Solution Architect

- Role title: Solution Architect
- Division: Chief Digital Office, Operations Directorate
- Level: Managerial (Band 3)
- Reporting to: Head of Solution Design and Innovation
- Employment status: permanent, full time
- Location: Working from Coventry office, with travel to other Agency offices and some scope for home working

The SFA funds skills training in England. Our funding helps young people, the unemployed, and people with low skills get the training they need to find work.

Digital transformation
We are completely transforming the way we build our digital services. We're bringing our development in-house, and moving from waterfall to agile, fixed release cycles to continuous delivery.

To succeed, we need Solutions Architects who can ensure that logical architecture, based on user needs, comes before physical architecture.

What could I be working on?
The work we do at the Agency is complex, yet the digital services we offer our users need to be clear, simple and fast. The scale of digital change needed to achieve this is huge.

The systems you'll design will help young people find traineeships, help employers offer apprenticeships, and help people access careers advice.

There are a number of new and upcoming projects you could be working on. For example, you could be:

- working on one of our key projects, which are driving significant cultural and technological change. There is significant opportunity for you to shape new ways of working

- designing a new digital service, utilising new technology and cloud-based solutions

- working with our innovation team to trial new ideas by designing

prototypes and proof of concepts. You'll be working hands-on in an Agile environment, and the focus will be on delivering something tangible quickly.

Who will I be working with?

You'll work with multidisciplinary agile teams to help them deliver their vision, collaborating with service managers, developers, delivery managers, product owners and others.

You'll also work closely with suppliers, government partners and end-users, at all levels of the organisation.

Your ability to communicate with both your technical and non-technical colleagues, and to secure senior stakeholder buy in, will be key.

Key accountabilities

As Solution Architect you'll play a key role in the SFA's digital transformation and be a digital and technical leader within the organisation. You'll:

- drive and shape the delivery of our new digital services, ensuring a cohesive user experience

- work with stakeholders from across the organisation and wider government to understand the requirements, standards and constraints

- provide architectural design solutions and governance across multiple platforms and technologies, including hosted and cloud, traditional applications and web services.

- prepare clear, concise options papers and modelled views in line with industry best practice and standards.

- support agile teams in delivering against the design, and regularly assure the development outcomes on a regular basis

- promote continuous improvement and facilitate its delivery

Essential criteria

- Excellent communication skills, and experience of engaging and

influencing internal and external stakeholders at all levels of an organisation.

- IT specialist with complementary business skills and commercial acumen.

- Strong analytical and technical skills, and experience of experience of designing and implementing digital solutions in a large, complex organisation.

- A sound background in industry standard architecture and design patterns and recognised methodologies.

- A track record of enhancing existing and delivering new solutions that achieve high quality customer service and user experience.

- A proven innovator with a track record of successful implementation, and experience of developing prototypes and proof of concepts

- Understanding of, and experience of applying, cloud-based infrastructure and software solutions

- Experience of:
  - Delivering large, integrated solutions
  - Application Lifecycle Management
  - Major vendor technology stacks
  - Integration patterns
  - Continuous integration
  - Test Driven Development

Desirable

- Knowledge of Agile and/or iterative product development
- Knowledge of industry recognised service management frameworks.