**About the role**

We are looking for Development Specialists and Senior Development Specialists to join our successful SaaS business.  The role will work within our team to help onboard and support our clients as well as developing our core product offering.

**About SkillsForge**

SkillsForge started as a research project within the University of York before spinning out into a commercial operation towards the end of 2015. It is a software as a service solution provided to universities across the world.

Our solution primarily focuses on postgraduate researcher processes, massively improving transparency and automation.  The implementation of the system within a university has been proven to deliver significant efficiency gains and large improvements in oversight. We transform the Higher Education Student Journey with our solution.

In its relatively short life SkillsForge has won multiple awards including:

* Educate North & UK Leadership Awards 2017- the Innovation Award AND the University Entrepreneurs Challenge Award
* Tech North Northern Stars North East Region Winner 2018
* Entrepreneurship World Cup Finalist 2019
* UXUK Best Effect on Business Goals Award 2019
* Prolific North Tech Awards Finalist 2020
* CAUDIT Award Finalist 2020

Given the high demand for our solution, SkillsForge needs to expand its team.  We are in search of talented and enthusiastic Development Specialists and Senior Development Specialists to work with our expert team located on the University of York Science Park. With a real passion and clear aptitude for programming and modern programming principles, in languages such as Java and Javascript within the Amazon Web Services infrastructure, you will have the opportunity to work on live commercial projects with our impressive Higher Education client list. Successful candidates will have experience in the web application lifecycle and have had exposure to UX/UI, tools such as Polymer and Business Intelligence Reporting solutions. You will work on different client projects, develop our core software and/or support our existing clients.

More can be seen at [www.skillsforge.com](http://www.skillsforge.com).

**Person specification**

* Good coding, solving application defects and critical thinking skills
* Ability to find simple solutions to complex problems
* Good communication and interpersonal skills
* Ability to organise yourself well and focus on the task at hand managing interruptions considerately and effectively
* Good time management

**Essential technical expertise**

* Ability to create modern, responsive, accessible and interactive web applications
* Experience in using Java, Javascript and Polymer, or similar
* Ability to write code which is clear and straightforward to understand.
* Experience in maintaining code written by others

**Desirable technical expertise**

* Experience with Web Components
* An understanding of Amazon Web Services
* Experience in using helpdesk solutions such as Zendesk
* An understanding of business intelligence solutions

**Responsibilities**

You will work directly with the team on a variety of projects. Some examples of these include:

* Working independently or  within the team to develop new code, troubleshoot and diagnose application defects, performance and data anomalies
* Working closely with the team on new features, sharing expertise and knowledge
* Handling multiple concurrent issues and ensure they are responded to and resolved within SLAs (Service Level Agreements)
* Performing good quality code changes to applications, databases or configuration that meet requirements within agreed timescales
* Experience in agile development processes and systems
* Support and contribute to our Management Systems
* Communicating regular updates to the team clearly and promptly
* Being proactive in identifying and resolving issues

**Benefits**

We believe in looking after our team with our current list of benefits being:

* Competitive salary
* 30 days holiday per annum plus 8 statutory holidays
* Customary holidays at Christmas time (this will vary each year dependent on when Christmas falls but should amount to around 2 days each year)
* Flexibility regarding working hours where required, e.g. occasionally work from home, if necessary, finish early to pick children up with hours supplemented later as agreed
* Whilst we're at the Innovation Centre car parking permits for free parking are available for all
* Cycle to Work CycleScheme and TechScheme (which enables the saving of money on purchases)
* Personal development courses and training activities funded, where appropriate
* Milk (for tea, coffee, etc) for the staff funded on a weekly basis
* Statutory NEST pension scheme

**How to Apply**

Please send your CV and a covering letter detailing why you want to work with our team to Jonathan.Carr@skillsforge.co.uk (copying in [gary.fawcett@skillsforge.co.uk](mailto:gary.fawcett@skillsforge.co.uk)).

**Recruitment process**

We will review your application and let you know if you’ve been successful or not. If successful we will invite you to the first of a two stage interview process. On successful completion of both interviews we will offer you an opportunity to work with us.

**Equal Opportunities and Diversity**

SkillsForge is a company that:

* Acknowledges, promotes and celebrates the diversity that exists in our society today
* Strives to ensure that everyone experiences a company that provides equal access and equal opportunities
* Challenges positively all discrimination in terms of culture, race, colour, religion, language, gender, sexuality, health, ability, age, socio-economic background and any other grounds or condition that might lead to discrimination