South-East European Research Centre (Thessaloniki, Greece)
International Faculty, The University of Sheffield

Post: Research Associate (full-time, fixed-term) in Broker@Cloud project

Closing date: 17 September 2012

Brief outline:

The South-East European Research Centre (www.seerc.org) is an overseas research institute of the University of Sheffield, based at the University's International Faculty in Thessaloniki, Greece. The centre carries out multidisciplinary research and doctoral training in the fields of Enterprise & Innovation, Information & Communication Technologies, and Society & Human Development.

SEERC invites applications for a Research Associate position in the EU-funded research project Broker@Cloud (www.broker-cloud.eu), which starts in November 2012. The aim of the project is to develop a framework that will equip cloud service intermediaries with advanced methods and mechanisms for continuous quality assurance and optimization of software-based cloud services. The framework will allow enterprise cloud service brokers to monitor the obligations of service providers towards service consumers, as well as to detect opportunities for optimising service consumption.

The main task of the post-holder will be to carry out research and development on Java-based mechanisms for quality control of software-based cloud services, and to assist with technical writing and documentation for the project. A solid theoretical background in computer science and experience in software development with Java EE and web technologies are essential. Familiarity with cloud computing concepts and/or particular cloud technology stacks will be evaluated positively. Familiarity with Semantic Web technologies, Linked Data techniques, or ontology-based reasoning would also be considered a plus. Applicants should hold a good first degree and postgraduate degree in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Informatics Engineering, or a related discipline.

The successful candidate will join the Information and Knowledge Management research group at SEERC (www.seerc.org/ikm) and will be based in Thessaloniki, Greece, on a full-time basis. Fluency in English is a prerequisite. Knowledge of Greek would be an advantage but is not necessary. The post-holder is expected to be highly motivated and proactive, have excellent organisation and communication skills, and be eager to disseminate research results by authoring articles and papers, and presenting at international conferences and seminars.

Reports to:

Dr. Iraklis Paraskakis (SEERC Principal Investigator in Broker@Cloud)

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Work on the design, development and testing of mechanisms for quality control of software-based cloud services (policy compliance, lifecycle management, SLA monitoring, adaptation reasoning), in collaboration with other members of the group and external partners.
- Undertake reporting and technical documentation requirements, in collaboration with other members of the Information and Knowledge Management research group.
- Present results to collaborators in the project, members of the research group and external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
- Assist in writing supporting documents to contribute to and support the work of the group.
- Assist in preparing and submitting research project proposals to secure funding from European or Greek research funding programmes.
- Carry out administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging project progress meetings.
- Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments.

Person specification:

Applicants should demonstrate evidence of the following:

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	How this criterion will be assessed
Experience and qualifications			
Have a good first degree and postgraduate degree in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Informatics Engineering, or related	✓		Application; References
Solid experience in software development with Java EE and related Java development tools	✓		Application; Interview; References
Experience in additional technologies and toolkits for Web application development (XML, RDF, JavaScript, HTML5, PHP)		✓	Application; Interview; References
Familiarity with cloud computing concepts, commercial services and open source stacks		✓	Application; Interview; References
Familiarity with Semantic Web technologies, Linked Data or ontology-based reasoning		✓	Application; Interview; References
Communication skills			
Excellent interpersonal and communication skills (written and verbal), report writing skills, and experience in delivering presentations	✓		Application; Interview; References
English language skills (fluency)	✓		Application; Interview
Greek language skills		✓	Application; Interview

Further information:

The starting date for this post is 1 November 2012. The contract will be renewable on a yearly basis up to October 2015.

Salary will be commensurate with the successful candidate's qualifications and experience. Depending on the post-holder's performance, SEERC may be able to provide a scholarship for undertaking further research leading to the award of a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Sheffield.

All applicants are requested to make sure that they have the legal right to be employed in Greece.

How to apply:

Applicants are requested to send a CV and a motivation letter (in English) to jobs@seerc.org.

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