

UX Researcher | User Research

Job Overview

The purpose of the UX researcher (also referred to as “user researcher” or “design researcher”) is to unearth human insights in order to guide the application of design.

As a design researcher, you will “help provide actionable and meaningful data-driven insights that represent the voice of multiple users. You will collaborate across development, design, and marketing teams to evaluate current and upcoming user research needs that help to improve product definition and drive business goals.”

Sample tasks and responsibilities of the UX researcher include:

Research Planning and Recruitment

- Develop a well-crafted research plan with clear research objectives.
- Write usability research screeners and discussion guides.
- Recruit targeted end-users for specific research studies.

Data Collection

- Moderate one-on-one basic usability sessions.
- Help develop and implement quantitative surveys.
- Conduct stakeholder and client interviews.

Data Analysis

- Extract insights about user behaviors from web instrumentation tools.
- Translate user insights into actionable recommendations for the product team.
- Presentation of Insights
- Craft personas and other “information radiators” (e.g. journey maps) to communicate insights across the design and development teams.
- Present design research findings to the larger team in a clear and organized fashion.

Strategy

- Work closely with the product team to identify research objectives.
- Establish and implement an overall research strategy.

These are just a handful of tasks that belong to UX research. Ultimately, your job as a UX researcher is to build up a picture of your target users based on their needs, wants, motivations, and pain-points. These insights enable the wider design team to create user-friendly products based on real user feedback—not just your assumptions.

Here's a good article on UX Research: [https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/topics/ux-research#:~:text=UX%20\(user%20experience\)%20research%20is,uncover%20problems%20and%20design%20opportunities.&text=See%20why%20UX%20research%20is,of%20the%20UX%20design%20process.](https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/topics/ux-research#:~:text=UX%20(user%20experience)%20research%20is,uncover%20problems%20and%20design%20opportunities.&text=See%20why%20UX%20research%20is,of%20the%20UX%20design%20process.)

Typical Annual Compensation Range

Wages for workers in the same occupation and position can vary drastically from one state to another. Salaries in large urban areas are often higher than shown below. Here is the typical compensation range for this role in the United States:

Typical: \$70,000 - \$180,000

https://www.glassdoor.com/Salaries/us-ux-researcher-salary-SRCH_IL.0,2_IN1_KO3,16.htm?clickSource=searchBtn

Job Availability Score

On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 1 indicating there are relatively few of these of jobs available, 5 indicating there is an average number of job openings, and 10 indicating there are far more job openings than they typical job): 5

Additional Information

You can use this link to review sample job advertisements:

<https://newcareerbootcamp.com/ux-researcher/>

Primary Job Search Phrases

See “How to Research Job Ideas” for detailed information on how to use the phrases below to learn this type of work and advancement opportunities, as well as modify the phrases to explore roles that leverage your skills/knowledge and align with areas of personal interest.

title:"user researcher" AND (psychology OR sociology OR "social science")

title:"user research" AND (psychology OR sociology OR "social science")

Title:UX title:researcher

Title:UX title:research

Title:design title:researcher

Search Phrases to Find Roles with More & Less Experience

For suggestions on how to explore job titles at your level, as well as more senior roles that you could grow into, see “How to Explore Job Ideas at Different Seniority Levels” in the “Explanation of Fields on Career Summary Profiles” chapter.

Potentially Helpful Education / Certifications

Courses or a degree in HCI (Human Computer Interaction), UX Design (User Experience Design), Interaction Design, Psychology, or a related degree would be an advantage. People make career changes can take courses, earn a certificate, or complete a bootcamp in these areas.

See “How to investigate certificates, education and training options” for this role.