



Application Architect

Post Reference: NU3726

Salary Scale: £44,745 – £50,253 per annum

Vice-Chancellor
Professor Jackie Dunne



Birmingham Newman University is located on Genners Lane, Bartley Green, Birmingham,
West Midlands, B32 3NT.

(HR – Template 16.01.2026)

Birmingham Newman University

At Birmingham Newman University, we believe in the power of education to transform lives and in the potential of every individual. Our vision is to provide an inclusive and supportive environment where people are recognised, encouraged, and empowered to make a meaningful difference in their communities, industries, and the wider world.

Students, staff, and partners are more than just a number – they are recognised, encouraged, and empowered to create meaningful change. We believe that education is transformative, enabling students to see the world in new ways and to make a positive difference within it.

Building upon our Catholic heritage since 1968, Birmingham Newman has grown into a modern, inclusive university that welcomes people from all backgrounds and world views. Our values remain central to everything we do, serving as a foundation for a vibrant, diverse, and forward-looking academic community. We are proud of this heritage and continue to champion fairness, equality, and opportunity in everything we do.



We take pride in our diverse, friendly, and inclusive environment, where every student is valued, supported, and encouraged to achieve their goals. We put student success and wellbeing at the centre of everything we do, made possible by the expertise and professionalism of our dedicated staff community. Our future is shaped by a clear vision and a set of goals that reflect both our mission and our ambition, to be **the leading university in inclusive education for the graduate workforce of tomorrow**. At the heart of this is our commitment to a **values-driven, high-quality university education**.

Our focus on partnership with students and staff underpins everything we do, and this is reflected in national recognition of the quality of our student experience. We have recently been named The Times and Sunday Times University of the Year for Social Inclusion (2026), ranked 1st in England for Student Satisfaction in the Complete University Guide (2025), and named West Midlands University of the Year by WhatUni (2025). In the National Student Survey (2025) we also placed in the top ten in England for full-time student satisfaction for the second consecutive year.

We are proud to be among the top UK universities for widening participation, coming 6th in the HEPI Social Mobility Index (2024). Ninety-nine per cent of our students come from non-selective state schools, 72% are the first in their family to attend university, and over 45% come from Black, Asian, or minority ethnic backgrounds. This diversity is a strength of our community and central to our mission.

Over the past ten years our modern single-site campus, eight miles southwest of Birmingham city centre, has benefited from a significant programme of ongoing capital investment. We have built teaching, learning, and social spaces that are deliberately

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designed to support our community of staff and students to interact and learn together. Our portfolio of taught courses has also expanded in that time, reflecting our strategic goal of growing the university in ways that meet pressing social and economic needs of our region. Our specialist teaching spaces in Nursing and Allied Health, Teaching, Psychology, Sport, Law, and Computing support learning that produces highly-skilled practitioners from diverse backgrounds.

Birmingham Newman University is more than a place of study or work. It is a community rooted in care, respect, and ambition for our staff our students and the University as a whole; where staff and students work together making a difference not only in their own lives, but in their communities, professions, and the wider world.

Job Description

Job Title:	Application Architect
Grade:	8
Salary:	£44,745 – £50,253
Hours:	37
Department:	Digital & IT Services
Reporting to:	Deputy Director of Digital & IT Services

Purpose of Post: To act as the University's lead authority for application architecture, owning the strategic direction, governance, and design of the application estate, ensuring systems are secure, scalable, and aligned with institutional priorities and long-term digital strategy.

