



OPPORTUNITY

Chief Technical Officer - Beautiful Canoe

Reference: R220487

Salary: Grade 8, £35,333 to £42,155 per annum

Contract Type: Fixed Term (20 Months)

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose:

To provide technical leadership and oversight of all software development projects and systems at Beautiful Canoe, Aston University's software development student enterprise. This will involve ensuring the strategic technical objectives of Beautiful Canoe are effectively operationalised. The post holder will provide technical direction and work in a largely independent manner, organising and prioritising the work of the Technical Team, in order to achieve Beautiful Canoe's objectives.

To assist the Computer Science department in delivering a programme of extra curricula technical skills and employability enhancement to enable Aston students to excel in job applications and technical interviews. Furthermore, to assist in technical-focused academic course delivery where required.

To liaise closely with the CEO, and all relevant academic staff, Digital Services staff and Beautiful Canoe staff, to ensure that technical support and leadership for software development and delivery activities is always provided on time and to a high professional standard.

To provide specialist technical assistance and advice during the development process for all software products and projects and workshops, particularly aspects relating to stack choices, software maintenance and long-term software quality. The post holder is the main Beautiful Canoe contact for technical software issues and maintenance of our deployed systems.

To act as Beautiful Canoe's quality officer, offering expert quality leadership, knowledge and associated skills. The post holder in conjunction with the Enterprise's Executive Team is responsible for ensuring a robust quality control process is in place.

Main duties and responsibilities

General

- ▶ To help develop the long-term sustainability of Beautiful Canoe.
- ▶ Support Aston University's Employability activities for Computer Science students, contributing to the operation of the Computer Science department as required.

Management of Technical Staff within Beautiful Canoe

- ▶ To manage and lead technical staff within Beautiful Canoe and ensure technical teams/personnel are reaching their potential.
- ▶ Conduct PDR appraisals of junior technical staff.
- ▶ Oversee the effective development of junior team members through organised training and in house coaching.
- ▶ To develop and maintain processes to ensure the relevant prioritisation and deployment of software development across Beautiful Canoe's projects to meet the demands of our customers.
- ▶ Manage, supervise, and develop technical development for Beautiful Canoe's projects ensuring high quality software is written and deployed.

Technical Support

- ▶ Provide technical consultancy to Beautiful Canoe staff and clients.
- ▶ To assist and monitor progress of major Beautiful Canoe projects.
- ▶ To ensure completion objectives and technical specifications are met.
- ▶ To manage and support the operational and maintenance challenges within Beautiful Canoe.
- ▶ To develop and manage the process and arrangements for the maintenance and sustainability of the software and technical services required for the delivery of high quality software.
- ▶ Managing and co-coordinating, in conjunction Aston's Digital Services Department, the technical aspects associated with the infrastructure within the School's domain.
- ▶ To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Additional responsibilities

- ▶ Engage in continuous personal and professional development in line with the demands of the role, including undertaking relevant training and development activities to develop themselves and support the development of others.
- ▶ Ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- ▶ Carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.
- ▶ Promote equality of opportunity and support diversity and inclusion as well as working to support the University's environmental sustainability agenda and practices.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	BSc in Computer Science (or equivalent).	Application form
Experience	<p>Experience of leading a software team.</p> <p>Significant experience as a full-stack web developer working with both modern front-end build tools (e.g., Bower, Gulp) and modern backend frameworks based on the Model-View Controller architecture (e.g. Django, Rails, or Laravel).</p> <p>General knowledge of HTML, CSS, JavaScript is required.</p> <p>Experience with object-relational mapping and database versioning approaches is required, as well as experience with the design and management of automated test suites at multiple levels of abstraction inside and outside the web browser.</p> <p>Experience of following recognised best practices in secure web application development.</p> <p>Confident administration of distributed version control system servers, with the ability to set up, maintain and support the users of a Git server.</p> <p>Experience in the administration and maintenance of continuous delivery approaches (e.g., through Travis, GitLab, Jenkins, or Hudson among others).</p> <p>Knowledge about continuous evaluation approaches (e.g. Sonar) would be valuable. Some experience of other technologies such as Docker, Kubernetes etc. would be helpful.</p>	Application form and interview

