We welcome feedback from faculty, researchers, and the campus community to help shape this role to respond to the research computing needs for UC Berkeley researchers.

Job Description

Key Responsibilities

40% - Help campus researchers leverage computing resources.
20% - Education and outreach.
40% - Document solutions to research computing challenges.

Knowledge and Skills

Job Description

The Berkeley Research Computing (BRC) program is hiring several BRC Domain Consultants, a position up to 10 hours per week (max. 25% appointment and does not include fee remission). We are seeking talented and goal-oriented UC Berkeley researchers or research support staff, with strong oral and written communication skills, who will advance the research activities of faculty and researchers in a broad range of scholarly disciplines that rely on computing.

The mission of the BRC Domain Consultants will be to extend the reach and impact of campus and national research computing infrastructure in support of the research conducted by faculty and students at UC Berkeley.

The successful candidate will serve as a first point of contact for faculty, postdocs, grad students, and research staff to understand their research and facilitate access to computing resources that might best support their research. This position will work closely with staff in UC Berkeley’s Research IT group, LBL High Performance Computing Services, and a network of campus partners such as the Berkeley Institute for Data Science (BIDS), D-Lab in the Data Intensive Social Sciences, the Statistical Computing Facility (SCF), and the University Library, among others.

The BRC program is part of the Research IT group, which in coordination with campus partner organizations, provides information technology and consulting services focused on the needs of the campus research community.

Berkeley Research Computing is sponsored by the CIO, the Vice Chancellor for Research, and the Chancellor.
Key Responsibilities
The responsibilities of this position will be divided among the following categories:

40% - Help campus researchers leverage computing resources
  - Work with faculty, students, and staff to understand aspects of their research that rely on, or could be aided by, current computational methodologies
  - Work with researchers to plan mobility of compute and data for research workflows through the use of BRC-supported computing resources
  - Assist in the process of provisioning access and support on appropriate systems
  - Assist in the planning for computational resources in grant proposals for projects in which a computational or data management component could be a critical element of success
  - Work with other Research IT and partner consulting organizations, develop a knowledge and interpersonal network, and leverage that network through co-consulting and referrals to facilitate progress for research projects
  - Assist researchers in finding solutions to handle their data needs in coordination with the Research Data Management (RDM) program, including use of the campus Science DMZ and both local and cloud storage resources

20% - Education and outreach
  - Meet with new and potential users to learn about their data needs and understand which BRC services would best suit their research
  - Engage in local outreach on our campus to identify potential new users of our BRC resources
  - Identify researcher needs for training in a variety of computational aspects and contribute to the development and implementation of training programs to meet those needs
  - Identify and recruit additional users of campus computing facilities, and educate potential campus clients on computational possibilities
  - Assist in training users on research computing tools, local systems, and regional and national resources (e.g., XSEDE)
  - Help develop collaborative partnerships and integrate BRC materials where appropriate into partner and community led workshops, meetings, and events

40% - Document solutions to research computing challenges
  - Document technical solutions and recommendations that help researchers access and use BRC services
  - Document activities to provide data for assessment and critical analysis of BRC services, and suggest additional developments that would further the goals and mission of BRC
  - Document research use cases from consulting engagements that address the evolving computational needs of the campus research community. These use may be used to define future BRC and Research IT programs and service solutions
Knowledge and Skills

This role provides an opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, as well as work with and receive mentoring from experts in a range of research areas and computational technologies.

Experience in a compute- and/or data-intensive research area is required.

Candidates will:

- Demonstrate an appreciation for a range of computer and data intensive research
- Have experience in at least one research area such as life sciences, physical sciences, social sciences, or the humanities
- Demonstrate experience applying software tools, computing technologies, and computational methods to research problems
- Demonstrate strong interpersonal skills in working with both technical and non-technical personnel with varying degrees of experience at different levels in the organization
- Demonstrate strong abilities in critical analysis and creative problem solving
- Be able to work independently and as part of a dynamic interdisciplinary team
- Possess basic skills with the Linux command line and scripting languages like Unix shell or Python

Knowledge/Experience in one or more of the following areas will be a plus, but not required:

- Experience in a research-focused consulting role
- Experience with public cloud computing environments including AWS, Azure, and Google Compute Platform
- Familiarity with academic and high-performance computing centers/services, including national initiatives such as the Open Science Grid or XSEDE
- Experience and demonstrated interest in education, outreach, community-building or communication activities
- Contributions to a Software Carpentry bootcamp, D-Lab workshop, XSEDE training, or other computation-focused training efforts