

SPARKBOX Data Scientist Job Description – February 2020

Sparkbox is a fast growing B2B software start-up based in Southampton and we're looking for a superstar data scientist to join our team. As an early team member, you'll help us develop and deliver the machine learning and analytics that power our solutions, and be a key member of our growing data science team.

About Sparkbox

Sparkbox is an award winning, innovative SaaS platform that uses machine learning to deliver competitive pricing insights, analytics, and price recommendations to retailers. Our solutions help retailers make data-driven decisions quickly and confidently. Our typical clients are global retail brands with revenue between £100m – £2bn.

In 2019 Sparkbox won the Fashion District Innovation Challenge prize, and in 2020 Sparkbox was named "one of the most exciting and innovative early-stage tech companies in the country" as one of the winners of Tech Nation's Rising Stars 2.0.

We are thrilled to be expanding our team and we're looking for talented, resourceful, and creative individuals to join us in Southampton. You will be helping to support and enhance our existing platform, as well as developing exciting new analytics solutions.

At Sparkbox you will have the chance to support and develop machine learning based forecasting solutions that are already producing multi million pound benefits cases for big brands. You will also have the opportunity to work with a great founding team and learn more about retail and AI solutions from industry experts.

The People

We love retail (obviously), food, mountain biking, food (again), travelling, technology, video games, running, sailing, cycling, music, hard sums, great debates, movies, and generally being different in the way we do things. You will find friends at Sparkbox if you're happy to join in any (or all) of the above!

The Role

The role will be largely focused on building or enhancing the predictive modelling that sits behind our existing solutions, validating and improving the performance of deployed solutions, as well as developing the predictive analytics for new solutions that form part of our product road map. We are looking for someone who is a self-starter, motivated by the challenges of growing an early-stage technology company, and looking to join a team with a longer-term vision.

You will work directly with our founders and as we scale you will play an important role in helping us establish a top-notch data science organisation. You'll have a direct impact on Sparkbox's success, and we'll look to you for ideas and feedback along the way.

Required Skills

- Strong Python skills and familiarity with tools such as scikit-learn, pandas, etc.
- Strong background in machine learning, statistical regression and modelling techniques
- SQL and relational databases skills (MS SQL Server, Oracle, etc.)
- Knowledgeable in a broad range of mathematical techniques, tools, and modelling frameworks and able to assess their relative merits and applicability to specific problems

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- Hands-on data analysis experience and the ability to produce data visualizations to present complex data graphically (distributions, scatter plots, sensitivity analyses)
- Comfortable processing large data sets for model estimation and analysis (validation, cleansing, normalising)
- Experience of identifying features and relationships useful for predictive modelling
- Experience of validating and improving the performance of prediction and optimisation algorithms
- Ability to express real-world processes in the languages of mathematics and probability
- Collecting and analysing web information
- Good communication skills
- Team leadership skills
- Flexibility & adaptability to changing priorities
- Curiosity & creativity

Desired Skills

- Experience with Cloud providers like AWS, GCP, Azure, etc.
- Domain expertise in price optimisation, demand forecasting, or inventory optimisation
- Experience with data visualization libraries (Bokeh, Matplotlib, d3.js)
- Experience of optimisation and machine learning techniques (linear/nonlinear programming, support vector machines, ensembling, regression trees etc.)
- Experience of statistical techniques such as hierarchical and non-hierarchical clustering techniques, factor analysis, sensitivity analysis, principal components analysis
- Econometrics, decision theory, discrete choice models, propensity modelling
- Reinforcement learning, active learning, dynamic systems

Benefits

- Competitive salary
- Fun office environment in central Southampton
- Refreshments at work
- Team days out (& lots of food)

Application process

1. You like what you hear
2. You tell us you're interested and send us your CV (alex@sparkbox.co)
3. We invite you in to meet our team
4. You show us some of the previous work you're most proud of & find out more about Sparkbox
5. (Hopefully!) you get the job and join us full time

This is a full-time role with a flexible start date & negotiable salary. We're looking for the right candidate and the advertisement will close as soon as we find them.