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Job description and person specification

Infrastructure Platforms Engineer – Kubernetes

Job description

Job title	Infrastructure Platforms Engineer - KubernetesInfrastructure Platforms Engineer – Kubernetes
College/Exec Group	Digital and Technology
Department/Team	Technical Services
Accountable to	Senior Manager Infrastructure Platforms
Contract	Permanent
Term	35 hours per week, 52 weeks per year
Grade	Grade 5
Salary	£44,375 - £57,344 (plus MS) per annum
Location	Hybrid – UAL High Holborn/Home
Job family	Professional & Administrative
HERA reference	001928

Purpose of the role

As an Infrastructure Platforms Engineer, you'll be at the heart of our cloud-native journey. You'll design, build, and manage highly available, scalable, and secure container platforms that empower our developers and deliver value to our customers within the University.

Participate in internal and external networks to ensure the successful integration and delivery of IT services across the University. Maintain an awareness of developing applications and technologies, evaluating the impact on existing systems architecture, and the development of areas of specialisation.

Key duties and responsibilities

- Design, implement, and maintain Kubernetes clusters and container orchestration platforms, preferably SUSE Rancher stack.
- Automate infrastructure provisioning using tools like Ansible, Terraform, Helm.
- Champion infrastructure-as-code and GitOps best practices.
- Monitor, troubleshoot, and optimize container workloads in production.
- Work closely with DevOps, SRE, and application development teams to improve developer experience and system reliability.
- Ensure cloud security, cost-efficiency, and compliance across environments.
- Evaluate and implement new tools and technologies in the cloud-native ecosystem.

Key working relationships

- Information Security team
- Architecture team
- Network team
- Server team
- Application Delivery team
- Other IT Services staff
- Owners, managers, and administrators of business systems

General duties

These duties below are in addition to the duties and responsibilities listed above:

- Perform duties and tasks consistent within the scope and grade of your role as reasonably may be expected and assigned to you from anywhere within the university.
- Undertake health and safety duties and responsibilities appropriate to the role.
- Work in accordance with the University's Staff Charter and Dignity at Work Policy and anti-racism plans, promoting equality diversity and inclusion in your work.
- Undertake continuous personal and professional development, and to support it for any staff you manage through effective use of the University's Planning and Review Conversations (PRC) scheme and staff development opportunities.
- Make full use of all information and communication technologies to meet the requirements of the role and to promote organisational effectiveness.
- Conduct all financial matters associated with the role in accordance with the University's policies and procedures, as laid down in the Financial Regulations.
- Contribute to the University's Climate Action Plan and Social Purpose Strategy which sets out our principles, commitments and goals towards climate justice and our socio-environmental purpose.

Additional duties for senior appointments

- You may be required to work such additional/different hours as may from time to time be necessary for the proper and efficient discharge of duties which may include evenings, Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays.
- You may be required to regularly travel to other sites and internationally as necessary.

Person specification

This section provides a list of up to 10 essential criteria (and up to 2 desirable criteria if specified) that you will need to demonstrate you meet as part of the recruitment process.

Experience, knowledge and qualifications

- Undergraduate degree in an information technology subject area or equivalent knowledge and experience with 5+ years of hands-on experience supporting and managing enterprise Linux/Container platforms with CKA and/or CKS certifications.
- Proven experience with container technologies and orchestration Docker, Kubernetes, and SUSE Rancher stack (RKE2, Rancher management).
- Strong hands-on expertise in AWS, Azure, or GCP, plus VMware, with focus on cloud cost optimization and FinOps.
- Skilled in Terraform, Helm, Ansible, and CI/CD tools such as GitHub Actions, ArgoCD, and Jenkins.
- Proficient with Prometheus, Grafana, Linux administration, networking fundamentals, and policy-as-code.
- Passionate about platform engineering, developer experience, and site reliability.
- Knowledge of running AI workloads on Kubernetes (desirable).
- Experience with service meshes or Kubernetes extensions (desirable).

Communication skills

- Communicates effectively orally, in writing and/or using visual media.

Planning and managing resources

- Plans, prioritises and organises work to achieve objectives on time.

Teamwork

- Works collaboratively in a team and where appropriate across or with different professional groups.

Creativity, innovation and problem-solving

- Uses initiative or creativity to resolve problems.