	Essential	Method of assessment
	<p>Experience following recognised agile practices such as sprints, backlogs, periodic retrospectives, user story mapping and story point-based task estimation.</p> <p>Experience training junior staff on technical and professional aspects relevant to their work practice.</p>	
Aptitude and skills	<p>Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.</p> <p>The ability to operate flexibly and react positively to changing circumstances and requirements by demonstrating initiative and flexibility in your approach.</p> <p>Excellent planning and organising skills with the ability to think strategically in order to ensure improvement and development of the technical support services.</p> <p>The ability to work effectively as a committee member and as part of a project team.</p> <p>Leadership skills and ability to use own initiative and make sensible judgements.</p> <p>Strong interpersonal skills related to influencing, persuading and negotiating.</p>	Application form, interview and presentation

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	Professional qualification in area relevant to the job.	Application form
Experience	Experience of working as part of a team on legacy projects.	Application form, interview and presentation

	Desirable	Method of assessment
	<p>Experience of user story mapping and working with non-technical clients or stakeholders.</p> <p>Experience of working with research software, either within industry or academia.</p> <p>Experience in conducting staff appraisals.</p>	

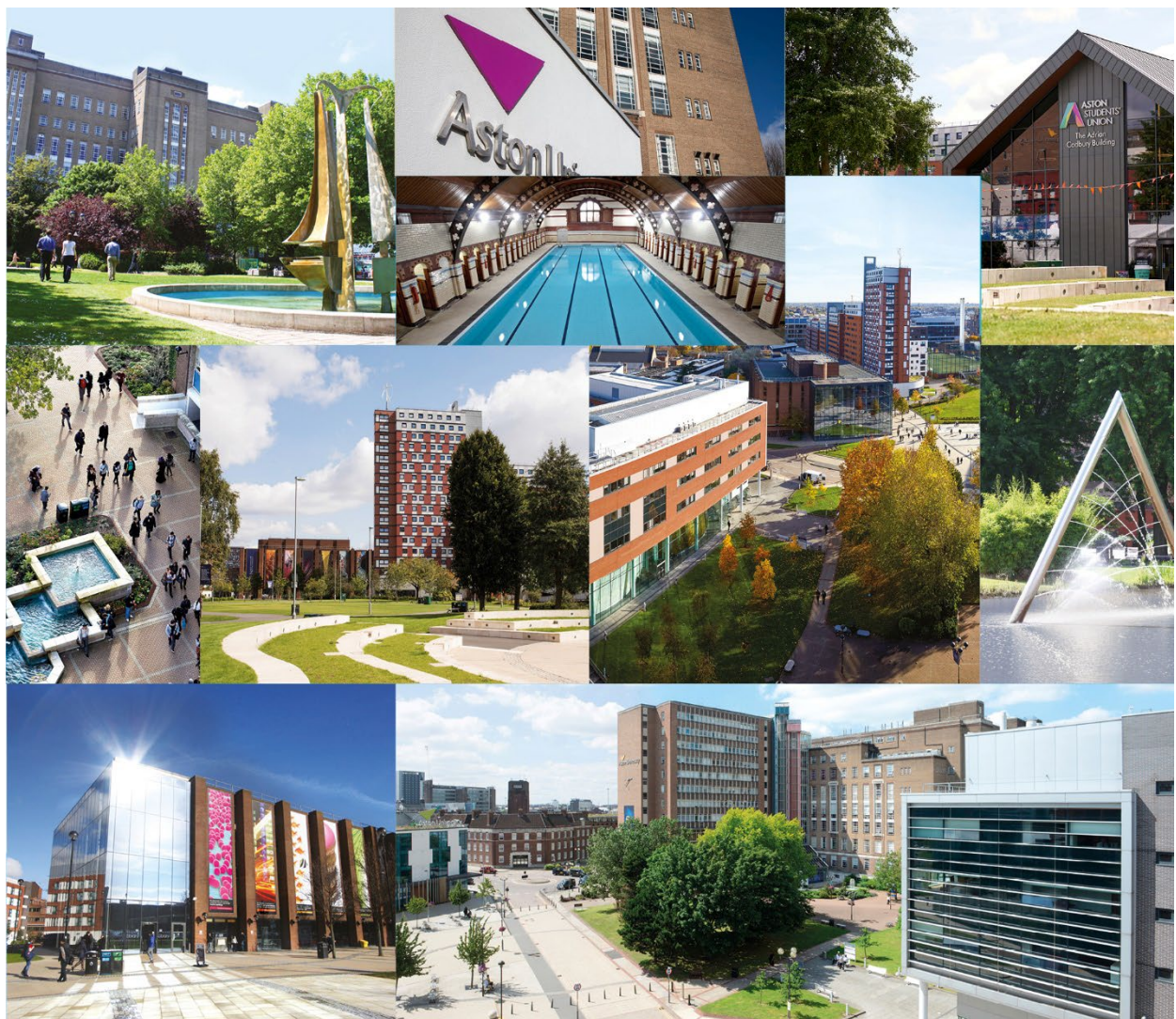
How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs>.

