Position: Senior Research Associate (MAS/DigIT)

DEPARTMENT: Psychology
IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR: Project Director
POSTING DATE: August 14, 2017
CLOSING DATE: Posted Until Filled
SALARY: Negotiable based on experience, plus excellent benefits
EXEMPT STATUS: Exempt Full Time Benefited

GENERAL NATURE OF POSITION:

The Psychology Department at San Jose State University is involved in collaborative research with civil service scientists from the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Research group of the Human Systems Integration Division at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, CA. The research is centered on the development, design and testing of next-generation mission ground-systems for NASA’s space explorations missions.

We seek a senior research associate who will design, manage, and deploy research and modeling tools using established HCI design principles including prototype design and development support under the Exploration Systems Directorate (ESD) program milestones. This person will also be responsible for day-to-day management of software project documentation, project management, and project negotiation with members of the NASA engineering disciplines across Agency centers.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

1) Collaborate on the day-to-day software development effort and maintenance operations of the production instances of the Mission Assurance Systems and Dig-IT (Data Integration Information Technology). This includes describing desired functionality, assessing bugs, and completing tasks with an eye for keeping large/complex deliverables scalable and on schedule.

2) Conduct field research including contextual inquiry, interviews, in situ observation, need validation, usability testing, task analysis, and cognitive modeling (CogTool) to identify and communicate user, task, and organizational requirements.

3) Run usability tests including creating interactive prototypes, analyzing data, and making updates to designs

4) Prepare presentations of research findings and demonstrations of technical solutions to NASA program management.
5) Translate user research findings into designs; review designs with stakeholders; work with the development and QA team to describe design specification; create design specification documents

6) Participate in a rigorous and iterative peer design review process in order to generate compelling prototypes grounded in HCI methods.

7) Contribute to the deployment of timely and high-quality production web applications.

8) Support the quality assurance of production applications by working with a team of testers.

9) Contribute to the design of the evolving component library that can be utilized in making more consistent and efficient designs for the re-architecture effort.

INTERPERSONAL CONTACTS:

Reports to the Project Director. Interacts with NASA Ames civil service and Foundation research staff, including student assistants, on a daily basis.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1) Education and Experience

- Master’s degree in Computer Science, Psychology, Human Computer Interaction or related discipline is required.
- Minimum 3 years’ experience in software development, usability testing, human computer interaction, and other relevant skills.

2) Knowledge, Skills, Abilities required

a) Excellent human-computer interface research, design and evaluation skills.
b) Working knowledge of cognitive psychology and human factors standards.
c) Knowledge of cognitive modeling procedures.
d) Ability to lead user debriefing.
e) Ability to organize and analyze data.
f) Strong verbal and written communication skills.
g) Ability to integrate a culturally- and organizationally-diverse research and development team.
h) Ability to work both as a member of a team and independently, as required.

3) Physical Requirements

a) Must be willing to travel domestically and internationally.
b) Located at the NASA Ames Research Center. Therefore, the employee must meet security qualifications for entrance to the Center.
c) Employee will be a US citizen or a Permanent Resident.

4) Complexity of Duties

Exercises independent judgment in the management and completion of diverse and complex set of tasks.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES: None, though may be called upon for advice and direction by others.
APPLICATION PROCEDURE
To apply for this position, you may submit a letter of interest and a resume or an application. An application and other information, including the job description, may be obtained from the Research Foundation through its web site at http://www.sjsu.edu/researchfoundation/open/index.html. You may also obtain information in person by visiting the Research Foundation, located at 210 North 4th Street, 4th Floor, San Jose, CA (corner of St. James and North 4th Streets). A formal application for employment will be required of all candidates who are selected for a personal interview. Please address your letter of interest and resume or application directly to:

San Jose State University Research Foundation
Attn: HR/Job Code SRA MAS/DigIT
210 North 4th Street
San Jose, CA 95112
E-mail: foundation-jobs@sjsu.edu

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