

Role and person profile

Post title:	Solution Architect	Location:	Guildford, Manchester
Division:	Chief Operating Office	Department:	Architecture and Strategy
Responsible to:	Head of Architecture and Strategy	Responsible for:	n/a
Scale:	8	Cornerstone behaviours level:	Performer
Post no:	3004, 3005		

Purpose

To lead on the design and ensure delivery of technical solutions to meet business requirements, providing advice and liaison between technology and business stakeholders as required. To maintain and apply high levels of technology knowledge and expertise in the production of architectural designs. Applying technical design authority to ensure changes to AQA's architectural landscape are consistent to the wider AQA strategy.

Key accountabilities

1. Maintain required knowledge and expertise in the following architectural areas, in order to fulfil business requirements and deliver to the Business Solutions Group priorities:
 - a. Information
 - b. Solution
 - c. Technology
2. Develop and take ownership of the policies, guidelines and standards that make up the IT strategy developing and maintaining them in line with business drivers and goals to establish robust and flexible controls.
3. Support the Strategy, Architecture and Standards Managers in refreshing and implementing the AQA technology strategy, leading on specific areas as required.
4. Directly contribute to the definition and verification of adherence to technical standards covering areas such as Application, Infrastructure and integration architectures, Security and access control, Resilience and reliability etc.
5. Take ownership and work with and support business stakeholders and Business Solutions colleagues, in the design and delivery of appropriately scoped architectural solutions. Ensuring that what is proposed satisfies quality and business requirements, cost expectations and time scale criteria and is in line with current architectural standards. Ensuring buy-in to the proposed solution propositions.
6. Maintain excellent awareness and purposeful 'horizon scanning' of the IT marketplace ensuring that AQA is positioned to be able to benefit from emerging technologies, architectures and standards. Research and explore opportunities for solutions to meet AQA's business objectives and develop clear cost benefit analytics for the adoption of particular approaches.
7. As part of the evolution of the IT strategy, create and regularly review clear technology roadmaps and associated systems life cycles ensuring that AQA is able to identify technology opportunities

and manage technology risks effectively.

8. Review all systems solutions implemented to ensure compliance with the IT strategy (and related architectural policies), quantifying and proposing mitigations to any risks identified through effective operation of a 'Design' function.
9. Ensure architecture and standards maintained by the architecture team are fully compliant with all statutory and regulatory legislation.
10. Develop and maintain a systems solutions catalogue of all systems, their interdependencies, technical profiles and their position in the estate.
11. Develop and maintain of high levels of technical expertise across all relevant areas to support good architectural design.
12. Ensure aspects such as compatibility with current and future business strategy, integration with existing systems, support of business processes including usability and performance and ease of maintenance are key areas of focus in any designs.
13. Guide BSG team members through relevant transformational activities, ensuring the team members remain motivated and engaged.
14. Drive professional development and actively facilitate cross skilling.

General accountabilities

1. To comply with all AQA's policies and other legislative requirements, including but not limited to H&S, Equal Opportunities and ISMS.
2. Where business needs change, to undertake other responsibilities which are of a commensurate level outside the terms of this role profile.

Person profile

Knowledge	Assessment
Expert working knowledge and understanding of Enterprise applications framework • Demonstrating Service Oriented Architecture • Enterprise architecture • Information modelling and design frameworks. • Physical Infrastructure and deployment models• Architecture and design frameworks such as TOGAF, ZACHMAN etc	I/P
Expert knowledge and understanding of Mainstream computing platforms and architectures, Operating systems, Data bases, End user computing platforms, Networks and communications, Cloud computing delivery platforms (IaaS, PaaS & SaaS), Virtualisation, Integration services including ESB platforms, architecture design standards, development methodologies.	I/P
Expert knowledge and understanding of implementing technical changes in existing legacy IT estates	I/P
Broad understanding of the political, educational and business context within which AQA works	I
Solid understanding of programme and project management methodologies	I/P
Qualification	
Computing degree or equivalent level of business computing experience and/or Professional accreditation (BCS etc)	A/I
Professional architecture qualification and proven equivalent architectural experience	A/I
Skills	
Logical thinker, able to diagnose, troubleshoot and co-ordinate resolution of complex technical issues in a pressured environment	I/P

Excellent communication and stakeholder management skills, able to engage with colleagues and customers at all levels, whether technical or otherwise coupled with ability to sell and communicate ideas clearly to colleagues at differing levels of seniority and technical expertise	I/P	
Ability to identify business objectives and form innovative potential solutions, supported by competent arguments	I/P	
Proven ability to produce and maintain effective documentation	P	
Extensive, demonstrable experience of supplier and service management in relevant areas	I/P	
Well developed, demonstrable planning and budgeting ability	I/P	
Persuades and influences both internally and in external networks	I/P	
Resilient and able to work under pressure and in a fast-moving change environment	I/P	
Solid commercial acumen	I/P	
Provide architectural leadership, driving solution implementations through to successful delivery.	I/P	
Leadership skills		
Ability to resolve problems and adapt to change	I/P	
Maintain constructive links with other teams and work collaboratively to deliver targets.	P	
Receive feedback and learn from mistakes for continuous self-development.	P	
Experience		
A wide breadth of architect experience with proven and successful delivery of modernising corporate architecture and applying appropriate governance	A/I	
Direct experience of working at a senior level with sponsors and users on new IT developments	A/I	
Has performed in a variety of roles throughout the System Delivery Life Cycle and at different levels of seniority	A/I	
Extensive experience gained in enterprise class computing and networking infrastructure environments including high availability and disaster recovery services	A/I	
AQA's Behaviour Framework which is assessed through the selection/probation process		
Assessment key (criteria to be assessed at the selection stage)		
A – application (it is essential to provide evidence on application for shortlisting purposes)		
I - interview	T – test (or work sample)	P – probation