Applications should be submitted by 23:59 on the advertised closing date.
All applicants must complete an application form, along with your CV.

Any CV sent direct to the Recruitment Team and Recruiting Manager will not be accepted.

If you require a manual application form then please contact the Recruitment Team via jobs@aston.ac.uk.



Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Julien Barney

Job Title: Business Manager

Email: j.barney@aston.ac.uk

Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via jobs@aston.ac.uk or 0121 204 4500.

Additional information

Visit our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr> for full details of our salary scales and benefits Aston University staff enjoy

Salary scales: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/payroll-and-pensions/salary-scales/index>

Benefits: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/Benefits-and-Rewards/index>

Working in Birmingham: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/birmingham>

Employment of Ex-Offenders: Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a person with a criminal record is not required to disclose any spent convictions unless the positions they applying for is listed an exception under the act.

Eligibility to work in the UK:

Post-Brexit transition period / EU Settlement Scheme

The post-Brexit transition period ended on 31 December 2020. If you are an EU/EEA citizen and you were a resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, you and your family members (including non-EU citizens need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue to live, work and study in the UK beyond 30 June 2021. The deadline for applying to the EU settlement scheme is 30 June 2021. You can apply via the Government webpage

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Irish Nationals do not need to apply for settlement as they retain the right to work in the UK.

New immigration system for EU/EEA and Swiss Nationals who were not resident in the UK before 31 December 2020

A new immigration system has been introduced for people arriving in the UK from EEA countries with effect from 1 January 2021. In addition to those who have always required a visa, EU citizens moving to the UK to work will need to get a visa in advance. You can find more information on the following website. Candidates should check their eligibility to enter or remain in the UK in advance of making any job application via the UKVI website <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>. Before applying you should ensure that you meet the requirements, including meeting the English Language requirements. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful.

If you require a visa to work in the UK the most common types of visa are:

Skilled Worker Visa

<https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>

Global Talent Visa

If you are a leader or potential leader in one of the following fields you may be eligible to apply for a Global Talent Visa:

- Academia or Research
- Arts and Culture
- Digital Technology

Please click the following link for further information and to check your eligibility for this visa.

<https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

Equal Opportunities: Aston University promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of its work. We aim to ensure, through our admissions policies for students, and our staff recruitment and selection processes that we encourage applications from all groups represented in the wider community at a local, national and international level.

The University will endeavour not to discriminate unfairly or illegally, directly or indirectly, against student or potential students, staff or potential staff. This commitment applies to all functions of the University and to any stage of an individual's career.

An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included within the application form. Data you provide on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be included in a general database, for statistical monitoring purposes, enabling the University to monitor the effectiveness of its Policy, Codes of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.

Data Protection: Your personal data will be processed in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) ("GDPR"). The University's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices, including the Job Applicant Privacy Notice can be found at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/data-protection>. Your application will only be used to inform the selection process, unless you are successful, in which case it will form the basis of your personal record with the University which will be stored in manual and/or electronic files. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.

Full details of our terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available online at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/policies>

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