1. Main responsibilities:

- 1) Responsible for leading the Application Team and providing institution-wide leadership for the development, integration, and lifecycle management of all University IT applications, including SaaS, web, database, and development platforms.
- 2) Own and lead the development and delivery of the IT application and integration architecture strategy, roadmap, and backlog, ensuring alignment with institutional priorities and digital strategy. Planning, and delivering application development and support work, balancing business-as-usual operations, technical debt, and project demand.
- 3) Play a key role in shaping and delivering the University's data strategy, ensuring alignment with application architecture and integration approaches.
- 4) Act as the design authority for application architecture, responsible for defining, approving, and governing the architecture of software applications, ensuring alignment with strategic goals, scalability, security, and business needs.
- 5) Define and enforce enterprise-wide application architecture principles, standards, and patterns, including lifecycle management and technical debt reduction.
- 6) Lead and develop the Application Team, including performance management, capability development, and ensuring alignment with current and future organisational needs.
- 7) Required to build and maintain specialist knowledge in all of the following:

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- a) Corporate business systems, including those that support Finance, Human Resources, Library Services, and Enterprise Service Management
 - b) Education business systems, including those that support Timetabling, Virtual Learning Environment, Student Engagement, Student Records, and Careers
 - c) Integration systems, including point to point, hub and spoke, and serverless implementations
 - d) Web systems, including the university website, intranet, CRM, and low code platforms
- 8) Lead application problem management processes, using trend analysis and insight to drive proactive improvement and reduce institutional risk.
 - 9) Define and enforce institution-wide application development standards, ensuring consistency, quality, accessibility, and compliance with security requirements.
 - 10) Ensure the cyber security of application services, including patching, vulnerability management, and implementation of appropriate security controls.
 - 11) Communicate complex technical and architectural information to technical and non-technical stakeholders, including advising senior leadership and governance groups on technical risk, options, and direction.
 - 12) Provide expert advice and guidance to senior leadership and governance bodies on application architecture, technical risk, and investment decisions, influencing institutional direction and prioritisation.
 - 13) Be prepared to work occasional overtime outside normal business hours and a maximum of 13 weekends per year.
 - 14) Have a passion for technology and work to maintain an awareness of new IT innovations, upgrades, and enhancements.
 - 15) As a manager the post holder has a responsibility to ensure that policies and procedures are followed and that staff receive appropriate induction, training and support, that absence is managed and recorded and that their direct reports receive an annual appraisal.
 - 16) For all staff the place of work is Birmingham Newman University. For Professional and Support posts, please note that this role requires the role holder to work predominately on campus.

2. Health & Safety:

- Under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 the post holder must take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of any other person who may be affected by their acts or omissions. The post holder must also co-operate with the

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University on all matters concerning health and safety and not interfere with, or misuse, anything provided for the purpose of health, safety or welfare. The post holder must follow Health & Safety requirements in line with their training and instruction, and report to management any unsafe acts or conditions, defects in equipment or facilities that have the potential to affect health and safety. The post holder must report to management any injuries they receive whilst at work.

- Where post holders line manage staff and services, they will be responsible for the health, safety and welfare of those staff and services in accordance with the University's Health & Safety Organisational Arrangements.

3. General Terms

- Variation to Job Description

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not exclusive. The post holder may be required to undertake other duties of a similar level of responsibility. It is anticipated that this job description will change over time in accordance with the needs of the role and the post holder will be consulted on any proposed amendments. Therefore, University reserves the right to vary the duties and responsibilities of its employees within the general conditions of employment and related matters. Thus, it must be appreciated that the duties and responsibilities outlined above may be altered as required to meet the changing needs of the service.

- It is a condition of employment that staff will not disclose any information obtained in the course of their duties other than to those entitled to receive it. The post holder must ensure that the confidentiality of personal data remains secure and that 'restricted information' or 'highly restricted information' to which they have access remains confidential during and after their employment at Birmingham Newman University. All staff must undergo appropriate data protection training as defined by the University's Data Protection Policy and comply with the University's Information Security Policy and IT User Policies including the General Conditions of use of Computing and Network Facilities, Bring Your Own Device Policy and Wireless Networking Policy.
- All staff are required to act in a way that safeguards the health and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults at all times. The post holder must be familiar with and adhere to appropriate safeguarding policies and guidance and participate in related mandatory/statutory training. Managers have a responsibility to ensure their team members understand their individual responsibilities with regard to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- All staff are required to participate in the University appraisal process and should ensure they are familiar with the process, attend the mandatory training and plan time to prepare for their appraisal. Following the appraisal, staff are expected to undertake in any necessary learning and development and work towards the objectives that have been set.

