Role Specification

Title:	**Senior Data Scientist**
Grade:	**7**
Unit:	**Data Analytics Unit**
Reporting to:	**Manager, Data Analytics Unit**
Reference:	**457**

SOLAS has responsibility for providing strategic leadership to the further education and training sector and to implement a significant transformation programme to deliver 21st century high quality education and training programmes to a diverse range of jobseekers and other learners. SOLAS is charged with a range of responsibilities including:

- Supporting the development and implementation of the further education and training strategy
- Funding of the further education and training (FET) system to maximise the impact of state investment
- Overseeing the development and implementation of the Strategic Performance Agreements between SOLAS and each Education and Training Board (ETB) which set out 3 year plans to further embed a strategic and integrated FET system
- Statutory responsibility for the apprenticeship system
- Analysing the labour market and identifying and anticipating key skills needs, and
- Promoting the standing of Further Education and Training

A key objective of the current Further Education and Training Strategy is to ensure that planning for and provision of FET is supported by a strong data infrastructure. In response SOLAS created a Data Analytics unit to oversee this work and to support evidenced-based planning across the organisation. The key objectives of the Data Analytics Unit includes tracking system performance and FET learners outcomes to measure the impact of FET and report national FET statistics to external stakeholders. One of the major achievements during 2022 by the Unit was the establishment of a data platform in tandem with the Strategic Performance Agreements to allow SOLAS to track progress across the ETBs in delivering national FET system targets. This post is for a Grade 7 who will lead as Assistant Manager in similar new outcomes-driven research projects to support SOLAS Strategic Engagement and other Units as well as the wider FET Sector that will help transform SOLAS into a data-driven organization. Reporting to the Manager of the Data Analytics unit the candidate will play a key role in unit as follows:

Responsibilities

- Lead in the digital transformation of SOLAS and embed a data-driven culture by establishing a Data Governance Framework and Code of Principles for Data Quality
- Design and project lead development of new data delivery platforms to contribute to the lean digital transformation of SOLAS
- Lead Data Analytics Unit's statistical publications as well as its research output to provide business insights to SOLAS units and the FET Sector
- Ensure the development and maintenance of a Data Framework that is consistently effective in terms of performance, stable and efficient to inform and support in both defining and tracking of SOLAS business objectives
- Support the Risk and Data Protection Unit and ensure that an effective risk management system is in place to support SOLAS in the achievement of its strategic objectives, facilitating improved understanding of key risks across the organisation.
- Contribute to the work of Data Analytics Unit in managing large datasets, maintain data integrity, ensure ongoing quality control of data.
- Manage delivery of reports to DFHERIS, DSP, ETBI and ETBs that will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the FET sector.
- Work with SOLAS business units and external stakeholders to assess and evaluate reporting needs.

Experience

- **(Essential)** Demonstrated experience in working with large datasets and producing publications and reports that guide SOLAS decision making and SOLAS' contribution to drive policy
- **(Essential)** demonstrate advanced analytical and problem solving skills
- **(Essential)** Demonstrated proficiency and experience working with Microsoft SQL Programming language, Phyton, R or STATA programming for linking and analysing large datasets
- (Essential) Knowledge and experience of using project management tools
- At least 3 years of line manager / team leader or supervisor experience at a senior and technical level for a small team of specialist staff.
- Demonstrated experience working with Tableau or other data visualization tools advantageous
- Experience in data protection and risk management policies and procedures is advantageous
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, to communicate both to a technical and non-technical audience
- Ability to prioritise activities and multi-task, with drive to optimise the level and quality of DAU's delivery.
- Experience in working both within a team and independently, and demonstrate strong communication and analytical skills.

Education

- **(Essential)** Minimum Master's degree (Level 9 degree) preferably a PhD in economics, statistics, data / business analytics OR social sciences with quantitative analysis focus.