



## DATA SCIENTIST

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### **The Opportunity:**

Arifu, a high-growth edtech company in Nairobi, is looking to hire a Data Scientist to work on our learning management platform, to solve ambitious and complex problems and drive customer engagement for marquee clients around the world as we scale to 1,000,000+ users this year. A data scientist is a person who understands how to integrate multiple systems and data sets. They need to be able to link and mash up distinctive data sets to discover new insights. This often requires connecting different types of data sets in different forms as well as being able to work with potentially incomplete data sources and cleaning data sets to be able to use them. This is a full-time position with equity participation based at Arifu's headquarters in Nairobi.

### **About Arifu:**

Arifu is a Nairobi-based edtech company making it possible for anyone to access the information and opportunities they need from the organizations they trust over any mobile phone. With Arifu, people seeking to learn can freely access the Arifu chatbot using interactive SMS or smartphone chat apps to master new skills, discover a world of free educational content, and earn rewards from our partners whether or not they have internet or airtime. The Arifu chatbot delivers personalized content designed in-house in close collaboration with our partners including financial service providers, mobile operators, agribusinesses and NGOs. Our partners use Arifu to engage, train, and capture data on underserved people across their value chains, especially hard-to-reach customers, retailers, and suppliers. Currently serving 780,000 learners in East Africa, Arifu has demonstrated results increasing people's income and access to impactful products and services while creating shared value for partners.

To date, the Arifu chatbot has helped hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmers access information and improve their yield through digital agronomy skills training, access to essential inputs, and connections with buyers and suppliers. With the Arifu platform, agribusinesses, donors, and government ministries can easily deliver mobile training to millions of smallholder farmers, agrovets, and extension workers to strengthen farmer livelihoods, improve food quality and security, and deliver the next generation of high impact agricultural products.

### **Job Description:**

The Data Scientist reports directly to the Chief Technology Officer. Working closely with the technology and learning teams, the Data Scientist will be responsible for the following:

- Creating infrastructure for the delivery team; Maintain a working knowledge of data mining and visualization best practices; Work in coordination with the team for better and quick results;
- Being able to develop or program databases; Having the ability to query databases and perform statistical analysis; Analyze the data available and provide the relevant output;
- Collaborate with engineering colleagues to define the data modeling goals for designated project areas;
- Having a good understanding of design and architecture principles; Understand the importance of the system development and help in getting it implemented;
- Have good time management skills and should be able to meet the expected deliverables;
- Being able to create examples, prototypes, demonstrations to help management better understand the work;



- Capacity to motivate and train junior scientists and offer counsel to peers. Being able to work autonomously;
- Supporting Arifu leadership during pitches clients, investors, and partners; Representing Arifu at local tech, research, and education community events.

### **Basic Qualifications:**

Passion, commitment, resourcefulness, and a drive to continue learning are essential prerequisites on the Arifu team. For this role, we're also looking for someone who meets the following criteria:

- A PhD or a Master's Degree in Statistics, Mathematics, Computer Science, or equivalent; 5+ years of data science / mining experience;
- Excellent knowledge of at least two coding languages, e.g. Python, Java, Scala, R Language, SQL, ETL Tools, Perl and Pig;
- Should have worked on different tools like Java, SQL, Python, etc.; Good experience with SQL, Linux shell scripts, Perl, and AWK;
- Domain knowledge in at least two industries; Minimum five years of experience with customer-facing activities;
- Overall knowledge of Business Intelligence; in particular, data modeling, ETL, and reporting tools;
- Extensive hands on experience working with very large data sets, including statistical analyses, data visualization, data mining, and data cleansing/transformation;
- Under-the-hood knowledge of many of these machine learning concepts: supervised/unsupervised learning, loss functions, regularization, feature selection, regression/classification, cross-validation, bagging, kernel methods, sampling, probability distributions;
- Experience prototyping and developing data mining solutions using statistical software packages (R, H2O);
- Based in Nairobi and is willing to travel domestically and internationally; Previous experience working with high volume data streams is an advantage;
- Excellent verbal and written communication; Good analytical and interpersonal skills;
- Strong ability to communicate deep analytical results in forms that resonate with scientific and/or business collaborators, highlighting actionable insights;
- Entrepreneurial inclination to discover novel opportunities for applying analytical techniques to business/scientific problems across the company.

### **Compensation and Benefits:**

First and foremost, we care about your success and will support you along your journey to achieving remarkable success. We offer competitive compensation packages with the opportunity to participate in the Arifu Rewards Program that rewards strong performance. We also offer a comprehensive health insurance package and will cover the cost of a work permit for foreign staff. Other benefits include monthly airtime allowance, extra leave, a stocked kitchen, and plenty of ping-pong and foosball.

### **Application Process:**

Send your CV ([in Word format](#)) to [talent@arifu.com](mailto:talent@arifu.com) with "Data Scientist" in the subject. Your CV should be named in the following format: "FirstName LastName Data Scientist". For example, "Jane Doe Data Scientist". Tell us what excites you about this role, and include at least one sample of your work so we can see the quality of your craft. Ladies are highly encouraged to apply.