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- The University expects staff to attend any training designated as mandatory and to undertake learning and development activities to support their role.
- All absence from work must be reported in accordance with the University's Absence Management Policy and recorded on iTrent and staff are expected to be familiar with and follow the Policy.
- The University acknowledges its responsibility to provide a safe, smoke free environment, to its employees, service users and visitors. It is the policy of the University not to allow smoking on University premises other than in specifically designated areas.

4. Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Form of Assessment	Desirable	Form of Assessment
Educational Qualifications and Training	IT Industry Certifications relevant to specialism(s) or equivalent experience.	Application	Degree with computing components.	Application
Relevant work experience and/or knowledge	<p>Significant experience in application architecture, design, and integration within complex enterprise environments.</p> <p>Demonstrable experience providing technical leadership and architectural direction across multiple systems or services.</p> <p>Experience leading or managing technical teams.</p>	Application/ Interview/ Presentation	Experience in an environment following ITIL practices.	Application
Relevant and/or Specific skills required	Ability to design and govern scalable, secure, and integrated application architectures.	Application/ Interview/ Presentation	Has project level coding experience; knows 3+ programming languages; able to	Application/ Interview/ Presentation

	<p>Ability to evaluate technical options and make decisions balancing risk, cost, and long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Strong understanding of enterprise architecture principles, integration patterns, and system design.</p> <p>Ability to influence technical direction and communicate architectural decisions to senior stakeholders.</p> <p>Strong hands-on technical background (e.g. C#, SQL, REST APIs) applied at an architectural level.</p> <p>Can use causal reasoning to triage problems. Skilled at decomposing complex problems. Skilled at lateral investigations. Able to rapidly correlate problems against experience. Can write good incident post mortem.</p> <p>Can write and read SQL. Can perform basic database installation, creation, and monitoring knowledge; Understands basic database concepts.</p> <p>Experience managing delivery priorities across competing demands.</p>		<p>decompose complex systems and identify key APIs.</p> <p>Understands basic security theory. Good understanding of certification, authentication and authorisation.</p> <p>Can write complex SQL; can perform database installation, creation, and monitoring knowledge with basic troubleshooting skills; Can establish backup policies; Can tune performance; Understands database internals; Understands database networking; Able to evaluate replication strategies.</p> <p>Is able to design a good API.</p>	
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<p>Personal qualities and attributes</p>	<p>Strong written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to influence stakeholders and communicate complex technical concepts to senior and non-technical audiences.</p> <p>Ability to lead, motivate, and develop others.</p> <p>Customer-focused approach.</p> <p>Takes responsibility and demonstrates accountability.</p> <p>Authors team processes and documents.</p> <p>Effective team player, able to work with colleagues within and without their direct management chain.</p>	<p>Application/ Interview/ Presentation</p>	<p>Able to manage team members and provide technical leadership across the department.</p>	<p>Application/ Interview/ Presentation</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Able to be flexible with working hours during peak periods, including some evening and weekend work.</p> <p>Must be willing to undergo a basic DBS check.</p>	<p>Application/ Interview</p>	<p>Able to work additional hours in times of need or crisis, and during open days and Visitor days.</p>	<p>Application/ Interview</p>

General Terms & Conditions of Employment

This post is a full-time appointment, offered on a permanent basis. It will be remunerated on the single pay spine, at Grade 8 £44,745 – £50,253 per annum. The appointment is subject to meeting all pre-employment clearances and requirements of the Person Specification.

All new employees undergo a period of probation in accordance with the University Probationary Scheme and confirmation of employment is dependent on the satisfactory completion of that probationary period.

