RESOURCING/

JOB DESCRIPTION:

KTP Research Associate - Data Scientist

University of Kent

Portafina

Ref Number:	STM-094-19
Salary Scale:	**£33,000 to £40,000** *per annum* **Please note that this post is subject to funding being approved**
Contract:	**For a fixed term period of 24 months AND Full-time**
School/Department:	**School of Computing**
Location:	**Portafina Investment Management Ltd, Rochester, ME2 4FD**
Responsible to:	**Knowledge Base Team, University of Kent and Company Supervisor, Portafina Limited**
Responsible for:	**Delivery of the Knowledge Transfer Partnership**
Expected start date:	**April 2020**

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) is one of Europe's largest graduate recruitment programmes providing candidates with exciting opportunities to work on key strategic projects. KTP is a leading UK-wide programme that has successfully enabled businesses, for over 40 years, to improve competitiveness and productivity. KTP projects are based on a partnership between a University and a company or organisation with a recently qualified graduate (the Associate) delivering the project with support from the academic team within the University. For this KTP you will be working with the University of Kent experts in the project area.

As the Associate, you will benefit from a generous training and personal development programme including the opportunity to gain a CMI management qualification. You will also be encouraged to attain membership of a professional organisation and funding support, if appropriate, may be available towards study for a higher degree.

More information about KTPs and the many benefits of being a KTP Associate can be found on the KTP website at www.gov.uk/guidance/knowledge-transfer-partnerships-what-they-are-and-how-to-apply

The Role

We are seeking a PhD graduate (or close to completion) who will be responsible for the development and integration of machine learning models into Portafina's workflow and data processing in order to increase efficiency, reduce timescales and enable the rapid scalability of a specialist pension advice firm targeting the "advice gap" mass market.

Portafina are a Top 100 (FTAdviser 2018) independent financial advice firm (IFA), specialising in providing pension advice. Portafina is unusual for an IFA as they deal with mass market clients nationally, over the phone and via correspondence rather than face-to-face. They provide a full regulated advice with no obligation for the client to pay for it – this is one of their USPs.

The successful candidate will have a strong background in data analytics/data mining, will be comfortable accessing and working with data from multiple sources, knowledge and understanding of machine learning frameworks and the ability to work with Portafina to identify strategic opportunities and deliver results. The candidate should have excellent analytical abilities, strong technical skills, as well as superior written and verbal communication skills. We are proactively seeking applications from candidates with diverse backgrounds.

The successful candidate will be based at Portafina's premises in Rochester and will work closely with the support and guidance of an academic team from the School of Computing, University of Kent.

Key Accountabilities / Primary Responsibilities

- Processing, cleansing and verifying the integrity of data used for analysis.
- Designing and implementing supervised/unsupervised data analysis methods.
- Creating a test suite to automate the evaluation of data analysis methods.
- Reporting on each phase of testing to stakeholders and scientific communities.
- Writing of scientific papers associated with the work for publication in peer reviewed scientific journals.
- Training Portafina team members in the methods for testing and analysis used in the project.

Key Duties

- Develop solutions to deliver data analytics-based insights.
- Ensure performance and quality of data analytics methods.
- Creation of a data exploitation plan to support marketing activities.
- Assist the integration of new features into Portafina's systems.

Such other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post that may be assigned by the Head of Department or their nominee.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Considerations

This role involves undertaking duties which include the Health, Safety and wellbeing issues outlined below. Please be aware of these, when considering your suitability for the role.

- ▪ Regular use of Screen Display Equipment

Internal & External Relationships

Internal:
The KTP Associate will work on a day-to-day basis at Portafina's premises in Rochester, with frequent contact with the Company Supervisor (Portafina's System Development Manager), as well as Portafina's Managing Director and Commercial Director. The Associate will be expected to remain in frequent contact with the Knowledge Base team through meetings, email, video-conferencing or other means.

External:
The KTP Associate will interact with academics and industrialists at conferences and other meetings and forums, adding to their own network of contacts.

Person Specification

The Person Specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Please be aware that your application will be measured against the criteria published below.

Selection panels will be looking for clear <u>evidence</u> and <u>examples</u> in your application, or in your cover letter where applicable, which back-up any assertions you make in relation to each criterion.

Qualifications / Training	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
At least a 2:1 in BSc in Computer Science, or equivalent experience	✓		A
A PhD (or close to completion) in Computer Science, or related subject, or equivalent experience	✓		A

Experience / Knowledge	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Advanced, up-to-date knowledge of Computer Science and its applications	✓		A, I, T
Excellent understanding of machine learning techniques, such as decision trees, artificial neural networks	✓		A, I, T
Track record of publication in leading international journals or conferences in an area relevant to machine learning and/or data mining	✓		A
Good understanding of audio-to-text methods and tools		✓	A, I

	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Experience in using version control systems (GIT, SVN) and agile software development process		✓	A, I, T
An industrial placement or experience in working in industry		✓	A, I

Skills / Abilities	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Familiarity with programming languages (e.g. Java, Python)	✓		A, I, T
Experience with machine learning programming frameworks and tools (e.g. SciKit-Learn, Pandas) and statistics		✓	A, I
Clear leadership potential and an aptitude for problem solving	✓		I, T
An ambition to work in a commercial environment and to ensure commercial success of the project	✓		I, T

Additional Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Ability to travel by your own means between Portafina and the University of Kent, and attend academic conferences and industry exhibitions	✓		I
Excellent interpersonal skills and an effective team member	✓		I, T
Commitment to the pursuit of excellence	✓		I
Ability to work independently to resolve technical issues whilst taking heed of advice	✓		I

*Criterion to be assessed via:
A   = application form or CV/cover letter
I   = interview questions
T   = test or presentation at interview