problem-solving abilities Essential
- Interview domain experts to collect requirements Desirable
- Able to review and select appropriate frameworks and technologies to solve problems Desirable
- Project leadership Essential
- Management of other employees Desirable

Experience

- Java 7/8 object-oriented programming Essential
- Modern IDE like Eclipse or IntelliJ IDEA, NetBeans Essential
- User interface toolkit like JavaFX, Swing or JFace, ideally JavaFX Essential
- RDBMS like MySQL, PostgreSQL, Derby/JavaDB, H2 or Oracle, ideally Derby/JavaDB or H2 Essential
- Scripting language like Groovy, Python or Javascript, ideally Groovy. Essential
- Data visualisation interfaces Desirable
- Functional programming basics Desirable
- Use of techniques and profiling tools to optimise performance Essential

- Use of continuous integration environments, ideally Jenkins and Gradle. Essential
- Use of code repositories such as SVN, Git, ideally Git Essential
- Contribution to scientific communications in fields relevant to the position Desirable

Personal Characteristics

- Self-motivated and able to work independently Essential
- Good influencing skills Essential
- Time management skills (completion of assigned tasks to deadline) Essential
- Written communication skills (clear, concise and accurate written summary of scientific information and work progress) Essential
- Organisational skills (planning of numerous and varied assigned tasks) Essential
- Supportive Essential
- Passionate Essential
- Professional Essential
- Accountable Essential