The standard hours of work are based on 37 hours per week for Professional and Support Staff and 35 hours per week for Academic Staff. Your line manager will discuss with you the required working hours.

The University holiday year runs from January to December for Professional and Support Staff and from September to August for Academic Staff. The post carries an entitlement to 35 working days (for a full-time position, otherwise pro rata) of paid leave during the course of the holiday year (pro rata if the appointment is made during the holiday year), in addition to Statutory Bank Holidays. There may also be discretionary days and days when the University is closed on particular dates in the interests of efficiency.

Disclosure and Barring Service

It is a condition of employment that all relevant posts are vetted by the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) and if it applies to this appointment, you will be required to undertake a DBS check. The University will pay the fee for this service. Any false declarations or any findings from the Disclosure could affect the suitability for employment.

Pension and Auto Enrolment

If you meet the criteria set out below and are not already an active member of any of our pension schemes, the University is required to auto-enrol you into a suitable pension scheme.

The criteria for auto-enrolment are:

- Age - if you are 22 or over but no more than State Pension Age
- Earnings - a minimum of £10,000 per year
- Working in the UK

The pension schemes supported by Birmingham Newman University are:

- <https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk> - Teachers' Pension Scheme for academic staff
- <http://aviva.co.uk> - Aviva Scheme for professional and support staff
- <http://www.nestpensions.org.uk> - National Employment Savings Trust, NEST for staff not eligible to join either of the above schemes

You will be auto-enrolled into the [National Employment Savings Trust](#) (NEST) unless you are an academic and eligible to contribute to TPS, or other member of professional and support staff employed on a substantive contract of employment, in which case you will be auto-enrolled into Aviva, our defined contributory scheme. You will receive a notice from the University Payroll Department telling you that you have been auto enrolled and advising you of your options, including the right to opt out. Once you have been auto-enrolled, you will have an option to opt-out of the pension scheme and receive a refund of your first contribution. There is a time limit of one month in which to do this, and you will have to contact your pension scheme to make this happen; **the University is prohibited, by law, from helping you to opt-out.**

Staff Benefits

We offer a wide range of Staff Benefits including 35 days annual leave entitlement plus bank holidays (pro rata for part time posts), pension scheme, chaplaincy and spiritual care, library services, free on-site parking, discounted travel scheme, cycle to work scheme, employee assistance programme, occupational health and counselling services and staff development opportunities. Further details of the full range of staff benefits available can be found on our website: [Birmingham Newman University - Jobs - Staff benefits](#) or please contact the Human Resources Department.

Procedure for Application

Application forms should be completed and submitted online via the Application Form link for each advertised post. CV's and covering letters are not accepted as part of the application process unless explicitly stated. Considerable emphasis is placed in the shortlisting process on how candidates demonstrate in their application that they possess the qualifications, experience, skills and qualities which are required for the post.

Application forms should therefore refer explicitly to how you meet the essential and desirable criteria for the post you are applying for.

The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and we operate the Disability Confident Employer Standard which amongst other things guarantees an interview to disabled applicants who meet the essential criteria of the job specification.

Two referees should be identified who must be people who can comment authoritatively on you as a person and as an employee in relation to the level of the post and must include your current or most recent employer or their representative. You must disclose whether you are related to any employee of the University, or to any member of the Council. Canvassing for appointment disqualifies you from being selected for interview or being appointed to the post in question.

Should you be selected for interview please be aware that we are unable to reimburse interview expenses. If you have not heard from us within four weeks of the advertised closing date, please assume that you have not been shortlisted on this occasion.

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Closing date for applications: 19 June 2026

Interview date to be confirmed

Privacy Notice

Birmingham Newman University collects and processes your personal data in order to take steps at your request prior to entering into a contract and so that it can meet its statutory and legal obligations. For further information about how Birmingham Newman University processes and protects personal data please refer to [Policies and procedures - Birmingham Newman University](#)