

Senior Back End Developer (Python)		THE
		NATIONAL
Job Description		ARCHIVES

Department Digital Archiving – Access Team
Reports to Service Owner
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Location Kew

Job Purpose

This role is part of the Access Digital Records team in the Digital Archiving department. As part of this team, you will be working on the Access Your Records service. With the potential to work on other access services in the future.

Access Your Records (AYR) is an access service for born digital records. AYR will provide government departments with continued access to their records once they have been transferred to The National Archives. These records may include sensitive content and will often be subject to access restrictions.

AYR is currently in an Alpha phase, exploring a proposed technical architecture for the service as it progresses into private Beta.

The Access Digital Records team are committed to improving and developing this service. We are looking for a Python developer to join our small multi-disciplinary team and grow their skills.

You will work in the open to contribute to the development of new features in response to emerging user needs and as part of the Digital Archiving technical infrastructure. You will work with other developers to maintain code bases and support data updates according to best practice.

This role would suit someone who is motivated to make public records accessible, enjoys working in the open in a multidisciplinary agile team, and is keen to increase the quality of development and implementation across the team.

Role and Responsibilities

In this role you will:

- Take responsibility for the back-end development of Access Your Records, applying your skills and judgement to set technical direction, create and review code and maintain the highest standards
- Use modern language features, libraries, tooling and workflows (Continuous Improvement, Test Driven Development). Ensuring compliance with GDS Service Manual and Technology Code of Practice
- Support production systems, taking ownership of issues through to successful resolution so that the operation and availability of our systems is maintained effectively

- Find ways to improve system robustness, resilience and stability
- Work within a multidisciplinary product team alongside product and delivery managers, user researchers, interaction designers, front and back-end developers
- Coach and mentor more junior colleagues. Proactively share your coding expertise with other developers in the team so that we can build our capability in these technologies
- Understand the whole system and take responsibility for teaching this to others
- Engage actively with Agile working practices and maintain high levels of motivation and performance
- Liaise with key stakeholders, building relationships, acting as a strong advocate for TNA's digital services and ensuring that the needs of the users and the business are met effectively
- Be an active part of the wider external development community, identifying good practices we can adopt, sharing our experiences and promoting the adoption of beneficial standards and practices

Working Conditions

- Normal office environment
- Display Screen Equipment user

Person Specification

Essential:

- Good working knowledge of HTML, CSS, JavaScript.
- Excellent experience of back-end development in Python / Django and REST frameworks.
- Modern development approaches including Agile and Test-Driven development; source control tools such as Git
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to explain complex technical issues and concepts to non-specialists and to provide advice and guidance based on experience and sound judgement. Work collaboratively in the open and proactively share knowledge.
- Experience of mentoring, coaching and supporting junior developers with their career development
- Excellent ability to analyse and problem solve, understand new concepts and quickly assimilate the details of complex systems.
- Experience of User Centred Design with the ability to take ideas from concept through to completion to create services which meet user needs in a way that is clear for all audiences.

Desirable:

- Data technologies and standards such as JSON, SQL, XSLT, XML Schema with a strong understanding of data structures including document, graph and relational models.
- Experience of delivering digital services in accordance with GDS Service Manual and Technology Code of Practice

- Experience of developing applications hosted on Amazon Web Services
- DevOps skills including experience of configuring CI/CD pipelines
- Experience of application containerisation and container orchestration tools
- Knowledge of implementing APIs
- Good understanding of version control with Git and GitHub

Other Requirements

- Although TNA normally operate a hybrid working arrangement we are open to the possibility of home based working for this particular role.

We are committed to continually improving the diversity of our workforce and therefore encourage applications from people of colour, the LGBTQI+ community, the trans community, those who are neuro diverse, and those with a disability.