

Python developer – International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)

Bristol, UK (city centre)

Start date: February 2017 (or as soon as possible, depending on availability)

Context

Globally, over US\$130 billion is spent on official development assistance (ODA) alone every year. Furthermore, tens of billions from other sources (NGOs, foundations, private giving, poverty-focused remittances, etc.) are added to the funds developing-country governments themselves devote to reducing poverty. However, information on exactly how these substantial resources are allocated and whether they reach the poorest people is often difficult to access and understand.

[Development Initiatives](#) works to enable people to access and use information about aid and other poverty reduction resources. DI believes that supporting efforts to hold governments, donors and service providers to account, and improving the availability of information to support intelligent planning, will increase the effectiveness of aid, and so accelerate poverty reduction. The organisation's vision is that this information should be easily available to people across developing and developed countries. It should be presented in a format that is easy to understand, comparable and accessible, and in ways that are relevant to users' unique perspectives.

This is why DI has been instrumental in establishing and managing the [International Aid Transparency Initiative](#) (IATI), and is currently serving as technical lead on the IATI [Secretariat](#). IATI is an XML-based open data standard, allowing detailed information on who is spending what, where and with what results, to be shared in a common digital format. This is an exciting time for IATI: with 500 [publishers](#), we are reaching critical mass in providing detailed and timely open data on financial flows coming from a wide range of aid and development actors.

We've come a long way since launching 6 years ago, and now we're looking for a talented developer to join us to build robust IATI tools and services that support publishers and users of IATI data – supercharging efforts to reduce poverty!

About the role

If you want a job that uses your tech skills to make the world a better place – this is something for you. We're at a pivotal time and building the technology that will help IATI become even more successful. Expect lots of interesting conceptual and technical challenges – for example, how to keep track and efficiently generate statistics on the millions of data points that make up IATI data, many being updated and hosted individually by our publishers.

We've got some exciting projects for the coming months – including a new website, and tools to help data users query all data in a straightforward way. There's also work ongoing to overhaul and integrate our existing systems, so that we can achieve greater impact through our use of technology. The role presents the opportunity to lead projects as part of a multi-skilled team.

Day-to-day, your work will involve:

- working as part of a team to build new and improve existing open source software;
- improving the quality of that software;
- adding new features or creating new products;

- communicating with users of our software, understanding and prioritising their needs;
- helping others understand IATI data through the products we maintain and support;
- working with technical experts from governments, foundations, NGOs and developing-country agencies to improve the range of tools and data available to end users;
- participating fully in the IATI Technical Advisory Group (TAG), including in technical working groups on APIs, data standards and other topics;
- tracking, analysing, fixing and reporting software bugs and issues;
- monitoring usage of IATI software by users;
- Participating in technical discussions and work to improve the IATI Standard.

All our code is open source and hosted on GitHub: <https://github.com/iati>

Overall, this is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference to the transparency and accountability of international aid and development, and to play an important role in a leading international open data initiative. In addition to your tech skills, your contributions to team discussions will help shape the future of this prestigious open data standard.

Who we're looking for

We're looking for someone who is passionate about supporting the potential of open data to provide a platform for greater accountability and citizen empowerment in the world of aid and development.

Skills we're looking for

Essential:

- Good knowledge of Python
- Understanding of XML
- Knowledge of web application development
- An understanding of design and UX
- Experience of version control systems – we use Git and GitHub
- Able to work collaboratively on software projects
- The ability to understand business problems and design solutions to solve them

Bonus – understanding and/or experience of any of these would be an advantage:

- Experience with open data projects and/or standards
- Use of SQL, plus experience/understanding of ORMs – e.g. SQLAlchemy, Peewee
- Working with public web APIs and/or creation of RESTful APIs
- Experience and/or understanding of unit testing – we use pytest
- Python deployment tools – SaltStack, Chef or Puppet
- Ability to administer/configure Linux/Apache
- Contribution of code to open source communities
- Experience with large datasets
- Experience working in an 'agile' work environment
- Communicating with software users about bugs, upgrades, changes to code, etc.
- Understanding of software development cycles and models
- Experience of, or demonstrable interest in, international development

The post holder may be required to undertake occasional travel.

What we offer

- Competitive salary of £25,000 to £35,000, based on experience
- Fixed term contract to 31 August 2018
- Great work-life balance:
 - 35 hours per week
 - 25 days' annual leave, plus bank holidays
 - Flexible hours system
 - Work from home policy
- Company pension scheme (after 3 months' service) with 5% employer contribution
- Opportunities for occasional international travel to attend IATI meet-ups and conferences
- Personal development budget to buy books/training
- Choice of high-spec PC/Mac/Linux laptop

Other benefits:

- Office based 5 minutes from Temple Meads train station and 10 minutes from Bristol city centre
- Work in a light, youthful office surrounded by people passionate about the use of data to make a positive difference to the world
- Casual office dress code
- Up to 5 paid days each year to volunteer with any UK-based charity (of your choice) that works to address poverty
- Free fresh fruit, delivered to the office twice a week
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Childcare vouchers

Please note some benefits are subject to successful completion of a 3-month probationary period.

Application details

Your CV (no more than 3 pages) and covering letter, detailing your skills and experience and how they relate to the job description, should be emailed to: HR@devinit.org quoting ref: 'IATI Developer' in the email subject line.

Feel free to get in contact if you have any questions or would like further information or an informal discussion about the role.

Your letter should also include the date you are available to start.

Applications will be assessed as they are received, with interviews arranged on a rolling basis. Therefore, **you are encouraged to submit your application as soon as possible**. The last date we will be accepting applications for this role is 6 pm on Monday 30 January 2017.

Other information

We are unable to offer sponsorship for a work permit/visa application. Therefore, only applicants who have the right to work in the UK will be considered – evidence of this will be requested at interview stage.

We are unable to acknowledge receipt of your application.

If you do not hear from us by 5 February 2017, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

Development Initiatives is an equal opportunities employer and, in line with our policies, we aim to ensure that no job applicant receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Agencies

Please note, we don't engage with cold-calling or emailing recruitment agencies.